

Autumn 2011

# THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

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Publishing House. All rights reserved. The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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# Is Hell Real?

By John Blake



GOOD SALT

I have never met my mother's father, my Grandpa Walker. He died when I was very young and far away! He was a good living man, but not very religious. My mother told me that apparently he had been told that God would burn the bad people for all of eternity in "hell." Somehow, he just could not love and respect a "god" who he was told was more cruel than even Hitler or Stalin! Even these wicked men never tortured people for years—without end! Think carefully: Would a truly

"Loving God torment billions of people for all of eternity—without end—for a few years of sinful living here on earth?"

I personally believe that there is someone who used to live with God—who now hates God so much—that he has invented this belief to turn people away from God—good living people like my Grandfather!

Does the Bible really talk about a place of eternal destruction? What did Jesus Himself say about this? "Don't be surprised at this: A time is coming when all who

are dead and in their graves will hear his voice. Then they will come out of their graves. Those who did good will rise and have life forever, but those who did evil will rise to be judged guilty” (John 5:28, 29, NCV). “You should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell” (Matthew 10:28, CEV). God wants sin to come to a complete end—everywhere in the universe! To understand better how it will end, we need to look at how sin started!

Sin began with Lucifer in heaven some time before the creation of our earth. The universe had never seen or heard of sin before. Satan made sin sound like a new and attractive idea. Sin seemed to give people power and freedom to do their own thing—making up their own minds to do anything they “felt” was right. But, God knew that this was wrong. God saw that Satan’s ideas were really the root of selfishness and pride. Sin would lead to unhappiness and eternal death. When sin first came up, if God had immediately destroyed Satan

and sin, the universe would have not understood. All created beings everywhere would have started to serve God through fear, not through love and trust.

Because the universe is built on a foundation of love, respect and trust, God has allowed sin to work itself out. The universe must come to see that Satan and his ideas are wrong. Everyone must be convinced that God is truly a God of love, justice and mercy. Jesus came as the supreme example of what a loving God would do—to die to save the people He had created who had gone wrong.

But God can’t allow sin, murder, war and injustice to go on forever! God has to bring sin to an end, but not until after the judgment. In the book of Revelation, John tells us how it will all end: “When the thousand years are over, Satan will be set free from his prison. Then he will go out to trick the nations in all the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. There are so many people they will be like sand on the

seashore. And Satan's army marched across the earth and gathered around the camp of God's people and the city God loves. But fire came down from heaven and burned them up. . . . And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. Then books were opened, and the book of life was opened. The dead were judged by what they had done, which was written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. Each person was judged by what he had done. And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20: 7-9 & 12-15, NCV). See also 2 Peter 3:10.

Before God destroys anyone for eternity, the Bible shows that they must be judged. All the good beings in the universe must see why a loving God must destroy sinners in hell. They must see that these evil people

have freely rejected God's love and His plan to save them. If faithful, we will be there and have a part in this judgment (1 Cor. 6:3).

If sinners lived on for eternity, they would be unhappy in a heaven of love, mercy, justice and obedience. God, in His mercy and love, finally has to destroy the wicked in hell. They would not let God take the sin out, so God's fire comes and destroys them fully. There is nothing left, not even a few coals of fire. "Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it" (Isaiah 47:14).

But some people believe that the Bible talks about hell going on for eternity? Remember the story from the Old Testament when Sodom and Gomorrah became so wicked that God had to destroy them. The Bible says that they were destroyed with eternal fire as an example of the fires of hell at the end of the 1,000 years. Jude 1:7, GNB says

that those in Sodom and Gomorrah “suffer[ed] the punishment of eternal fire as a plain warning to all.” The type of fire is “eternal.” The fire comes from God. After Satan and the wicked are destroyed, the same fire will burn the surface of the earth and destroy all the products of sin on the earth. See also Malachi 4:1, 3 & Revelation 20:10. The earth will be re-created new, beautiful, and everyone will live in joy, peace and love, for all eternity. See Revelation 21, 22.

Does God want to destroy the evil people of the world? In the book of Ezekiel it says, “Say to them: ‘The Lord GOD says: As surely as I live, I do not want any who are wicked to die. I want them to stop doing evil and live. Stop! Stop your wicked ways! You don’t want to die, do you, people of Israel?’ ” (Ezekiel 33:11, CEV). Also, Isaiah says, “For the Lord will come up as on Mount Perazim, he will be moved to wrath as in the valley of Gibeon; so that he may do his work—strange is his work; and give effect to his

act—unnatural is his act” (Isaiah 28:21, BBE). God hates to destroy the people He has created. But if they persist in rebellion and sin, God has no other choice but to finally remove them from the universe.

