

MOVING UP HIGHER

with Joyce Meyer



Throughout the years I've been teaching God's Word, people have asked me, "Joyce, how do you live the Christian life?" My answer surprises a lot of people. I tell them, "You can't live the Christian life, but God can live it through you!"

One of the greatest lessons I have ever learned is that we can't change ourselves—it is only by God's grace that we can overcome our weaknesses and become more like Him.

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing" (AMP).

When we try to do things apart from God's grace and strength, we will just struggle. One of the best prayers we can pray is, "God, help me!"

Years ago, when I first started reading the Bible and getting serious about my relationship with God, I began seeing all of the things I needed to change—there were so many! I needed to clean up my mind and my mouth; I had to overcome being so negative and judgmental; and my behavior toward my husband, Dave, also needed to improve.

I immediately went to work trying to do it myself, but I just ended up very frustrated and made little progress because I was spending all of my own energy trying to do something only God can do!

It was so wonderful when I finally got this revelation: God doesn't expect me to do it alone.

The best thing we can do is study God's Word, especially in the areas where we have weaknesses, and spend as much time with the Lord as we can—whether it's talking to Him in prayer or even just sitting quietly in His presence.

As we diligently and humbly seek the Lord and receive His grace, the Bible says we will change into His image "from glory to glory" (see 2 Corinthians 3:18).

The apostle Paul, who wrote a large part of the New Testament and is widely regarded as one of the great men of the early Church, realized he could do nothing without God's help.

In Romans 7:15, 18 (AMP) he says, "I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]. . . I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out]."

Have you ever intended to do the right thing but still struggled and couldn't make it happen regardless of how hard you tried? Paul was going through the very same thing, but he provides us with the answer in verses 24 and 25:

"Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death? O thank God! [He will!]..."

Paul is saying we can't do it on our own, but God will do it through us if we let Him.

This same principle applies to our relationships with other people—we can't change them.

When my children were young, I was certain that a couple of them would never make it on their own. My daughter Laura was

extremely messy, unorganized and seemingly couldn't keep track of anything. My youngest son, Daniel, struggled his way through school, and I was convinced I would be taking care of him the rest of my life.

I spent so much time worrying and trying to change them on my own. Most of the time my efforts only seemed to make things worse! Yes, I needed to be a good mother and help them in every way I could. But instead of worrying, struggling, and making us all miserable, I could have been praying, trusting God, and choosing to believe everything would work out well in the end.

Today, my daughter Laura is so organized that one of her jobs is to help keep my life organized! And Daniel? The boy who barely made it through school is now the CEO of Joyce Meyer Ministries, and he does a fantastic job! Now I look back and realize how much time and effort I wasted worrying and struggling when God had things under control all along!

You see, whether it's ourselves or someone else, the Lord wants us to seek His help, then rest in the knowledge that He is on the case. God doesn't want us to struggle; He wants us to believe. He wants us to relax and enjoy our lives even while we're waiting to see things change.

So what are you struggling with today? Your behavior, your finances, your kids, or maybe other people? Here's the best advice I can give you: Run to God for help, receive His grace, then make a firm decision to relax and enjoy your life while you trust Him to change things. As you do, you will find freedom from struggling... and discover a new level of God's peace and joy in the process.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series Living a Life of Total Freedom. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored nearly 100 books, including Battlefield of the Mind and Seize the Day: Living on Purpose and Making Every Day Count (Hachette). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Victor Leeroy Doolittle 1922-2017

Victor Leeroy Doolittle, 94, of Dorena, Ore. passed away Jan. 18, 2017.

He was born at Woodard Camp A near Cottage Grove on Oct. 13, 1922 to Judd and Meta (Mayben) Doolittle.

Victor attended school through the eighth grade, then served in the U.S. Navy.

On July 27, 1945 in Los Angeles, Calif., he and Bertha Adalyne Reynolds were married.

He worked as a logger and in commercial fishing.

He enjoyed gunsmithing, custom stocks, hunting, fishing, wood-working and boat building.

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia McNally of Dorena, Ore. and Kathy (Jim) Arvan of Goldendale, Wash., three sons, Ray (Joy) Doolittle of Lakeside, Ore., Leslie Doolittle of Cottage Grove and Alan and Evelyn Doolittle of Moore, ID, a sister, Donna Callahan of Colorado Springs, Colo., a brother, Harold Doolittle of North Carolina, 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife and two sons, Ronald Doolittle and Gary Doolittle.

