

# MOVING UP HIGHER

with  
*Joyce Meyer*



Faith in God is a foundational principle of the Bible. It's the key to experiencing the promises we find in God's Word. For example, Jesus clearly tells us in John 10:10 that He died so we can overcome the enemy who comes "only in order to steal and kill and destroy," because in Him we can "have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (AMP).

Being a Christian is not about a "brand" of religion; it's all about having abundant life through a personal, intimate relationship with God. That's a life we can enjoy!

But we can't have this life unless we know what the Bible says and receive it by faith.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) says that "God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Every person has faith; the question is what are you putting your faith in?

Is your faith in yourself, your friends, or the government? Who, or what, do you really trust to make your life work out the way it should?

When a person puts their faith in Christ for salvation, they trust that Jesus has done everything that needs to be done for them to be forgiven of their sin and make them right with God. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

The same way we're saved – believing and trusting in what Christ has done – is the same way we're supposed to live: by faith!

So how do we live by faith, or release our faith, to experience the promises of God?

I remember when I was going to church every week but I didn't have any idea about the blessings God had for me as a believer in Christ. I wasn't benefitting from any of them because I didn't know what they were, and I didn't have a clue that I could release my faith to have them.

But when I began to seriously study God's Word, I discovered what was available to me through Christ and how to release my faith to receive what He wants to give me. That's when God began to do amazing things in my life: healing my soul from the horrible abuse in my past; restoring my hope that I could have a great life, not a second-rate plan because I was "damaged goods"; and taking me from miserable and full of self-pity to having real joy and peace in my soul.

Here's the key to effectively releasing your faith: You MUST base your faith on God's Word. That's why it's so important to dili-

gently study the Bible. It's absolutely full of all the blessings Jesus bought and paid for with His blood. We need to devour the Bible and remind ourselves every day of how much God has done for us.

For example, Jeremiah 29:11 says God has "plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (AMP). God loves you and He has a good plan for you... but it's not just going to happen on its own. You have to release your faith to have it.

Faith is a powerful force in your spirit, and when you use it, that's when things happen. You have to do something, say something, pray something – take some kind of action based on what you believe God has put in your heart.

Many years ago, when I felt like God wanted me to begin teaching a Bible study, I didn't have any idea how to do it. But I had a deep desire to help people and teach them God's Word.

My initial reaction was, "Who is going to come? Nobody knows me...nobody cares what I have to say. And I don't know how to teach!" The Lord spoke to my heart and said, "I do." So my first step was to say, "Okay, I'll do it." My next step was to invite some people...and oddly enough, they said yes!

Those were steps of faith for me. I could have been so afraid of failure, my weaknesses and inability, that I wouldn't even try. I had to "step out and find out" if this was really God's direction for me.

That first Bible study consisted of 12 people; that group grew to 25, and as I continued, it eventually led us to start the ministry we have today.

I want to encourage you not to settle for a passive existence ruled by fear of failure, change, rejection or anything else. Instead, be determined to have everything God has for you.

Pray about the desires in your heart, or ask God to show you what He has planned for you. When you have an idea, pray for specific wisdom to take a step...to take action based on your faith in God.

If you really want to have the life God has for you, you will have to take a chance – you'll have to step out and find out. Choose to put your faith in God because that's when amazing things will begin to happen for you!

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's two-teaching CD set What Is Faith and How Does It Work? 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 more than 100 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and LIVING A LIFE YOU LOVE (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.*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Ruth Presley 1925-2018



Ruth was born on Oct. 26, 1925 in Trent, Oregon, to Bertha Ferguson Bricker and William Henry Bricker. As a young girl Ruth picked walnuts, filberts, hops, green beans, and apples.