Just before His crucifixion, Jesus stopped on the Mount of Olives and looked over Jerusalem. Here were the special people that He wanted to take the story of His love and salvation to the whole world. But, He knew that in just hours the nation would crucify Him—the Creator of the world. Jesus could see into the future that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans because they had rejected Him! All this made Jesus cry. His whole body moved with this crushing weight on His mind and heart.

Jesus is anxious to save you. Jesus does not want you to hold onto sin and have to be destroyed forever in Hell. See Ezekiel 33:11. Jesus would have died just to save you—if you were the only one! What deep compassionate love! What

fantastic mercy! Give Him  
your life now! Don't wait!

NOTE: If you want to know more  
about heaven and hell, what  
happens when we die and Jesus  
soon coming, go to [http://www.](http://www.deafbibleschool.com/af/)

[deafbibleschool.com/af/](http://www.deafbibleschool.com/af/) and  
study the Amazing Facts lessons.  
Lesson # 4 discusses Hell in more  
detail.

*John Blake is a retired pastor who  
lives in Clive, Alberta, Canada.*

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## Grab Jesus' Hands

By Pam Joachim

There were times I fell off the wall;  
I collapsed into a deep mud that I couldn't get myself out.  
My trails were so difficult that I sweated as I struggled to get out;  
The pain put a burden on my heart that I was so weak  
I shed tears and cried out for help.

Over the other side of the wall were two strong hands;  
He said, "My child, you can give me your struggles,  
Lift your hands up to Me, grab My hands and hold on tight.  
I will pull you up and over the wall where you will be with Me;  
Together we will pass over the mountain of problems."

I looked up and saw whose strong hands it belonged to.  
I grabbed His hands for I knew who it was;  
He had a bright face that shone of love.  
He is the only Person who has the most love than anyone;  
That is Jesus, my Savior!

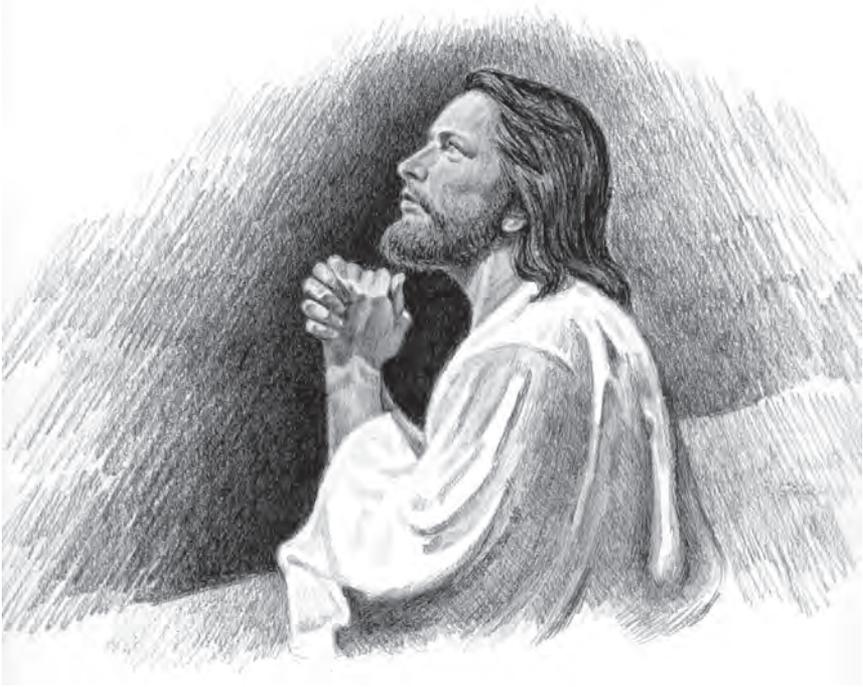
There were times I tumbled off the wall;  
As I landed on soft mud and tried to get up,  
I was stumbling all over the place.  
Suddenly I remembered the days  
When Jesus called me from the wall.  
All I had to do was to look up at the wall;  
I saw my sweet Jesus' hands,  
And I grabbed His hands.

