

# Inspirational Thoughts

An eBook  
by  
Dick Evans

A Snapshot from August 2002

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# Inspirational Thoughts

## Table of Contents

Taking The Veil Away .....	4
Preach The Solution .....	4
The Evidence .....	5
Being In The Light.....	6
God Can Use Sorrow .....	7
Give Eagerly.....	8
Planting Seeds.....	8
It's God's Plan .....	9
That Subtle Serpent .....	10
Let Him Out.....	11
The Evidence .....	12
Not On Logic .....	12
When God Speaks.....	13
How To Learn.....	14
Finding Favor .....	14
Choose Freedom .....	15
Our Conduct.....	16
Everyone Knows .....	17
Follow The Law .....	18
See The Potential .....	18
Like Abraham.....	19
Black And White.....	20

These inspirational thoughts were revealed to me as I read the scripture included above it. This is not the only possible meaning and it could speak to you quite differently. Tomorrow it might have an entirely different meaning to me.

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*Dick Evans*

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## TAKING THE VEIL AWAY

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2 Corinthians 3:16

“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away.” (NLT)

In 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 Paul talks about the fact that “Our lives are a fragrance” and that the fragrance “is perceived differently by those being saved and by those perishing”. Those that are not being saved still have the veil. They sense His presence but don’t see. They just know that they do not want anything to do with whatever we have.

They are not ready to be saved. What they are ready for is an argument about God. They will debate us and try to box us in to prove us wrong. They attack our beliefs and attempt to convince us with intellectually correct statements.

Paul goes on to say that “to those who are perishing we are a fearful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved we are a life-giving perfume.”

When they are ready to hear the message, they hear it. Wise words cannot convince them. It is when the veil is lifting, perhaps a corner exposed, that they can smell the perfume of the Lord when they are in our presence.

And when they say those words asking Jesus into their heart, the veil is ripped off and their new life begins. Who did you ask today?

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## PREACH THE SOLUTION

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2 Corinthians 4:18

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” (NLT)

As I look around at churches today I see them into all kinds of things. They are fighting for or against issue after issue after issue.

They are wrapped up in the troubles of today trying by human means to stop them or change them..

Instead of preaching the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, they are preaching against what is happening. What we focus on is what we become.

Think about it. If enough people are brought out of the darkness and into the light the issues they are involved in will no longer be issues.

We can't talk people out of what they are in the middle of. No, we have to lead them to Jesus and He will guide them to all truth.

So it is time to stop preaching to the problem. It is time to preach the ultimate solution, the only true solution, the message of Jesus.

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## THE EVIDENCE

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2 Corinthians 5:17

“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” (NLT)

“Sure I am a Christian; I go to church every Sunday.” Is going to church evidence of being a Christian? It certainly is evidence of either a desire to get to know Him or perhaps it is evidence of fulfilling an obligation to God out of a fear of God's wrath.

“But, I said the sinner's prayer? Doesn't that make me a Christian?” Words are words no matter who says them. It is when they dig down deep and get into our heart that they become something. They become a force that changes.

The true evidence of being a believer, a Christian, is change. When we accept Jesus into our hearts and ask Him to be our Lord and Savior, we become a new person, alien to this old body of ours. We are not the same anymore and others notice the subtle changes in us. Sometimes the change is dramatic.

But we must be careful that the change is not superficial. We don't change us. He changes us. We don't decide what needs to be

changed and project the perception of change to others. The change Paul is speaking of is not a mask that we put on.

Real change occurs when we truly turn our lives over to Jesus.

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## BEING IN THE LIGHT

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2 Corinthians 6

14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

I think of the bees being drawn to the flowers so they can have life. And I think of how a fly is drawn to the light. They seem to buzz around whatever lamp is turned on forever. Things of God are drawn to the light.

We do not naturally gravitate to darkness. Even though we have an Adamic nature by birth, a nature that is ready to be ruled by the powers of darkness. We still tend to lean towards the light.

As we draw near to His light, darkness senses that we are pulling away. Things seem to just fall into our path to distract us from the Truth and the Light.

Unbelievers are walking in darkness. We are walking in the Light. And like the fly, they will be drawn to the light. But as they are drawn to us, we must not be pulled back into the dark things that they are still in or the things of our past that we left behind.

We must let them be drawn in so we can be a positive force to them but not to partner with them. We are to go into the world (a dark place) and tell our story, tell the story of Jesus and what He has done in our lives.

