

Why? Me

Michael E. Evans

Why? Me



ARMOUR OF LIGHT
P U B L I S H I N G
Charleston, South Carolina

Copyright © 2006 by Michael E. Evans

This electronic “*seed*” publication has been created to bless as many people as possible and to introduce the world to this message and our ministry. For that cause, this electronic “*seed*” publication may be reproduced or transmitted electronically, or mechanically by photocopy without written permission from the publisher. It may not, however, be altered in any way (that includes content, layout, or cover design). It may not be printed or bound for resale. And it may not be used to solicit monies of any kind.

Published in the United States of America by
Armour of Light Publishing
P.O. Box 778
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Visit us at: www.armouroflight.org

Design by Michael E. Evans

First Edition

All scriptures quoted from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is dedicated to --

Richard Antonio “*Ricky*” Reeves

(August 12, 1958 - June 29, 1972)

Craig Vincent Walker

&

Michael Kelly Underwood

The three best friends a kid could ever have.

Can life ever be good for me?

Can it stay that way?

I woke up early one morning under the weight of, what I can only describe as, my own mortality. Actually, I wasn't thinking about dying as much as having lived. Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" came to mind, but I couldn't remember the particulars, so I came up with my own. I came up with a five-level list of things I need--*want*--from life.

The need to survive.

I want to live a long time.

The need to thrive.

I want to really live. To live well. To enjoy life.

The need to relate.

I want to share my life with others that I love and am loved by.

The need to matter.

I want to make a difference. To leave the world better than I found it.

The need to know.

I want to know that I am prepared to enter the life to come.

I spent the next few hours reviewing my life and asking some disturbing questions. One of those questions was:

Why Me?

Now you might think that such a question would apply to the bad things that have happened in my life, but the thing that was most disturbing is that I seldom question those.

I can explain most of the bad things that happen to me. I was raised in a “What goes around comes around” world. I subconsciously consent to a Yen and Yang Karma culture, even though I don’t consciously believe in Buddha, Vishnu or Krishna. No, I believe in Jesus, and the Bible teaches, You reap what you sow. (See Galatians 6:7-9)

So, when bad things happen to me, I get it. Or should I say, I take it. I never ask “Why do bad things happen to good people?” I know, *“there is none that doeth good, no, not one”* (Roman 3:12). When something bad happens to me, I figure it’s what I deserved. I had it coming. That’s what I get. What I find difficult to get, or rather take, is why good things happen to bad people. Which brings me back to my life.

I’ve had a pretty good life. I’ve enjoyed a small measure of just about everything I’ve ever dreamed of. I was raised by two loving parents. They were very well educated and made sure that their children had access to all the good this world has to offer. We were protected, cared for, encouraged -- loved.

I got a dog on my first birthday. I caught my first fish at four. I had a tri-cycle, a Radio Flyer, roller skates, skate boards, several Slinkies, quite a few bikes, some really great friends, and a little sister who would eat just about anything you told her to. At least until she grew up to be smarter than me.

I did very well in school, graduated seventh in my class and got accepted to the only college I applied to. Go Heels! And even

though my college career was less than stellar (I left school after five years--twelve hours shy of graduation--and finished thirteen years later.), I managed to enjoy a modicum of success.

When reapplying to UNC after that thirteen year hiatus, I had a prospective professor to ask, "Mr. Evans, what have you been doing these last thirteen years?"

I replied that I'd worked in an advertising agency. I'd travelled with bands. Almost got signed to a recording contract. I'd gotten saved. Quit playing in bands. I'd managed a music store. Gotten married. I'd done cabaret theatre. I'd done children's television. I'd been to Bible college. I'd sold vacuum cleaners and worked in retail. I'd gotten called to preach. I was pastoring a church. I'd started several churches. I'd written three books. I'd just gotten published in a national magazine. And my wife and I had just adopted a daughter.

He said, "You're in." And I asked why? To which he replied, "Because I like people who are busy. Besides, I could use a preacher praying for me."

Why? What a curious question in the face of blessing. But we ask it all the time, because we have been conditioned to expect evil and suspect good. Don't believe it? Finish the following life controlling clichés --

If it seems too good to be true...

What's the...

There ain't no such thing as a...

You've got to take...

