



Learning to Show Love

by Steve McVey

I know it's a ridiculous movie, but I can't watch Groundhog Day enough times to become bored with it. I must have seen it ten times through the years. Bill Murray plays Phil, a TV weatherman who works in a piddly local station but believes that his great break will come soon and that he will be a national celebrity.

He acts so charming on the air, but the moment the camera goes off, his self-loathing, bitter self emerges. He treats others with contempt and obviously cares about nobody but himself. On Groundhog Day, he and his coworkers are sent on an assignment in Punxsutawney, PA where he is to report on the Groundhog Day festivities. He is nothing but condescending to everybody that day.

The day after he wakes up early and is ready to leave quickly to beat the traffic, but he soon discovers that he is living the same exact day over again. Same people, same situations, same conversations. Nothing is different.

The next day it happens again. Then again and again and again. No matter what he does, he's stuck in February 2, 1992. As the movie progresses, a strange thing begins to happen. Phil is forced to look at other people's lives. Eventually, he starts to care about them. He starts to respect people, he tries to save the life of a homeless man and discovers that he is in love with Rita, the same coworker he had treated so disrespectfully for so long. Little by little, Phil is transformed.

The start of a new year is something like that. Ecclesiastes 1:4 says, "Generations come and go, but nothing really changes"(NLT). Being self-absorbed is the nature of the flesh. Loving other people is action that comes through conscious intention.

Instead of relating to the same people in the same way we always have, what if we determined to be excessive in showing love to others in 2008? What if we chose to move outside our comfort zone, our self-consciousness and self-interests and focused on the people who cross our paths with the goal of pouring out Agape on them? What if we intentionally veered off our familiar and comfortable paths to find people to love who don't appear to be "all that lovable" on the surface?

If the grace walk means anything, it means loving people. The Bible says "God is love." Humanly speaking, Jesus loved the most unlikely people. Here's a radical idea for this year: Let's act like Jesus. Let's just love people indiscriminately. Let's love them whether they are pimps or preachers – whether they are crack-heads or corporate heads – whether they are drug addicts or deacons, whether they are immoral or moral. Let's just love them all!

What kind of year might we have if we make it our goal to be conduits of God's love toward others? I think we might be amazed. Let's try it and see.

May you and your family be richly blessed in your grace walk during the coming year. Thank you for your support of Grace Walk Ministries. Together we will show the world His love and grace.

Radical Freedom Conference - March 28th & 29th



Steve McVey and Paul Anderson-Walsh, Director of The Grace Project in London, England will be co-teaching this conference at the Northland Community Church in Orlando. This event is co-hosted by The Grace Project and Grace Walk Ministries. Registration is \$100 per person or \$150 per married couple. Space is limited to the first one hundred people to register, so call our office at 1-800-472-2311 and register now. You can also register online at www.gracewalk.org, click on Resources, then Conferences. Steve and Paul will be speaking on the topic of the radical freedom we have in

Jesus Christ. This conference will encourage and equip you to walk in victory over legalism. Register now to ensure that you have a seat.

New Video Blogs

Steve McVey has recently begun two new features on his blog. He is doing short video segments called “101 Lies Taught In Church Every Sunday.” Each video is 3-5 minutes long and addresses common faulty teachings that have kept people from experiencing the grace walk.



The second addition to the blog is a video response to emails he receives. Many of the questions that come to our office are similar to each other, so Steve thought this would be a good way to answer common questions online. In these segments, he reads the questions sent in and then responds. If you have questions you would like to see Steve answer, email them to askstevemcvey@gracewalk.org and he will answer as many as possible online.

You can access the blog through our web site at www.gracewalk.org. Look on the left side of the home page and click the link that says “Steve’s Blog” and you will go right to it. We believe these added features will help you to grow in your own grace walk and to help others understand



Big Babies

By Steve McVey

Control freaks – that’s what we all are when we try to be in charge of our own lives. God never intended for us to be in control. Controlling things is His role, not ours. “My life is out of control!” people have tearfully said to me at times in the counseling office. What they really meant was “My life is out of my control and I don’t like it!”

Imagine a baby holding a pair of new shoes in his hands. He is playing with them and happy they belong to him. His parent reaches down to take the shoes and put them on the child’s feet. All the child sees is that his shoes are being taken out of his hands. He doesn’t like it. He wants to control them and keep them in his hands, but he will never walk in them that way.

The parent takes the shoes from the hand of the child and the baby begins to cry. He is overwhelmed with anger, confusion and regret that his shoes are being taken from him. He screams. He kicks in protest. He is losing control of the thing he loves and wants to hold. He doesn’t understand what his parent is doing.

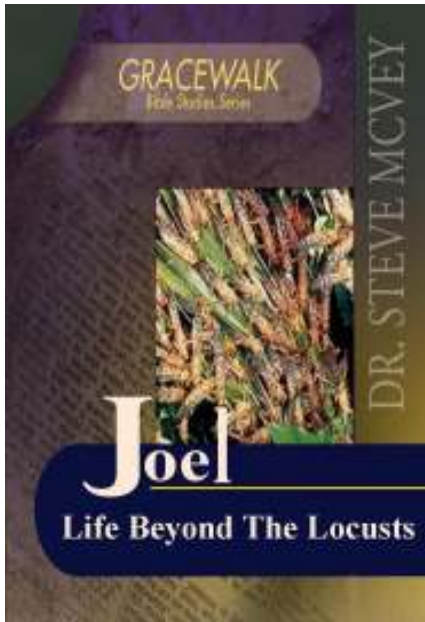
But the parent understands and does what is necessary to enable the child to walk – whether the child likes it or even understands.

