

# Devotionals by Joe Stowell



Below are links to old devotionals from WebArchive.org, all by Joseph Stowell and all divided by **TOPIC**. They are usually very Biblical and practical. Some are study guides with links to PDF's for personal or group study (see **NOTE**). Others are devotionals that appeared in Our Daily Bread. A third group are longer devotionals from Getmorestrength. Note that some devotionals are listed under more than one topic so no need to email me about duplications.

**NOTE:** You will likely be frustrated because some of the links go to **Study Guides** that then ask you to click on a PDF for personal or group study. Many times clicking these Pdf links will retrieve a message like "This was not archived." A **workaround** (not 100% but often helpful) is go back to the page that discusses the study and lists the Pdf's. Look toward the **left upper corner** of the page and you will see a number for "**captures**" in blue. Click that and click some of the other archived pages of this same study - usually I have more success with older dates. Click the older date and then on the calendar that opens you will see one or more dates with a colored circle (blue or green) identifying that as a date that was archived. Hold your pointer over the date and a date opens for you to click. Click it and then click the Pdf on that page to see if it opens. You may have to check several dates, but if you really want to see the study, you will probably find a working Pdf! Shalom!

Here is an example from "[RELATIONSHIPS](#)" - The first one is [Jesus,Our Champion](#), Part 1

(1) Click [Jesus,Our Champion](#) to Open

(2) Then try the Pdf link - The Pdf says "The Wayback Machine has not archived that URL."

(3) Go to the left upper side where it says "[30 captures](#)" and click it.

(4) Pick a date - [here is a date in 2013](#) (you may need to try several dates)

(5) Then click on the circled date - [Click Sept 15, 2013](#) and it may take a while to open. "[Jesus,Our Champion, Part 1](#)" will open

(6) You can then click the [Pdf Link to open a copy](#). Success!

## TOPICS:

- [GUIDANCE](#)
- [LEADING](#)
- [POWER FOR LIVING](#)
- [PRAYER](#)
- [RELATIONSHIPS](#)
- [SOVEREIGNTY](#)
- [FAITHFULNESS](#)

## GUIDANCE

### [Jesus, Our Champion Part 2](#)

Jesus doesn't settle for spiritual shortcuts—He has a total solution in mind for your problems. Yet when you come up with your own plans for "helping" Jesus, you're guaranteed to find...

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## [Stop Talking, Start Listening Part 2](#)

Discover the five habits of effective listeners to the voice of God. Last week, Joe Stowell explained the importance of hearing God's warnings to us in the face of danger. Today...

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Discover how to get into the habit of looking for God's hidden hand in your life as Joe Stowell continues his series on Ruth: Love Unshaken. As we move forward in...

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Tucked away in the Old Testament, you'll find Ruth—a brief yet powerful book that shares the experiences of real people who had their dreams dashed. This inspiring story offers encouragement and...

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## [Holding Your Hand](#)

One of the joys of being with kids is holding their hands. We do it to keep them safe while crossing the street, or to keep them from getting lost in...

## [In Your Head](#)

I love the prayer that begins, "God be in my head." When I first heard it, admittedly I thought it sounded a little weird. But then I got to

thinking how...

### Storm Tracker

Normally, my favorite way to drive a speedboat is full-tilt, skipping across the water with the wind in my face. But this time my usual penchant for speed was tempered by...

### A New Career

For some guys, the annual fishing trip is the highlight of their calendar. They stay in cozy cabins and spend long days fishing just for the fun of it. You can...

### Caring and Capable

On my way home one night, I noticed a glow of flashing lights about a half mile up the road. As I got closer, I saw several emergency vehicles on the...

### On the Road Again

I hate being lost. I've always had a good sense of direction and can usually find my way around without much trouble. But on the rare occasions when I lose my...

### Transforming the Task List

What got you out of bed this morning (besides the lure of a hot cup of coffee)? If you're like me, you finally pulled yourself out of bed because you've got...