Joy & ... are like Sunshine & ...

Somebody's gotta...Somebody's gotta...Somebody's gotta...

Everybody plays the..., sometime: There's no exception...

No pain...

You win some. You... And some...

No good deed...

And all good things...

Did you say...

If it seems too good to be true -- it must be?

Do you find yourself asking, What's the catch?

Do you really believe there ain't no such thing as a free lunch? Or that You've got to take the good with the bad, the bitter with the sweet, and a little rain with your sunshine?

Do you believe these things because Jesus said them, or is it because Franky Beverly and Maze sang, "Joy & Pain are like Sunshine & Rain"?

The Bible doesn't say "Somebody's gotta win. Somebody's gotta lose. Somebody's gotta play the fool." The Bible says "*The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God*" (Proverbs 14:1). But I sus-

pect that something in you still wants to believe the song. Something in most of us is firmly committed to a zero/sum philosophy of life that is desperately vying for a piece of, what we believe, is a pie that is rapidly running out. That something too often presumes to know better than God.

People we love and trust have told us “No pain. No gain.”

We believe in baseball, and all baseball fans know that: You win some. You lose some. And some get rained out.

Experience has taught us that no good deed goes unpunished. And all good things, say it with me, “must come to an end.”

The only problem is, every one of these commonly accepted, life-controlling lies is unscriptural.

All good things must come to an end? Not at all!

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

You win some. You lose some? No!

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14).

No Pain. No Gain? No! No! Hell No!

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22)

Why did I have to say “Hell No?” Because you would have to go to hell to hold onto these Satanic constructs. Eternity is free from pain, loss, tears, and rain.

Am I advocating that we should never have any trouble? No! Quite the contrary--Jesus promised that *“In the world ye shall have tribulation.”* He also said, *“be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). The Lord even promised that our blessings would be accompanied by persecutions. (See Mark 10:29,30) No matter where you live, you are going to see some rainy days.

This is not about avoiding trouble. It is certainly not about deceiving ourselves into believing that trouble will not or should not come. This is about changing our perspective on how to handle trouble--and more importantly, the blessing it accompanies--when it does come. God told Abraham that his enemies would come out against him one way, and flee before him seven ways. And He told him this in the midst of declaring great blessing upon him.

My message is simple. Instead of expecting and subsequently accepting evil while suspecting and consequently rejecting good, let's learn to do what our Lord was trained to do.

Isaiah prophesied, *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good”* (Isaiah 7:14,15). I beseech you by the mercies of God, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5), *“refuse the evil, and choose the good.”*

Perhaps you have forgotten or maybe you didn't know that rain was not a part of God's original plan for man. Read Genesis 2:5. The earth was created with an internal sprinkler system. Rain's

original purpose was to destroy mankind because of their wickedness in the days of Noah. That's why we hate rainy days. There is something deep down inside us that remembers just what rain can do. And that is why God sets his promise--his bow--in the sky after every shower, to remind us that he loves us and he is not out to destroy us. But you don't believe that. Do you? And you got your suspicion, as my grand mother would say, "honest."

Eve was deceived in the Garden of Eden after the devil suggested that God must be hiding something from her and Adam by not allowing them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. "*For God doth know,*" the subtle serpent suggested, "*that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing both good and evil*" (Genesis 3:5). But you have to ask, in retrospect, "Why would Eve want the knowledge of evil?" She and Adam were already experiencing good at its very best.

They were placed in a garden, surrounded by the best earth had to offer. They walked and talked with God. Everything in the earth was under their authority. They knew no fear, pain, hurt or shame. Life was grand for the son of man. It was the devil who was in misery. But we all know--misery loves company. Is it possible that Eve ate of the forbidden fruit because the tree of life was just *too good to be true?*

Moses couldn't understand why God would use him to deliver the children of Israel because Moses knew he was a murderer and a fugitive. He also questioned his own ability to speak. Ironically, this deliverer of Israel argued with God so vehemently over that speech impediment that God Almighty changed his mind and used Aaron to do the speaking instead. Job was the greatest man in the east, but he lived in fear, because he worried, continually, that his sons may have "*cursed God in their hearts*" (Job 1:1-5).