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## GOD CAN USE SORROW

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2 Corinthians 7:10

“For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow. But sorrow without repentance is the kind that results in death.” (NLT)

We never think of sorrow as anything else than sorrow. Something we did not expect to happen happens and we feel bad about it. How many times have we been guilty of having a pity party?

It doesn't matter what the sorrow is over. It could be getting that “pink slip” at work. Let's say we just got fired or let go for some reason or other. How do we handle it?

We could sink down into a depression and think of nothing but how terrible it is that we are no longer working. We could complain about it to everyone we meet looking for those that will have sympathy for us. But this doesn't do us any good at all.

We need to turn it around. No matter what we are feeling sorrow about, with Christ, we can turn it around. There may not be an apparent reason for the situation we are in, but there is always a next step. We have the victory over any situation if we only reach out for it.

So we lost our job. There is a better job waiting for us and He will guide us to it. We will never be lost or without what we need.

We just have to listen to Him. We have to consider the reason for our situation and let Him show us what we have to change, what we have to repent from. Then we can move forward with confidence that He is always with us.

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## GIVE EAGERLY

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2 Corinthians 8:12

“If you are really eager to give, it isn't important how much you are able to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you don't have.” (NLT)

Churches handle giving in many different ways. We have been in churches that use the budget approach and ask members to pledge an amount for the year. Then the members are trusted to live up to their pledge in their weekly giving.

Other churches preach about giving and work with whatever is given each week. Usually these churches believe that we should be tithing ten percent of whatever we receive. Offerings are above and beyond the tithe amount.

In either case, Paul points out that God wants us to give what we have. He does not want us to give by going into debt. He does not want us to take out a loan to help fund a building project. He does not want us to put our giving on our credit card thus adding to that debt. (Credit card giving is okay if you are able to pay it off when the bill comes in.)

I believe that we should do as Paul says. I believe that we should take ten percent off the top for our tithe. Then the remaining ninety percent is used to pay our bills. Any leftovers after that are used as offerings.

Now there are times when God will tell us to do something out of the ordinary. But when we know it is from Him, we also know that He will provide the means.

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## PLANTING SEEDS

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2 Corinthians 9:6

“Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.” (NLT)



Many businesses get started and just open their doors expecting customer to come. They go in every morning and wait. Sometimes they try to entice those that walk by with a SALE sign in the window.

No matter how long the store has been open and no matter what methods are tried to get new customers, the best method always turns out to be word of mouth. People love to tell others about their good experiences. When they do others get excited too and stop by and check out the store. This is how seed is multiplied.

Advertising in the newspaper and on radio helps, but is the people to people contact that really works.

Isn't Christianity the same? Jesus did not tell us to open a storefront and sit and wait for the unsaved to walk through the doors. He didn't suggest we use the Internet or the newspaper ads either.

No, He told us to go into the entire world and tell about Jesus. Word of mouth is how it happens. If you want more members in your church, then get out and plant the seeds. Get out in the day to day world and tell the story.

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## IT'S GOD'S PLAN

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2 Corinthians 10:13

"... Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you." (NLT)

We are taught in all the great motivational books about setting our goals for life, about writing them down. We make a list and then work toward getting everything on that list. We choose the car and the house and the vacations. We plan for the correct number of children -- perhaps two, one boy and one girl and of course a dog.

Our parents got us started with their plan for our life, which probably included college and a career path so we could do better than they had done. They want our life to be all planned out according to their plan. OF course that is where conflict can come

in – our plan as a teenager does not always line up with their plan for us. In their eyes, we mess up the plan.

But where in our society do we learn to look for God’s plan for our lives? That is the true plan and to know what that is we have to ask Him. Jesus never did anything unless He heard from the Father. We need to learn how to do that same thing. For how can we go wrong if we follow Him?

Sometimes we do know what God wants for us but that does not line up with what we want for us. So we charge forward assuming God will change His plan to fit our wants. And the struggle is on. Satan loves to see us doing just that. It gives him a foot in the door, as God does not seem to be looking out for our best interests as defined by us.

We need to know God’s plan for us. That is first and foremost. Then we need to stay within the boundaries He has for us within that plan. He will never open doors for us that are beyond our ability to walk through.

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**THAT SUBTLE SERPENT**  
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2 Corinthians 11:3

“But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent.” (NLT)

Just as the serpent was a deceiver in the time of Adam and Eve, he is a deceiver today. He speaks to us through the media and the books we allow ourselves to read and the even the people we associate with.