### A Worthy Pursuit

Let's face it, if you are a follower in a world that celebrates leaders, you don't feel all that good about yourself. Walk into any bookstore, and you will note that...

### More Than a Hobby

For most people I know, fishing is a hobby. Some approach it casually, picking up a pole and dipping a few worms in the lake for fun while they're at a...

### Out of Luck

An oft-quoted movie line comes from Napoleon Dynamite. The line closes the film, after Napoleon's brother, Kip, gets married and rides off on horseback with his new bride. If you're a closet...

### Peace in the Midst of the Pieces

There I was, minding my own business, shopping for an anniversary card for Martie when something on another shelf caught my eye. It was a box with a tantalizing picture of...

### Disappointing Sideshows

When I was a boy, one of the biggest annual events in town was the circus. My dad would take us early in the morning to watch the circus trains unload...

### Wake Him Up!

Elouise worked the cash register in the food court at Chicago's Moody Bible Institute. She was, by far and away, one of my favorite people. I liked a lot of things...

### Bull's-eye

Here's some bad news: left to ourselves, we're not very good shots when it comes to living. We are, at the core, sinful, which explains why we lead such "ready-fire-aim" kind...

### Under New Management

It's always an unsettling moment when you pull up to one of your favorite haunts only to see a sign posted in the window that reads "Under New Management." A change...

### Fear Of The Unknown

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed unreasonable? Something that took you into the territory of the unknown? What if He asked you to refuse a long-awaited promotion...

### Bravo for the Boundaries

In case you haven't noticed, we live in a no-holds-barred, do-your-own-thing world. We have been force-fed on the thought that we exist to experience pleasure, that the pursuit of happiness and...

### What Are We Holding On To?

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### Instrument-rated Living

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### No Fear Factor

The reality TV show Fear Factor featured people who are willing to face their worst fears for notoriety and financial gain. I need to tell you that I rarely watched more...

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# **POWER FOR LIVING**

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## [Father and Friend](#)

A short clip on the evening news recently featured a suburban high school's attempt to address the spiraling epidemic of teenage drinking. The reporter attended a parents' forum at the school...

### Fatal Flaws

If you're a fan of Shakespeare, you know that his heroes always have a serious character flaw. I guess it's what makes for a good story—and teaches some important lessons too....

### Love for the World

It was a cold December morning. Dressed in a white execution gown, he was led to the wall of the prison courtyard with the others. Blindfolded, he waited for the last...

### Solid Rock and Sinking Sand

Over the past several years we've seen hurricanes wreak mind-boggling destruction. When a hurricane hits, countless homes and lives are washed into the sea, and the things people count on the...

### A Parade Worth Marching In

For Americans, the Fourth of July is usually a day of picnics, parties, and parades. Putting aside partisan differences and political perspectives, the people of the nation gather to celebrate Independence...

### Two-Way Street

Ever had a one-way friendship? You know the drill—people who always need a favor but never give anything in return. Every time they come close, you can almost hear that sucking sound...

### The Great Race

The month of June brings many sure signs of summer: the sweet smell of cut grass, soft breezes, picnics, fireflies, thunderstorms—and runners. This unique breed of humanity, forced to run circles in...

### Hurry Up and Wait

One of my all-time favorite school teacher stories is about a kindergarten teacher who at the end of an exasperating day had to put boots on all 31 of her students...

### Help Is on the Way

My aging Chevy Tahoe has a nifty little feature—the OnStar button. Some time back, General Motors started installing this blue button on many of their vehicles. If you need help, all you...

### Hitting the Rapids

I'll never forget my first white-water rafting experience. The guide made me wear a dorky helmet and a life jacket that was anything but flattering. Thankfully, my sagging self-image was rescued...

### Instrument-rated Living

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## PRAYER

### True Fellowship

I remember a time when I talked to a woman about prayer. With a starry look in her eyes, she asked if I had ever prayed with a Mormon. I said,...