Jeremiah told God he couldn't be a prophet because he was a child. Gideon wouldn't accept God's declaration that he was a mighty man of valor on its merits and challenged God with fleeces because he suspected that God, who can not lie, might be lying. Abraham and Sarah had Ishmael because Sarah found the notion that an old woman could have laughter--laughable. Zecharias was resistant to God's answer to his youthful prayer for a son because by the time the answer arrived, he was--too old. And his son, John the Baptist, refused to baptize Jesus because he considered himself unworthy.

One word sticks out in all these examples--because. I like to call them B. Causes. Secondary. Temporary. Less than God's best-causes.

Even Paul, the apostle, said, *"I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God"* (1 Corinthians 15:8-10). Paul is quite transparent. He takes his own advice from 1 Corinthians 11 and *examines* himself. But Paul is also keenly aware of the power of God and the desire of God to use--*even bless--*broken people. Paul continues where we contest, *"But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

Paul did not allow the B. Cause(s) in his past to thwart the A. Cause that God had called him to, which causes me to ask you the same question that David asked when he saw the cowardice of the armies of Israel as they trembled at the accusations of Goliath and staggered at the promises of God-- *"Is there not a cause?"*

People who can't see that God's purpose--his cause--is bigger than their past, will always balk at the blessings of God. If you

don't understand that your God has called you for A. Cause, you will live your life subject to B. Causes. And you will never see or benefit from the faithfulness of others, reaping where they have sown. Instead, you will always question everything, especially good things, that you don't think you have earned or deserve. Perhaps we should re-consider what has been set before us concerning God's attitude toward us.

"You have not chosen me," Jesus declares, *"but I have chosen you, and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that you may ask what you will of me and that it may be done for you of my Father which is in heaven"* (John 15:16).

Our heavenly Father says, *"...I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

The maker of heaven and earth proclaims, *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

We didn't initiate this relationship--God did. *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us--the ungodly"* (See Romans 5:6-8). Why? He did it because he loves us and wants to bless us. He did it because he cut covenant with others, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, before us.

We are the work of God's hands. And David knew that *"The LORD will perfect that which concerneth [us]."* God's mercy endures forever. He will not *"forsake...the works of [his] own hands"* (Psalm 138:8). God is faithful. He never slumbers or

sleeps. He is gracious and merciful, and we can be “*confident of this very thing, that he which has begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:6).

Can you say like David, “*I will praise [God]; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works*” (Psalm 139:14)? Does your soul really know that “*right well?*” Or are you allowing your traditions to trump truth, confirming Jesus’ declaration in Matthew 15:6 and rendering him unable to do any mighty works, because of your unbelief?

Are you so suspect of blessing that you have become too proud to admit that you might have been wrong--about your own self? Let me show you the consequences of such an attitude.

In 1 Chronicles 19:1-7, the king of the people of Ammon died and his son rose to power in his stead. David, king of Israel, said, “*I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me.*”

David sent messengers to bless this young man, but his advisers were suspect of David’s motives. They said to their new king, “*Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?*” This is a perfect example of how we respond to blessing. We are suspect of and quite often hostile to those that God sends to bless us.

Why? Because we tend to be carnal.

We tend to see ourselves and others through the eyes of man rather than the eyes of God. And our judgment, especially of ourselves, tends to be harsh, merciless, pseudo-merit based, and jaded by the

failures of our past. Self condemnation may be the greatest killer of man. It caused Adam to hide from God and it causes us to do the same thing. But Paul taught that *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”* (Romans 8:1).

Notice: There is no condemnation to them who *“walk not after the flesh.”* Walking after the flesh, however, produces something altogether different.

Jeremiah said, *“Thus saith the Lord. Cursed is the man that trusteth in man and maketh flesh his arm, whose heart departeth from the Lord. He shall be like the heath in the desert and shall not see when good comes”* (Jeremiah 17:5).

Is it possible that we are continually surrounded by blessing and good and are just not spiritual enough to see it?

“It is written,” Paul said, *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But he hath revealed them unto us by his spirit. For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:9:10).

The Spirit revealed one very important thing to Paul. And through Paul he now wants to reveal it to us. *“But with me,”* Paul says, *“it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man’s judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore,”* he continues, *“judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God”* (1 Corinthians 4:3-5).