As it was with Eve, his deception is subtle. We may not even notice what is happening to us until after it happens. Think about all the violence in the movies and all the sex even in simple newspaper ads. What was horrifying years ago is acceptable by society and even by most of us today. The television shows depict an imbalance of various lifestyles and we are beginning to think that what we see on television is the norm.

We began over two hundred years ago with a “freedom of the press” that was designed to allow the people to not be sanctioned by the government. Now we have a media that not only enjoys reporting the news but seems to be in the business of creating the news and changing the natural order of life.

We must continue to focus on what God has for us to do and, like Jesus when He walked the earth, not be distracted by that “subtle serpent satan”. Satan would love to continue to have us focus on the situations, the problems of society.

But Jesus did not tell us to go forth and solve society’s issues of the day. He told us to go out and tell the story. Tell the world what Jesus is doing in our life. It is God that changes things.

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## LET HIM OUT

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2 Corinthians 12:5

“That experience is something worth boasting about, but I am not going to do it. I am going to boast only about my weaknesses.”  
(NLT)

It is not what we do that counts. Our accomplishments are so small as compared to what He can do through our hands.

We must be careful to not relish in our own glory. The Lord can move through us in mighty ways, if we heed to his voice, being obedient to his word.

Signs and wonders and miracles do occur today. He moves through each of us as mightily as He did through Paul.

But it is not you. It is Him. We can be a picture of perfect health and He will use us. But even if we are not, even if we are uneducated, blind, in a wheelchair... He will still use us.

He is waiting for you. It is your choice to allow him to work through you in spite of your imperfection.

Take time to let Him in each day. Then listen for His voice so you can let Him out for others to see and hear.

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## THE EVIDENCE

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2 Corinthians 13:5

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test.” (NLT)

It is not about how many Sundays you don't miss. It is not about carrying your bible everywhere you go. Those things are not the test.

The question comes down to evidence. What evidence is there in our lives that Jesus is alive?

What fruits are there in our life? Can others tell by what we are who lives in us? Or do they only know because we tell them so?

They will know because we listen to the Holy Spirit within us, that still small voice. As we obey Him, the evidence will unfold.

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## NOT ON LOGIC

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Galatians 1:11

”Dear brothers and sisters, I solemnly assure you that the Good News of salvation which I preach is not based on mere human reasoning or logic.” (NLT)

We are a people of reasoning and logic. We are driven daily to “use our head”. We are taught in schools to think, to figure things out, to reason...

Many in our churches have used that same taught process to decide that they should be a believer. Salvation is a logical thing to do. Why would anyone not want to say those simple words and get to go to heaven? It is not logical to think any other way.

However, salvation cannot be just a logically thought out repetition of some words. No, Jesus has to be in your heart and not just in your head.

When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we stepped out in faith, not thought. We asked because we knew that we knew that if we asked He would come. And He did.

How do we know He did? Change occurred in our lives. We became a new creature in Christ when we took that step of faith and asked Him to be our Lord.

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## WHEN GOD SPEAKS

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Galatians 2:6

“And the leaders of the church who were there had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favorites.) NLT

God speaks through each and every one of us, as He chooses and if we let Him.

First we must be a believer and baptized by fire. We must choose both. By faith we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And by faith we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Others see the evidence. They see the transformation that has occurred because of those choices we made.

In order to walk the walk He has laid out for us, we have to choose to do so. Without our choices God is powerless to move through us. He will never take away the free will that He gave to each and every one of us for He is a “man” of His word.

We should not be intimidated by those with the titles in life. They may be powerful in our society, but are not more powerful than our God. When God speaks, He speaks through His people and we need to choose to let Him do so.

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## HOW TO LEARN

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Galatians 3:3

“Have you lost your senses? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?” (NLT)

We all went to school in our early years. They taught us all about reading and writing and arithmetic. They taught us lots of other things too. We learned about the earth and the planets and other science stuff. We peeked back into time and learned of history, ancient and modern, United States and world wide.

And we were taught how to study, how to learn new concepts and put them into practice. And then we become born again and spirit filled. Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things. But this is a teacher unlike all our worldly teachers.

Yet we continue to think as the world. We buy books by Christian authors to learn about how to walk with God, how to walk in the Spirit, how to heal, how to... We go to seminars and get video tapes and computer programs to show us the way.

But Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit would show us all things. He is our comforter and teacher.