### What's More Important Than Voting?

Don't forget to vote! We have all heard that call to good citizenship. But beyond being a good citizen, being a good follower of Jesus means that we don't forget to...

### Welcome to the Complaint Department

In one of my favorite children's books Oh, the Places You'll Go! the great philosopher Dr. Seuss writes about the ups and downs of life. Sometimes, he says, "Hang-ups can happen..."

### Never Surrender!

The setting was England's House of Commons in early June of 1940. Another World War had broken out and the prospects for Britain were uncertain at best. In the face of...

### Dare to Call Him "Dad"

Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis has a beautiful, stately auditorium. I'll never forget the time I preached there. I was taken with the beauty of it all—the chimes of the carillon,...

### The Quarter In Your Pocket

Some things are irresistible. For me, it's bubble-gum machines. I can hardly resist the urge to watch one of those colorful gumballs roll down the tunnel so I can pop it...

### Holiness Has an Edge

All of us who have kids have been guilty of ending an argument about why they should or shouldn't do something with the conversation stopper: "Because I said so." The reply...

### Unloading the Baggage

I boarded the plane in Chicago with too much baggage. Not the kind of baggage you stow in the overhead compartment or squash under the seat in front of you. Not...

### Voices

Hearing voices has to be the most haunting of all the mental disorders. After all, which voice do you listen to? Talk about massive confusion! But before you think that you...

### My Only Hope

Any Star Wars fans out there? Remember the opening scenes of the first movie that begin with a laser battle between a little spaceship (the good guys) and this huge, ominous...

### Somebody Cares

When I was a little boy growing up in Hackensack, New Jersey, I would often fall asleep listening to my little radio. One of my favorite shows was “Big Joe’s Happiness...

### [This Little Light of Mine](#)

I have a lot of favorite stories, but this one has to rank near the top. My friend Paul Eshleman is the founder of the Jesus Film Project, which arguably has...

## RELATIONSHIPS

### [Jesus, Our Champion Part 1](#)

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“Love one another.” It’s a simple concept—but you know just how difficult it can be to put into practice! Over the past few weeks we’ve been examining this new command Jesus...

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### [A New Community Part 2](#)

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### [A New Community Part 1](#)

Love was the focus of Christ’s last words to His disciples before going to the cross. Join Joe Stowell in turning to John 13 for a thought-provoking discussion about Jesus’ commandment...

### [New Covenant People Part 3](#)

Are you listening? You’ve previously heard about the privileges that come with living as “New Covenant People.” But big consequences result when we don’t tune in to the Holy Spirit who...

### [New Covenant People Part 2](#)

Enjoy a deeper, more satisfying intimacy in your relationship with Christ as you continue exploring what it means to live as “New

Covenant People." In this week's message, Joe Stowell reveals...

### [New Covenant People Part 1](#)

Welcome to a whole new way of living as a follower of Jesus Christ! We've been finding out about the freedom and intimacy that came in God's new covenant with us...

### [The New Covenant Part 3](#)

Discover what it means to live "inside out" in this continuing message on "The New Covenant." As Joe Stowell explains, it's easy—and dangerous—to slip into the habit of basing your faith...

### [The New Covenant Part 2](#)

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts," the Lord declared in [Jeremiah 31:33](#). With that powerful Old Testament promise, God laid the foundation for...

### [The New Covenant Part 1](#)

Why do you follow God's law? Is it out of a sense of duty—or devotion to your Savior? Join Joe Stowell in exploring this fundamental question in your relationship with God...

### [Born Identity Part 2](#)

Discover two privileges you enjoy because you are found "in Christ" in this continuing message on [2 Corinthians 5:17](#). Last week you heard Joe Stowell define being "in Christ" as having...

### [Born Identity Part 1](#)

We've all found ourselves using phrases like "in Christ." But have you ever stopped to consider what those words really mean? Join Joe Stowell for this week's message as you explore...