Grab Jesus' hands I will.  
He will lift me up from any strife  
That I may be facing and  
I will never have to be alone.  
He promises to be with me  
As long as I hold His hands.

*Pam Joachim is a Deaf writer who lives in Iron River, MI.*

# The Lord's Prayer

By Bruce Buzzell



HIGHER CLIPS

## **Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is a well known prayer spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ during the time He gave His famous the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5 to 7) in the presence of His disciples. Why did Jesus give us the Lord's Prayer? So we can copy Jesus' words all the time when we pray to God? No! Jesus gave us this prayer as a guide on how to pray to God. This is because Jesus warned us not to use vain (useless) repetitive words (use same words over and over again) during prayer time.

Look at what Jesus says about repetitious words in Matthew 6:7-8:

"But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows those things you have need of before you ask Him" (NKJV).

We need to understand the meaning behind the Lord's Prayer so we will not get into the habit of praying

without understanding what we really meant from our hearts. Some people use the same words over and over when praying to God. They think that God will be impressed with their many words. God is interested in how we pray from the heart, not with useless words from our minds without any real meaning from our hearts. It is important that we pray to God directly from our hearts with meaning.

Let's go over eight parts of the verses in the Lord's Prayer and see what Jesus really meant from His heart when He prayed to His Father in heaven.

1) *"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."*

**Worship** (To honor)

Jesus was speaking to His Father in worshipful respect. The word "hallowed" means to honor or to be made holy or sacred. God's name is not to be in vain or abused. We should show a very respectful and worshipful attitude toward God. Talking to God is not the same as talking to your friends. God is a lot more than a casual friend. He is

our Creator and Lord.

2) *“Your kingdom come.”*

**Guidance** (Show the way)

Jesus was asking His Father to let His kingdom of grace come to earth quickly and cover the whole earth with God’s righteousness, peace, joy, and salvation. So people can be filled with holiness and happiness and love. God laid out a path for us to reach heaven with help of the Holy Spirit.

3) *“Your will be done.*

*On earth as it is in heaven.”*

**Surrender** (Give up)

Jesus did not ask God to have His own will be done on earth. Instead, He asked for His Father’s will be done on earth. This showed how unselfish Jesus was while on earth. When we pray, we are encouraged to give up our wills and let God’s will, plans, goals be done on earth just as it is in heaven.

4) *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* **Provisions** (To provide our needs)

Jesus asked His Father to supply Him with wisdom from heaven’s bread. This kind of bread is God’s Word—the Bible. Not only do we need food to live on earth

but we need the spiritual food which is the Bible. This is our life-line and we cannot prepare our way to heaven without the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

5) *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”* **Pardon**

(Forgiveness)

Jesus gave us a guide on how to ask God for forgiveness for our sins. The word “debt” means “fault” or sin. Our Lord encourages us to ask our Father in heaven to forgive us for words, thoughts, and actions that hurt God. Also, we are encouraged to forgive other people who hurt us. God wants us to forgive other people the same way He forgave us.

6) *“And do not lead us into temptation.”* **Victory** (Overcoming sin)

Jesus was encouraging us to ask God for help in overcoming temptation (a desire to sin). This is one of the most important prayers we need to use in our lives. God hates sin and He will not permit sin to enter heaven. It is important that we learn to overcome the desire to

sin and repent of all sins in our lives before we enter heaven.

7) *“But deliver us from the evil one.”* **Protection** (Keep Satan away)

Jesus desires for us to stay away from Satan’s lies, false teachings, and attacks. The more we ask God to keep Satan away from us, the less often we will be tempted. But we must keep reading the Bible and continue to pray without stopping and stay close to God in faith.

8) *“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

**Acceptance** (Recognizing the Father as the all powerful God)

Jesus accepted His Father in heaven as the all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere, everlasting God

who rules everything alone. We should recognize and worship the Trinity—Father who lives in heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The eight points in the Lord’s Prayer should help us get an idea of how we should pray to God using our own words without using repetitive words that has no meaning in our hearts. You do not have to copy word for word in this prayer spoken by Jesus. Speak from your heart to God. He loves to hear prayers spoken from your hearts.

May God bless you as you pray to Him in a new, spiritual way that will please Him. Amen.

*Bruce Buzzell is a Deaf writer who lives in the metropolitan area of St. Louis, MO.*



# Loving Faith

By Amanda Colgan

“Everyone who is a child of God has won the battle over the world. Our faith has won the battle” (1 John 5:4).