Isn't it time to leave our worldly ways and listen? As we listen to Him we grow into the perfection He has for us as we walk out our transformation walk.

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## FINDING FAVOR

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Galatians 4:10

You are trying to find favor with God by what you do or don't do on certain days or months or seasons or years.” (NLT)

When I grew up I knew that God was everywhere and that He was always with me. That is what my parents taught me and what was reinforced in Sunday School each week.

Even then Sunday was God's day. That was the day that we set aside to go to church. There were some days when we could not make a Sunday service when my father had to work and we went with him.

But some of my friends were of a different faith and had to go either on Saturday evening or sometimes on Sunday or they would be in trouble. They were obligated to be there.

No matter what church I have attended since, it always interests me to see how many Christians show up on the Sunday's we celebrate Christmas and Easter. The churches are full of people wanting to find favor with God.

Rules and laws, Old Testament and New Testament... It can be very confusing. But God does not want us one or two times a week. He wants us all the time. He wants all of us all of the time. Isn't it time that we each turned it all over to Him?

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## CHOOSE FREEDOM

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Galatians 5:1

"So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in the law." (NLT)

Living under laws makes our lives easier. They eliminate our choices because the law chooses for us.

We all know that it is required that we stop at a stop sign, so we do. Without the stop sign every intersection would become a point of choice. We would have to choose to stop and look both ways before proceeding or to take a chance and speed right through it.

How many laws do we have in our religions that keep us from the freedom He has for us? He tells us to listen to the Holy Spirit and do what He tells us to do. Listen for His lead and follow it. He points the way and we are to go.

He tells us to go and tell the story. Tell the story of Jesus to everyone, save the lost and lay hands on them and they will recover.

But the rules in most religions forbid us from going out until we have run the race inside the church walls by attending the required classes and passing their tests. Some think that you have to clean up your own mess before you are capable of leading others to Christ.

I am not suggesting that we ignore the laws of the land. And I am not talking about being free to walk in sin. I am talking about being free because Christ has set us free. We are in Him and He is in us. All He asks of us is to listen and obey. Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit and do what He tells us to do. We must choose to walk forth in that freedom today.

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## OUR CONDUCT

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Galatians 6:5

"... we are each responsible for our own conduct." (NLT)

This is a powerful statement and yet daily each of us tries to place the blame for our actions and our feelings on others. We make statements like "So and so made me angry!" and "They made me do it!"

I can remember learning to ride my first bicycle when I was very young. I remember it as a red bike and my father was running down the street pushing me. When I would fall, he would be right there ready to pick me up and dust me off so I could get right back on and try it again.

God gave each and every one of us free will. He gave us the ability to choose right from wrong, good or evil. And yet we try to place the blame for our bad decisions on others all the time. This is not His doing or His desire.

It is time that we started to listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives and making right choices. And when we make a wrong choice, it is time to ask Him to forgive us and move on to another choice.



You see, it is even our choice to ask Him for forgiveness. He promises us that He will, but the responsibility is ours to realize our error and then to ask for His forgiveness so we can go forth.

We can bury our mistakes so others can't see them. We can blame others for the errors we make. This fools them and it may even fool us. But it never fools God. He knows everything about us and is always ready like a loving Father to pick us up and dust us off so we can start again.

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## EVERYONE KNOWS

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Romans 1:19

“For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts.” (NLT)

Have you ever been somewhere or seen something that you had experienced in the past, something that you had completely forgotten about? All of a sudden a flood of memories come rushing in from somewhere in the deep recesses of your mind.

It is like you had them filed away on a backup disk somewhere. You plugged the old disk into your computer and did a Windows search on that information. All those old documents came into view.

We all have perfect memory. We remember everything that has happened to us in our lives including sounds and smells – all our experiences are stored like multi-media movies in our mind. It is not memory that is a problem, it is recall.

Deep down in each and everyone is knowledge of God. And with that knowledge is a seed of faith.

When somebody spoke to us about Jesus their words triggered the recollection of the knowledge we were born with, the truth about God. It may not have been the first time we heard it. It may have taken many to awaken us, each one getting us a little closer.

When we reach others with the Good News about Jesus Christ, the same thing happened to them, that knowledge is remembered and when coupled with that seed of faith, the person is saved.

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## FOLLOW THE LAW

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Romans 2:14

Even when Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong.

Right from wrong according to God's law is not something we are expected to learn by going to school. Jews do study it are expected to know it whether they are saved or not.