Services were held on Feb. 4 at Dorena Community Church. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.



Nona Lee Leroue 1931-2017

Nona Lee Leroue of Yoncalla passed away on January 31 at the age of 85. She was born on November 22, 1931, in Phoenix, AZ to parents Bert M. and Sadie (Ehols) Stevens. She graduated from high school in Lebanon, OR. Nona married Leiel Leroue on August 14, 1950 in Vancouver, WA. She was a homemaker, and made their house a home. She loved music, enjoyed cooking, making wedding cakes, studying Scripture, canning, freezing food, and collecting dolls. She was always busy. She was a member of The Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter-day Saints. Nona is survived by son, Tim (Cindy) Leroue of Terrebonne, OR; daughter, Patty (Lonny) Jenkins of Grants Pass, OR; son, David (Jan) Leroue of Roseburg, OR; daughter, Cathy (Bill) Simmons of Cottage Grove; brother, Ray Eddy of New York; sister,



Penny Dorgan of Arizona; 16 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leiel Leroue, on July 29, 2016. A funeral will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 6, at Smith-Lund-Mills chapel in Cottage Grove. Burial will be in Fir Grove cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.



We Want Your News!

The Cottage Grove Sentinel wants to be your source for all things Cottage Grove. But we need your help! If you've got a news tip, we'd be glad to hear about it:

Cottage Grove Sentinel

In person: 116 N. Sixth Street, Cottage Grove
Email: cgnews@cgsentinel.com
Office phone: 942-3325


DEATH NOTICE

Martin Dale Montgomery, 52 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away February 1, 2017.

BIRTH NOTICES

Kassandra Wilson and Justin Raines of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on January 30 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Kris and Sarah Williams of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on February 1 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center- River-Bend




Free Hearing Screening
Same Day Appointments Available

www.grantshearing.com 1498 E. Main St., CG
541-942-8444

Gary O. Brandt 1943-2017

Gary O. Brandt of Cottage Grove died on February 4, 2017 at 4:00 AM. He was 73. He was born on October 7, 1943 to Orville "Bud" and Arline Brandt. He had five sisters, Jean, Marge, Barb, Cindy and Kathy. He served in Vietnam in the 4th Infantry 3rd Battalion. He was married to Florence "Joy" Jensen for 52 wonderful years. Gary was owner of Automatic grinding machine shop on Main Street in Cottage Grove. He also served as a reserve officer with the Cottage Grove Police Department for 37 years. He is survived by his wife, Joy; daughters, Brenda Conklin and Becky Wood; 4 grandchildren, April Conklin, Tanya Wood, Tamra Wood, and Breanna Bechtel; 3 step-grandchildren, Michael Conklin, Jeff Conklin, and Heather Conklin; and 9 "great" grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, and by daughter, Brandi Joy. A visitation will be held on Thursday, February 9, 6:00-8:00 PM at Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel. A Memorial will be on Saturday, February 11, 2:00 PM, also at Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel. A potluck reception will follow service.




Funeral & Memorial Planning
Cremation Options
Monuments & Memorials
Cemetery Options

123 South 7th, Cottage Grove, Oregon
 541-942-0185 • www.smithlundmills.com

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY
 AT VILLAGE GREEN'S SEASONS AT THE GREEN RESTAURANT

Bacon-Wrapped \$30
Filet Mignon & Lobster Tail
 Served with lobster sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread & choice of soup or salad

Prime Rib
 available Friday & Saturday
8OZ-\$20, 12OZ-\$25

FEBRUARY 10-14
DINNER SPECIALS
 Reservations Recommended

Triple Layer Red Velvet Cake
 The perfect dessert for two
\$8

STAY THE NIGHT!
 Valentine's Package Includes:
 Overnight Accommodations • Bottle of House Wine
 Dinner for Two • Sharable Dessert • Breakfast Buffet

\$129 for a Standard Room | \$149 for a Deluxe Room with a Fireplace!



To make reservations or book a room call 541-942-2491
www.villagegreenresortandgardens.com