God’s Word says that God’s people overcome (won the battle) the world by faith. So in whom do we put our faith? In Jesus Christ! “Who is it that has won the battle over the world? Only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:5).

“I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But cheer up! I have won the battle over the world” (John 16:33).

The Bible is what will give us the faith we need to overcome the world. The book of Romans 10:17 it says “Faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the word of Christ [the Bible].”

There are four simple ways to strengthen your faith in God: 1) Bible study, 2) prayer, 3) sharing/witnessing

and 4) attending church/fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Faith requires full surrender to God, right? How can we do that? God gives us power of choice. Choose to serve and obey Him! You can give Jesus your will (desires) and He will work in you to do according to His good pleasure. Your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit then your love will be towards Jesus and your thoughts and actions will be in agreement with Him.

Sometimes being a Christian seems hard to me. But I know that “I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). Also, Jesus said, “With man, that is impossible. But with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). The life of a Christian is a lifelong process of growing in Christ.

Do you believe that we can overcome sin in this life with God’s help? Do you believe that God is powerful

enough to keep us from sinning? Do you believe that it is possible to keep the commandments of God while we have a fallen nature? Many Christians believe that we will never be able to overcome sins until Jesus Christ returns and gives us new bodies. But what does the Bible say?

Let's look in 1 Peter 1:15 which says, "The one [God] who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do." That is the life of obedience through the grace of God.

What effect do God's promises have on Christians? "Dear friends, we have these promises from God. So let us make ourselves pure from everything that pollutes our bodies and spirits. Let us be completely holy. We want to honor God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). It is the choice that we make in our daily life. We choose not to disobey God and to avoid anything that can influence us to do wrong. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that God will help us be blameless (through Christ's

righteousness and the power of God for victory) before Jesus' 2nd coming. Let's read what the verse says, "May he [God] make you holy through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept free from blame. May you be without blame from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes."

In connection to faith, we need to learn how to love God with all of our hearts. Our love for God will help us to serve Him and to obey Him, not because we are required to do so. "Have no love, I am nothing. And though I bestow [give] all my goods [things] to feed the poor... but have not love, it [giving to poor] profits [benefits] me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2,3, NKJV).

Many Christians are focusing on outward obedience in order to follow Christ, while Jesus wants us to give our hearts to Him and then He will give us the love we need in order to truly keep God's Commandments.

We should not only talk about Jesus but we are to have Jesus in our hearts.

That is what God wants us to do. “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:9).

Let’s think on the following verse, “If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples” (John 13:35). Our love for Jesus and for people will draw sinners to the very source of love, which is in Jesus Christ. “His should share the riches of the glory of the unspeakable Gift [Jesus]. The wonderful love of Christ will melt hearts, . . .” *Desire of Ages*, p. 826, adapted.

If you fall into sin, keep looking to Jesus. But we have the promise from God if we sin: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and

just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NKJV). Let us not judge other sinners who are struggling. Be like Jesus; “God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through Him” (John 3:17). Share the promise of Jesus which is: “Everyone the Father gives me will come to me. I will never send away anyone who comes to me” (John 6:37). Will you be the one to pass on to some weary sin-sick person that wonderful invitation of Jesus?

*Amanda Colgan is a Deaf homemaker who lives in Hyannis, MA.*



# An Easy Way to Miss Heaven

By C. L. Paddock



We don't have to commit murder, rob a bank, break the seventh commandment, worship idols, or lie about our neighbors in order to miss heaven. Surely breaking any one of the commandments may shut us out of the better land (heaven), but some of the things we fail to do will also close the pearly gates against us.

If I were in a rowboat a mile above Niagara Falls, what would I have to do to go down over? Just put up my oars and do nothing. It would

not take long for the swiftly flowing river to carry me downstream and over the falls. No one will drift into heaven. If we are resting on our oars, we are drifting, and drifting downstream.

Dr. Frank Crane has said, "The easiest way to go to hell is to fold your arms and do nothing." The devil won't worry much about us if he can get us to join the church

and then sit in the rocking chair at home and sing "Rescue the Perishing" while people in need are dying all about us.

A rich young ruler came to Jesus to ask what he should do to receive eternal life. When the Master had told him to keep the commandments he answered, "All these have I kept from my youth." He had honored his parents, kept the Sabbath, and kept faithfully all the other commandments.