Loosely translated, Paul is saying, I'm not going to be moved by how you judge me. Hmmp, I don't even trust my own judgment of me. God is the judge. And if God Almighty feels inclined to bless me, then, bless God, I'll just be blessed. Paul the apostle is saying, I don't know enough, by myself, to determine who ought to be blessed. I don't know what time will bring and only God knows when or if the proverbial "Fat Lady" will sing.

I find it extremely curious that Paul ends this thought with the words, "*...then shall every man have praise of God.*" Why? Because most of us have been led to believe that every man is going to get what's coming to him. But, for most men, present company included, we tend to believe that probably isn't going to be praise. That is, unless we change.

So in our unwillingness to be found wrong about ourselves, we have convinced ourselves to be suspect of change too.

You know, some things never....

People, especially, don't change. Do they?

You can't put a confessed pedophile in charge of the nursery. I don't care how saved he gets. Once a pervert.... Former bank robbers can't be left to count the offerings. And addicts will always be in recovery. They just have to take it "one day at a time." Isn't that what we believe? But why do we believe these things? Are they in the Bible? No! They are somewhere much more powerful than that. They are in our hearts.

Popeye told us, "I yam what I yam and that's all I yam." And every time we get to a flaw in our character that we are not willing to change or even challenge, we tell others, "That's just the way I am."

If they persist, we deliver the underdog's unassailable ultimatum: "You can't expect me to become something that I'm not."

We own our failings as immutable. The homosexual community is determined to convince us all that God made them that way. And whether we buy that particular brand of logic or not, we agree by default, when we use our own most holy manufacturer's errors to explain or excuse a lifetime of misery--misery born of miserable ideas, ideas that precede miserable choices, choices that produce miserable performance. We get it--no--we take it because we can explain it. We even believe we have chapter and verse to prove it.

Solomon said, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he*" (Proverbs 23:7). Life not as you like it? Never satisfied? Seem like every thing and every one is against you? Haggai says, "*Consider your ways*" (Haggai 1:1-7).

Freud pointed us back to our mothers and fathers, but why stop there, Dr. Freud? No, we take it much further and blame our loser's lot on our creator. I told you earlier, it is a deception that began in the Garden of Eden when the serpent suggested that, "... *God doth know...*" (Genesis 3:5).

What does God know?

"*He knoweth our frame; he remembers that we are dust*" (Psalm 103:13, 14). Or as my grandmother would say, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." But even grandma could take that sow's ear and make a pot of collard greens. And that was always good enough to solicit plenty of embarrassing, uncomfortable, suspect disingenuous praise.

You see, grandma was a faithful, self-deprecating Methodist. She was a student of the Jeremiah School of Suffering.

“And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me?” Jeremiah asked and then answered. *“For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.”* To which grandma taught us to say, “Amen.” And then Jeremiah asked the equally disturbing question, the question that confirms our suspicion.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?” Grandma would answer; “Of course not!” Then Jeremiah seals our ‘fate’ by saying, “then,” when the Ethiopian and the leopard, which cannot change, change, *“then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil”* (Jeremiah 13:22,23).

We are suspect of blessing because we tie blessing to behavior. And we are suspect of change because we tie behavior to birth. We are in a spiritual Catch 22. Born sinners, we *“were shapen in iniquity; and in sin did [our] mother[s] conceive [us]”* (Psalm 51:5). *“There is none that doeth good, no, not one”* (Romans 3:12). *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). And even after we get saved, many of us insist on referring to ourselves as “just old sinners, saved by grace.”

Is it possible that in our short comings, we have missed something? Maybe we have missed, or as Jeremiah said, we have not seen, some good thing. (See Jeremiah 17:5)

In his short story *How the Leopard Got His Spots*, Rudyard Kipling tells a tale of adaptation. It seems the Leopard and the Ethiopian were starving to death because the rest of the animals left the High Veldt for the shadows of the forest. The then sandy-yel-

low-brownish Leopard and Ethiopian were driven by their hunger to follow. Soon they were faced with the seeming invisibility of their formerly easy prey and, more importantly, the glaring obviousness of their inability to blend in. This prompted the Ethiopian to enlighten the angry leopard with these telling words: “The long and little of it is that we don’t match our backgrounds.”