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### [Christ the King Part 4](#)

Is Jesus the ruler of every detail of your life? Putting the principles of heaven into practice doesn't always come naturally! Joe Stowell draws on his own personal experience of learning...

### [The Life God Loves To Partner With Part 3](#)

Discover five habits of a heart that converges with God's eternal plan. In his ongoing series on Ruth: Love Unshaken, Joe Stowell turns to Ruth 2 and continues looking at the...

### [The Life God Loves to Partner With Part 1](#)

Discover how to get into the habit of looking for God's hidden hand in your life as Joe Stowell continues his series on Ruth: Love Unshaken. As we move forward in...

### [God's Heart In Our Hands Part 3](#)

Discover six steps to bringing God's heart to your world. Last week we heard Joe Stowell share the first step: loving our neighbors as ourselves. Today you'll walk through the final...

### [God's Heart In Our Hands Part 2](#)

Discover parallels between our modern world and the ancient love story of Ruth and Boaz as Joe Stowell nears the end of his series on Ruth: Love Unshaken. Joe uses the...

### [God's Heart In Our Hands Part 1](#)

Are you willing to take God's heart into your hands? Discover how you can carry out God's vision for people in need as Joe Stowell continues his series on Ruth: Love...

### [Gone Fishing Part 2](#)

Have you "gone fishing" in your heart? When Peter became discouraged after failing Jesus, he went fishing. Then Jesus showed up on the beach and called Peter back to His side....

### [Whispers in the Dark Part 3](#)

Discover what it means to become a man of character in a world of sexual temptations. This week, Joe Stowell continues looking at the lives of Ruth and Boaz and what...

### [Whispers in the Dark Part 2](#)

Be challenged and encouraged to pursue sexual purity, following the example of Ruth and Boaz, as Joe Stowell continues his series on Ruth: Love Unshaken. The power of temptation is strong...

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"What is God doing?" When life puts you in a bind, it's natural to focus on the negative. But God has His own agenda for the circumstances in your life, as...

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## [Getting Over Me Part 3](#)

"Get over yourself." We all struggle with valuing ourselves above Jesus, as Joe Stowell acknowledges in this final message on "Getting Over Me." Joe uses the stories of two great evangelists...

## [Jesus, Our Champion Part 3](#)

Jesus asks you to "Take up your cross and follow Me." Discover how you can bear that cross with a sense of courage, confidence, and victory. As we uncover the roots...

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## In the Garden

My wife, Martie, and I had the privilege of traveling to England. While we were there, we visited Hampton Court—the home of King Henry VIII. The first thing we noticed was...

## Living in the Perfect Tense

One of my all-time favorite jokes is about the guy who was applying for a truck driver's job. As part of the oral exam to pass the driving test, the instructor...

## Load Limits

Daddy, can I help you?" It was my four-year-old son, Matt, who was watching me carry cartons of empty pop bottles to the car. Back then you could return them for...

## Save the Paper

Above the joyful sounds of Christmas morning, as children open their presents in attack mode, you can usually hear someone older and wiser saying, "Don't rip the paper. Save it for..."

## Interruptions

Interruptions are inevitable. It's just the way life works. But, I keep asking myself, why is it that they come at such inopportune times? After listening to a zillion options in...

## Holding Your Hand

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## Don't Just Celebrate...Imitate!

I can still remember my dad standing there, coat on and hat in hand on Christmas afternoon asking me, "Joe, do you want to come with me?" His question made me...

## The Person Makes The Place

Engaged couples often spend hours poring over travel brochures and vacation Web sites looking for just the right honeymoon spot. They can hardly wait for their romantic getaway. But it's not...

## Only Jesus Satisfies

Victor Krutko came to Moody Bible Institute from Minsk, a town in Belarus. This gifted, passionate pastor and I have become good friends. I'll never forget an episode with him as...

## In Your Head

I love the prayer that begins, "God be in my head." When I first heard it, admittedly I thought it sounded a little weird. But then I got to thinking how...