Jesus was looking with compassion on the young man and He told him to go and sell his possessions and give to the poor. The Bible says the young man went away sorrowful, because he had great possessions. He decided the price was too great, so he did not follow the Master. As far as we know he failed to follow the instruction.

I wish the story might have ended differently. We are not to judge, but we would know that this young man did not give his life to Christ. The rich young ruler would not have a place in heaven because of his failure to do this. If he does not get into the kingdom God has prepared for His children, it will be because of the things he didn't do.

Many a student has failed in his examinations because of the lessons he didn't learn. In Matthew 25: 41-45, "Then he [Jesus] will say to those on his left, 'You are cursed! Go away from me into the fire that burns forever. It has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry. But you gave me nothing to

eat. I was thirsty. But you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger. But you did not invite me in. I needed clothes. But you did not give me any. I was sick and in prison. But you did not take care of me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty and not help you? When did we see you as a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and not help you?' He will reply, 'What I'm about to tell you is true. Anything you didn't do for one of the least important of these, you didn't do for me.' "

They are lost not because they had done wrong things. They are lost because they failed to do good things to meet the needs of the people. An idle Christian will never get into heaven. A great many people are good and are expecting this goodness to save them. So their goodness will not save them at all.

*Adapted and reprinted from God's Minutes by permission from the Review and Herald Publishing Association.*

# Thanksgiving

By Alberta Blake

Today, October 11, is Thanksgiving Day in Canada. November 25 is always Thanksgiving day in the U.S. Canada's Thanksgiving Day is the second Monday of October. It is the end of the harvest and a time to say thanks to God for His provision during the harvest season. Native Americans celebrated thanks for their harvests many years before white man came to the Americas. In 1578 the first European influence introduced a celebration for a successful return trip while searching for the Northwest passage way for boats to not have to go around the continents of North and South America. The explorer, Martin Frobisher did not suffer the same fate as some other explorers had by not making it back to tell the story. This was not a thanksgiving for the bountiful harvest but still a time to give thanks for a safe journey and was celebrated first in Newfoundland. That event gave people living in the northern part of America a time to stop and celebrate and say thanks to God for their bounties in life and most of all for life itself.

Do you think that giving

thanks can help people have better health?

I think so. Just remembering to be thankful for the little things in life and saying thank you to God and to other people brings a change in our thinking. This change also affects our body and how it works. Thanking positively results in hormones being developed that help the body to function or work better. The physical body will work better if a person is thankful for anything that is going on around them. The mental health is improved when a person thinks with a thankful attitude.

I remember reading about a person who was suffering from depression and poor health. She was facing very difficult problems in her life experiences. She was ready to give up on living. When she was sharing her sufferings with her pastor he suggested that she go home and each morning when she woke up that she think of ten things that she was thankful for. The woman was to think of those ten things throughout the day. She was to do this for some time and then come back for another appointment. When she came

back for her appointment she was already experiencing a change in her physical health as she was learning to be more positive in her mental attitude.

Having a positive attitude and a thankful heart can help each one of us. I know that I want to be more thankful. What about you? Do you want to experience an extreme make-

over? I do and I believe that God will help us to change our attitudes. I believe He can help us to become more positive and more thankful each day. God will help us to experience that extreme make-over. We can have better health.

*Alberta Blake is a writer who is interested in health and lives in Clive, Alberta, Canada.*

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## Vegetarian Recipes

### Garlic Bubble Loaf

2 1/2 to 3 c. flour unbleached flour (white)  
1 pkg yeast  
1 Tbsp sugar  
1 tsp salt  
1/2 c. milk  
1/2 c. water  
2 Tbsp shortening  
1 egg  
1/4 c. butter (melted)  
1 tsp paprika  
1/2 tsp garlic powder  
1 Tbsp sesame seeds

In large mixer bowl - flour, yeast, sugar, and salt. Mix well.

In saucepan - heat milk, water and shortening until warm (shortening doesn't need to melt). Add flour mixture. Add egg. blend at low speed until moistened. Beat 3 min at medium speed. By hand, gradually stir in remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on floured surface 25 to 50 strokes.

Divide dough into 12 parts; shape into balls. Combine melted butter, paprika and garlic powder. Mix well. Dip balls into butter mixture. Place in greased 9X5 in loaf pan, using 6 balls on each layer. Sprinkle with sesame seed. Cover let it rise in a warm place until light and doubled about 45 min. Bake at 375° for 40 to 45 min until golden brown. Remove from pan.

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