Kipling spoke of camouflage. I speak of heritage. Either way, the conspicuous offender tends to go hungry.

God is not expecting us to become something that we are not. We have already done a great job of that. We have allowed the accuser of the brethren to seduce us. We have been duped into abandoning that which is intrinsically valuable and beautiful for a cheap ugly substitute. He has even gone so far as to deceive us into being ashamed of that which God made glorious. Consequently, we have hidden our faces, our very selves, from our creator and become fearfully suspect of he who says, *“I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”* (Jeremiah 29:11).

But God is yet expecting us to match our backgrounds. He hopes that we will remember that *“No weapon that is formed against [us] shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against [us] in judgment [we] shalt condemn.”* Why? Because, *“This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and [our] righteousness is of [God]”* (Isaiah 54:17).

This expected end is one that God knew from the beginning because he is Alpha and Omega--the beginning and the ending. He knew, or should I say he expected, our end from the beginning. Our lives didn’t begin when we were conceived in our mothers’ wombs. God declared our destinies in Genesis 1:26 when the

holy trinity said, “*let us make man.*” We are part and parcel of the express image of God’s person. And our heavenly Father expects us to stop being what we have become and start becoming what he said we are.

God says, “*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A new creature? Yes! A renewed creature. A redeemed creature. A creature that has been bought back by the blood of the Lamb and is now being restored to his original glory by the master. “*Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*” (Romans 9:20). God forbid!

Against his best wishes, God decided to give Israel a king. He chose Saul, son of Kish, and arranged for Samuel the prophet to meet him while he was searching for some lost asses that belonged to his father. It was at this meeting that Samuel anointed Saul King. As you read Samuel’s account of this blessing of blessings, pay close attention to the process that transforms--renews--this chosen king.

“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance? When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel’s sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son? Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the

plain of Tabor; and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee” (1 Samuel 10:1-7).

The very first thing the prophet does after he anoints and kisses Saul is to answer the unasked question--Why Me? *“Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”*

Saul didn't know that God had decided to give Israel a King. He certainly didn't know that he was God's choice. Saul, like so many of us, was consumed with the minutiae of his day-to-day life. He and his servant had just finished pulling together the best offering they could muster to give the prophet in exchange for some small help in finding what his father had lost. Instead of rejoicing at this marvelous meeting, his head was reeling with questions. “Why is the man of God kissing me? Why is he pouring a liberal portion of costly anointing oil on my head? Why me?” Saul didn't get it. Some might say he never did, but for now, watch how his life was about to change.

First, God took care of his past. *“When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel’s sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?”* God makes us the same promise. We care about things. He cares for us. *“Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”* (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

Next, God secured Saul’s present. *“Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.”*

Remember the prayer you were taught to pray so very long ago? *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* Well God says--Done! And he has dispatched servants to see that you never go lacking. Notice the subtle warning to Saul, *“which thou shalt receive of their hands.”* I won’t be so subtle. When God tries to bless you, don’t shoot the delivery boy!

The angels of God are *“ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”* (Hebrews 1:14). That is why the writer of Hebrews later warns us to *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”* (Hebrews 13:1,2).

How many angels in disguise, sent by God to bless us, have we run off battered and bruised, insulted and confused, because we were yet suspect of blessing?

Zacharias, John the Baptist's father, tried to run Gabriel the arch-angel off. He upset this angelic dignitary so--Gabriel silenced Zacharias until God could bless the priest with a son. Six months later, the same angel showed up at Mary, the mother of Jesus' door. She too was somewhat suspect of the blessing that would be conferred upon her.

“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God” (Luke 1:28-30).

This “Why Me?” suspicion is so commonplace that the servants of God know to answer the question before it is asked. “Why is this angel saying good things about me?” Mary thought. “He is saying them because you have found favor with God,” the angel said.

Unlike Zacharias, Mary decided to agree with the angel. *“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:38).* At that moment, a miracle occurred. Jesus, the son of the living God, was impregnated in Mary's womb. The word was made flesh when Mary agreed with the word. A similar transformation happened to (in) Saul, son of Kish.

“After that,” Samuel told Saul, “thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet

a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”

The words “*After that*” are revelatory here. Jesus said, “*ye shall receive power; after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you*” (Acts 1:8). When Mary asked how she could have a baby without being intimate with a man, Gabriel the arch angel explained that “*The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God*” (Luke 1:34, 35).