When her parents moved to the Thurston area, Ruth attended and graduated from the Mt. Vernon Grade School in 1939. She then attended Thurston

High School for 3 years until

her parents moved to Cottage Grove and she graduated from Cottage Grove High School with the class of 1943. She married John Presley in 1947 after he returned from the European

Theater of War. They then purchased a farm west of Cottage Grove. They had 3 sons: James,

William and Richard. John died in 1991 and Ruth then moved to Cottage Grove after selling

the farm. Ruth is survived by sons James (Jim) and his wife, Julie of Eugene; William (Bill) of Eugene; and Richard (Rick) and his wife, Sondra, of Cottage Grove; by her brother, Glen Bricker of Cottage Grove; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ruth was a member of the Cottage Grove Church of Christ, 6th & Gibbs. A funeral will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, April 20, at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

## DEATH NOTICES

Joel Pynch of Brownsville, Oregon, passed away April 1, 2018.



**We print birth announcements**

Modern-day obituaries available online at **cg sentinel.com**

### Loretta Kay Russell 1957-2018

Loretta Kay Russell, 60 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away April 19, 2018. She was born September 30, 1957, in Niagara Falls, NY to Charles and Catherine (Contri) Russell. Loretta was a children's Librarian at the Cottage Grove Library. She enjoyed reading, visiting the ocean and being with Cubby her dog. Loretta is survived by her daughter Caitlin Clark, Long Beach, CA daughter Kimberlee Knight, LaGrande, OR, brothers; Charles, Tim and Chris Russell, 2 grandchildren Ryker and Sawyer. A Memorial will be held in June with details being publicly announced when finalized. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.



### Kathryn "Kathe" Weeldreyer McIntire March 17, 1947 – April 18, 2018

Kathryn "Kathe" McIntire died peacefully at home on April 18, at the age of 71, surrounded by her family. As a strong believer in Jesus Christ, her faith sustained her throughout her life. She will be remembered for her grace and joyous attitude as she courageously faced her lengthy battle with cancer knowing she would soon be in the arms of her Savior. She was born on St Patrick's Day in Cottage Grove to Glenn and Lois Weeldreyer. Growing up, her parents owned Glenn's Tire and Honda and she enjoyed participating in the motorcycle Play Days her father organized on their property. She graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1965 and earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Oregon State University in Home Economics Education in 1969. At OSU she met and fell in love with her soul mate and fellow Beaver, Harry McIntire. They married on March 23, 1969, at the Cottage Grove First Baptist Church. They raised their two children Ryan and Katey on the family's tree farm. Kathe loved the hundreds of middle and high school students she taught cooking and sewing skills to. Many still have the sewing projects they completed in her class. Students often visited her after school for counsel and support. She retired from teaching in 2004, after 20 years in the classroom. She had the gift of hospitality, which made her a much sought out innkeeper as the owner of the Apple Inn Bed & Breakfast for 20 years. She and Harry loved meeting new people and welcoming their many new and returning guests. Kathe was an amazing cook, which made her a valued member of the "Squat and Gobble" dinner club for many years. Throughout her life Kathe loved people and was a good storyteller. She enjoyed hosting family gatherings in her beautiful seasonally decorated home. She especially loved spending time with her children and grandchildren in the kitchen and garden.



After retiring, Kathe and Harry enjoyed traveling with their family on new adventures. They made two cross-country RV trips together. They visited several countries and especially enjoyed their trip to Israel. She loved her hometown and frequently volunteered for local nonprofit organizations. For all of her life Kathe enjoyed sharing her faith with others by leading Bible studies and participating in church activities. She was a member of Suburban Christian Church in Corvallis.

Kathe is survived by her loving husband of 49 years, Harry, her son Ryan McIntire (Emily) of Eagle Point, her daughter Katey Tryon (Randy) of Corvallis, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, a brother Tom Weeldreyer (Carol) of Cottage Grove, and two nieces.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 5 at 3:30 pm at Riverside Community Church of God in Cottage Grove. Memorial contributions can be made to Suburban Christian Church missions. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, Oregon.

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