The goal is to enable the child to enjoy the shoes to the fullest by walking in them. The parent knows that if the shoes are used for their designed purpose, the child will truly benefit and not simply be amused by them.

Only a baby thinks the highest pleasure is to hold them in his hands. He doesn't see the whole picture. So the parent overrules the baby's wishes and does what is needful. Eventually the child will understand. When he does, he is thrilled, and more important than that, he walks.

Do you want to walk? What are you holding onto that you need to release? Let it go. God knows what He is doing.

This article is taken from our devotionals-on-demand from our website.



Life Beyond the Locusts *A Study from Joel*

There are experiences in life which are completely devastating. The death of a mate or a child, divorce, terminal disease, financial bankruptcy, betrayal by one we love – these are the type of circumstances that threaten to redefine life as we have known it. What do we do when life becomes unbearable? How do we move forward and still hold onto our faith when our feelings are screaming nothing but negative messages?

The prophet Joel lived in a time when disaster had struck Israel. A plague of locusts came upon them that was so severe it erased life as they had known it. Their hope was gone and their motivation had withered. To these people God had a word that is as appropriate today for your crisis as it was for them.

In this teaching series, Steve McVey presents four truths from the book of Joel that can equip you to move through the calamity of life toward the coming victory on the other side. The four sessions include:

Session 1: Settling The Issue Of Control

Does it seem like life is out of control? Though life may appear that way at times, it isn't. In this session, you will discover that when life is out of your control, God is still in control. Learning to relinquish control to Him is the first step toward peace.

Session 2: Learning To Go On When You Feel Like Giving Up

It is by clinging to the reality of the absolute goodness of God that we find the strength to keep going when everything in us wants to quit. This teaching will strengthen your resolve to cling to your Heavenly Father when life seems to be unraveling all around you.

Session 3: Trusting God When It Seems He Has Forgotten You

Sometimes it seems like we are moving through our trials alone. This teaching examines the promises of God to His people that He hasn't forgotten. You will find strength as you discover here how to spiritually nurture yourself when you have lost the ability to even hope anymore.

Session 4: Watch and Wait

In the final chapter of Joel, God describes the end of the story for all of His children. Sooner or later, your story will have a happy ending. Learn from this teaching how to wait expectantly for the divine intervention you so desperately need in your circumstances.

Everybody either suffers devastation in their lives at sometime or knows somebody else who has. The truths taught in this series from the book of Joel will help equip you to experience life beyond the locusts that have forever altered your circumstances. Our God is Lord of the Locusts as much as He is Lord of our happy times. These four principles will equip you to trust Him until the plague passes.

To place an order visit our website at www.gracewalk.org, click on Resources



Update from Swaziland

Thank you very much to those who made donations for Swaziland during December. Thus far, we have raised over nine thousand dollars for the needs there. Children will be fed, medicine will be provided and lives will be saved because of your willingness to show Christ's love to these dear people in practical ways.

Can you think of ways to raise money for others there who are in desperate need? Steve and Melanie's daughter, Amy, recently ran a marathon and asked people to sponsor her, with all the proceeds going to Swaziland. Will you ask the Holy Spirit to show you creative ways to get the funds to show our love there?

Steve McVey and the leaders in Swaziland are working out a plan now to identify specific projects that we can adopt in order to transform the lives of the people in the village of Mafutseni. As we share Christ's love for them in tangible ways, we will also be sharing the message of God's grace and

unconditional love. This really is biblical evangelism!

If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to Grace Walk Ministries for missions or general support, please visit our website at www.gracewalk.org, donations.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event Date	Location	Speaker	Contact Information
February 1 & 2	First Baptist Church of Hesperia Hesperia, California (near San Bernadeno)	Steve McVey	Dave Billings 760-245-7816
February 10	First Baptist Church Boerne, Boerne, Texas	Steve McVey	www.fbcboerne.org 830-249-2527
March 7 - 8	First Baptist Church Boerne, Boerne, Texas	Steve McVey	www.fbcboerne.org 830-249-2527
March 28-30	Radical Freedom Conference Orlando, Florida	Steve McVey Paul Walsh	info@gracewalk.org click here to register online

April 6 - 9	Proctorville First Baptist Church Proctorville, Ohio	Steve McVey	www.fbcproctorville.com 740-886-6905
April 24 – 26	NCCBA Pastor’s Retreat Whitehall, Wisconsin	Steve McVey	Don Shaw 715-538-2298 donnccba@trivest.net
May 31 April 1	Guadalajara, Mexico	Steve McVey	mexico@gracewalk.org
July 11 - 13	Radical Sonship Conference London, England	Steve McVey Paul Walsh	paul@thegraceproject.com
August 9 -10	Mexico City, Mexico	Steve McVey	mexico@gracewalk.org
August 31	Celebration Church St Catherines, Ontario Canada	Steve McVey	info@peteryoungren.org
Sept 14 - 17	International Baptist Church, Melbourne, Australia	Steve McVey	silasissa@aol.com
October 24 - 25	Grace Walk Conference Bayside Baptist Church Virginia Beach, Virginia	Steve McVey	757-460-2481
Nov 2 - 7	Japan	Steve McVey	info@gracewalk.org
Nov 22 -23	Newsong Fellowship Lancaster, PA	Steve McVey	717-393-9600