All Mary had to do was agree. All Saul had to do was “*prophesy with*” the prophets. And if we want to become who and what God says we are, all we have to do is be “*not weak in faith,*” like father Abraham, who, “*considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb.*” Instead of asking “*Why Me?*,” Abraham, “*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform*” (Romans 4:19-21).

God wants to bless you. Believe him. Trust him. Agree with him. Prophesy with him!

I am the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath. I am blessed in the city and blessed in the field. I am blessed coming in and blessed going out. I am blessed when I rise and blessed when I sleep. Everything I put my hand to prospers.¹

No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper.² If God be for me, and he is, who can be against me? He that spared not His own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall He not with him also freely give me all things?³

By the stripes of Jesus I am healed.⁴ Jesus himself bore my sins in his own body on the tree, that I, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes I was healed.⁵

God wishes above all things that I may prosper and be in health, even as my soul prospers.⁶ And just to make sure that my soul prospers, he restores my soul.⁷

He has promised never to leave me nor forsake me even until the ends of the earth.⁸ He said he would supply all my need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.⁹

My heavenly Father has given me power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, so that nothing shall by any means hurt me.¹⁰

God daily loads us with benefits, so that he, the Lord God, might dwell among us.¹¹ And just so that we will forget not all his benefits, he reminds us that it is he, *“Who forgiveth all [our] iniquities; who healeth all [our] diseases; Who redeemeth [our livs] from destruction; who crowneth [us] with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth [our mouths] with good things; so that [our] youth is renewed like the eagle’s”* (Psalm 103:1-5).

Scripture References

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-14
2. Isaiah 54:17
3. Romans 8:31,32
4. Isaiah 53:3-5
5. 1 Peter 2:24
6. 3 John 2
7. Psalm 23:3
8. Hebrews 13:5
9. Philippians 4:19
10. Luke 10:19
11. Psalm 68:18,19

Just in case you think this is too good to be true.

Why? That he, the Lord God, might dwell among us. And yet something deep inside you asks, *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”* (Psalm 8:4)

And the answer is. You are the apple of God’s eye. You are the premier object of his affection. Why? I don’t know. Ask him. Is he crazy? If so, let us indulge him in his folly. Perhaps it is because God *is* love. His mercies are renewed every morning and they endure forever.

Our God *“is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:4-10).

Jehovah Jireh has--no, he *is*--more than enough. He sacrificed his own son to save us. And he wants to show everyone, including us and especially the devil, how much he loves us. And how much we love him. God is showing off. *“Have you considered my servant Job?”* That’s what God asked the devil. Peter said, sometimes we need to be tried--tested. But the tests are all open-book, with three questions and three answers each.

1. Will you praise God?

Will you boldly proclaim what God has promised, no matter what your circumstances look like?

2. Will you honor God?

Will you refuse to bow, even if the enemies of Christ threaten to burn you, like the three Hebrew boys of Daniel chapter three?

3. Will you tap into the fullness of the goodness of God and glorify him when he delivers you?

God has poured out his grace upon us in spite of us, and if we will simply accept the finished work of Jesus, we, God's workmanship, can pass every test and begin to walk in the good works that God has ordained for us.

We can say like David, *"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands"* (Psalm 138:7, 8). We can boldly proclaim, *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well"* (Psalm 139:14).

If we don't, God says; *"Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee"* (Deuteronomy 28:47,48).

Let's say with the apostle Paul, *"I am not meet to be called [?], because I [?]. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I [will labor] more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of*

God which [is] with me” (1 Corinthians 15:8-10). You fill in the blanks as they apply to you.

Saul was encouraged to do one final thing when he was *“turned into another man.”* Samuel said, *“let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.”*

Maybe you’ll understand it better if I say it this way --

Strike while the iron is hot. Catch this wave. Opportunity is knocking. Open the door. Make your hay while the sun is shining. And get while the getting is good. Because, honey, the getting is as good as it can possibly get.

God has *“chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you”* (John 15:16).

Why Me? You ask.