But we are all born with the knowledge of our Creator's law. When we come to Him and are born again, access to that knowledge is opened up for easy access.

Before then, what we refer to as our conscious points out the error of our way. But do we listen?

When we were of the world we ignored our conscious and pushed further in to satisfy our flesh.

Then we became a believer and He sent the comforter to guide us in all truth.

He gave us knowledge of His law and a conscious to nudge us. Now we have the Holy Spirit. But we still must choose. We must listen and obey what He tells us.

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## SEE THE POTENTIAL

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Romans 3:22

"We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done." (NLT)

It is so easy to judge others, so easy to look at someone who has been living life as a loser. We see people that are on the streets, on drugs and think that they will never get anywhere in life.

We look at others that seem to have it all together. They have high paying jobs and position in business and in their communities. But then we discover that they have secret lives. They may drink, do drugs, steal from their companies or sleep around. It is easy to judge them as well.

We are all worthy in His eyes. No matter where we come from or what we have done in the past, we are worthy. No matter what we are into right now, we are worthy.

We know that God forgave us of all our sins. Yet it is hard to accept that He might forgive those sins of others that we have a hard time dealing with. But He will forgive them just as easily as He did us. Jesus died for all sin, not just for the sins of a select few.

So it is time to stop judging others for who they were and start looking at them as Jesus looks at them. He sees their potential not their past.

That person that you have judged may be the one that will bring thousands into the Kingdom of God. Take the time to step out and talk to them today.

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## LIKE ABRAHAM

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Romans 4:16

So that's why faith is the key! God's promise is given to us as a free gift. And we are certain to receive it, whether or not we follow Jewish customs, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. (NLT)

We live in a performance based society. We do and therefore we are allowed to have.

In order to get a good job today it is important to have a college degree to prove our performance. No degree and we can be certain that the answer will be "no interview".

God is not that way. He does not look for our performance as a prerequisite to relationship. As He did with Abraham, He looks for our faith.

All we had to do was exercise little faith and He saved us. He forgave all of our past sins and opened His arms to us.

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## BLACK AND WHITE

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Romans 5:12

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” (NLT)

I remember when I was growing up and we got one of the first television sets on our street. It was black and white back then. Cowboy movies were popular and I watched Roy Rogers and Gene Autry and The Range Rider. Later on one of the most popular shows was Gunsmoke.

In all of those shows one thing was always true. The good guys wore white hats and the bad guys wore black hats. It was as though you were either good or bad and of course most of us were good.

Adam was created from the dust of the earth and he was one of the good guys. Then even he sinned. He failed to obey the one commandment God had given him. The result affected all of mankind from that day forward.

We all carry that seed of sin, the Adamic sin from birth. It is always ready to spring forth and take us away from the path God has for us. Good works and white hats may create a perception of being sinless, but our potential to sin is still present.

Thank God the last Adam came to take away our sin. Jesus took all of that sin, the original sin and all the sin that we have added on our own, all of the ways in which we have not obeyed the Father, and washed it in His blood.

# About The Evans

Dick and Dianne established The Evans Ministries, incorporating it in 1999 as a ministry "Equipping People for Life". They are ordained ministers and overseers of Bible Discovery Groups.



They have five grown children and sixteen grandchildren/great-grandchildren. They reside in their own home of twenty+ years in Port Charlotte, FL.

They are both graduates of Bryant College in Rhode Island. Dick has studied at International Seminary in Florida. They have been schooled in spiritual gifts at the International Miracle Institute also in Florida. And they completed the video series on "How to Heal the Sick" by Charles and Frances Hunter.

In addition to overseeing the Bible Discovery Groups in multiple states, they minister at other churches and Christian organizations bringing a message of healing, deliverance and reconciliation to the body of Christ. God has anointed them to lay hands on the sick and see them recover.

When they are ministering, Dianne testifies to her miraculous healing from Crohn's disease in 1991. Many have received a touch from God as a result of this testimony and their ministry.

They are a couple on the move for God. As they step out doing what the Father asks of them, signs and wonders occur.

Their vision is to equip others for life. They do this on an individual basis at their local ministry and internationally with hands on workshops and seminars. This is in addition to the mission they have to touch the lives of many in congregations throughout this country with a message of restoration and healing.

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The Evans Ministries, 584 Lincoln Ave NW, Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
You may also email them at [Info@TheEvans.org](mailto:Info@TheEvans.org)  
[www.theevans.org](http://www.theevans.org)