Because long before the foundation of the world, God knew you would want to live a long time. So he promised to satisfy you with long life and show you his salvation (Psalm 91:16). My heavenly Father knew you would want to really live. To live well. To enjoy life. So he promised to give you meat that was convenient for you. He promised not to make you so poor that you would be tempted to steal. He also promised not to make you so rich that you would forget him (Proverbs 30:7-9). The friend that sticks closer than a brother knew that you would want to share your well-lived life with others that you love and are loved by. So he decreed that *“it is not good that the man should be alone”* (Genesis 2:18).

God Almighty knew that you would want to make a difference. To leave the world better than you found it. So God chose you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain. So that whatever you asked the Father in Jesus' name, he may give it to you (John 15:16).

The God who is rich in mercy knew that you would not want to die and go to hell. He knew that you would want to enter the life-to-come, prepared. So he gave his only begotten son that whosoever, like you and me, could believe on him and not perish, but have everlasting life.

Now you have a choice to make. *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve,”* Joshua admonished. (Joshua 24:15) God said through Moses, *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them”* (Deuteronomy 30:19,20).

Instead of expecting and subsequently accepting evil while suspecting and consequently rejecting good, let's learn to do what our Lord was trained to do.

“Refuse the evil, and choose the good” (Isaiah 7:14,15).

God sent his Son so that life could be good for you now, and he sent the Holy Spirit, so it can stay that way.

Michael E. Evans is a man of God. He is also an expert at discovering, developing, and maximizing the potential in people.

A master trainer and presentations professional, Pastor Evans calls himself an MBA (minister • business man • artist). His mission in life is to encourage people to Find, Follow & Finish their course.

While pastoring a local church for twelve years, Pastor Evans started seven additional churches, a publishing company, a leadership training school and an organization designed to attack the problem of racism and division in the Body of Christ.

Pastor Evans holds a BA degree from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an honorary Ph.D. from Hosanna Bible College where he taught for two years. He also attended Word of Faith Bible College and has completed a variety of continuing education programs, including The American Management Association's Effective Executive Speaking Course.

Pastor Evans devotes his time to preaching and training, as well as writing and ghost writing for himself and a host of others.

Pastor Evans and his wife Gloria pastor Encouraging Word Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. They have one daughter, Michael Gabrielle Evans and one granddaughter, Amaris Naisya Evans.

If you have been blessed by reading **Why Me?**, you will surely be blessed by reading **The EncourageMINT** *A wealth of daily inspiration, encouraging you to become who God says You Are -- In Him.* You will also love the teaching and preaching ministry of Michael E. Evans.

Availability:

Worldwide by arrangement

Contact:

Armour Of Light Publishing
P.O. Box 778
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 265-9751




This electronic "seed" publication has been created to bless as many people as possible and to introduce the world to this message and our ministry.

You probably received this book by e-mail or as a print out from someone who cares about you. We pray that it blesses you and that it inspires you to be a blessing to others.

In Luke 17, after one of ten lepers who had been cleansed by Jesus came back to say thanks, Jesus asked: "...where are the nine?"

In that spirit, would you help us teach the word of God to others through mediums like radio, television, the worldwide web, seminars, conferences, and more "seed" publications by sending this book to 9 of your friends and sending us your gift of \$9 (nine dollars US)?

Just click the  button or mail your check or money order made payable to --

Faith & Righteousness Ministries to:

AOL Publishing
P.O. Box 778
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

*We have been
conditioned to
expect evil and
suspect good.*

Can life ever be good for you?

Can it stay that way?

Are you suspect of blessing?

Do you tend to expect evil and assume the worst?

**Do some things just seem way too good to be true
-- especially when they happen for you?**

**Do you find yourself asking "Why Me?" when good
things come your way?**

You are not alone.

Since the garden of Eden, Satan has been deceiving people into believing that God is their enemy. And like Adam, we have been hiding our selves from the God who says, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Michael E. Evans encourages you stop staggering at the promises of God. Stop living a life of B. Causes, exalting your opinion of yourself above the word of God. In less than an hour, you can be fully persuaded that, what God promised, he is not only able, but willing to perform -- for you.

Sound too good to be true? Don't wait another minute to answer the question that is hindering you.



ARMOUR OF LIGHT
P U B L I S H I N G

Chapel Hill, North Carolina • Charleston, South Carolina

www.armouroflicht.org