## Reliable Grace

Do you ever pay much attention to bumper stickers? I find them fascinating! You can be driving along and in one minute see a sticker

that says, "My child is an...

### Upside Down Toast

Have you ever made a piece of toast, slathered it with butter and strawberry jam, and just as you're about to take the first delicious bite, you drop it on the...

### Father and Friend

A short clip on the evening news recently featured a suburban high school's attempt to address the spiraling epidemic of teenage drinking. The reporter attended a parents' forum at the school...

### Kaleidoscope Glory

When was the last time you looked into a kaleidoscope? Remember those long tubes, usually made of cardboard with hundreds of little colored beads at one end? Inside, a series of...

### What Can I Do to Help?

A few years ago a friend of mine joined the staff of a large and growing church. He had admired and respected the senior pastor of that particular church for years...

### True Fellowship

I remember a time when I talked to a woman about prayer. With a starry look in her eyes, she asked if I had ever prayed with a Mormon. I said,...

### Giving Thanks

There are few things that bring greater energy and strength to our souls than the exercise of lifting praise and thanksgiving from our hearts to God's. Gratitude has a uniquely wonderful...

### Being Thankful Anyway

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving—by far and away my favorite holiday. I'm not sure why, except that it has always seemed so uncluttered. Fortunately it has escaped the commercialization of Halloween and Christmas....

### Foundation Of The Heart

The great cathedrals of Europe are not only breathtaking but intriguing in their architecture. Because their massive ceilings were too heavy for the walls to support, flying buttresses, or external extensions,...

### Intimacy That Satisfies

In my opinion, intimacy is a really attractive word. Deep down inside, all of us long for meaningful connections that satisfy our souls and chase away the shadows of aloneness. But...

### He's There All The Time

I'll never forget my frustrating experience when I went to Chicago's Union Station early one morning to pick up an elderly relative who was arriving by train. When I got there,...

### The Sorrow Of Betrayal

When I was a boy, my dad observed my spendthrift ways and often said that money burned a hole in my pocket. I suppose it's not unlike the way those 30...

### [Chip Off the Ol Block](#)

I'll never forget the time I was asked to bring my family to a banquet where I was to be the speaker. After dinner, my son Matt came up to me...

### [Aging Grace-fully](#)

Very few advertisements tout the benefits of growing old. In fact, an outsider studying our culture would surmise (perhaps accurately) that we are deathly afraid of growing old or, even worse,...

### [Better With Age](#)

Some people are obsessed with physical fitness—daily workouts, vitamins, organic food—in spite of the fact that our bodies keep ticking away in inevitable decline. In our twenties and thirties we think...

### [God's Glasses](#)

As a kid, I used to devour 3-D comic books, the kind that came with that special set of cardboard glasses. Without the glasses, the pages were blurry. But with the...

### [Not Home Yet](#)

One of my favorite missionary stories is of a couple who, after decades of faithful service overseas, was returning back to the States. Their heart's desire was to stay on the...

### [Hey, You in the Corner](#)

I've always been intrigued by the nursery rhyme about Little Jack Horner. At first blush it seems rather cute and innocent. But on further reflection, there is something seriously wrong. The...

### [Humpty-Dumpty Days](#)

Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that children's nursery rhymes are a little bizarre? Take, for instance, the depressing tale of Humpty Dumpty. Humpty Dumpty sat on a...

### [New Ownership](#)

In the apostle Paul's day, Corinth was a major trading center, located just a few miles from two major seaports. As the largest city in ancient Greece, the city bustled with...

### [Savor The Flavor](#)

America has often been called "a melting pot." But obviously that is not the case. Politicians tend to fuel sensitivity to class and color divisions for their own gain. Gender tensions...

### [What's More Important Than Voting?](#)

Don't forget to vote! We have all heard that call to good citizenship. But beyond being a good citizen, being a good follower of Jesus means that we don't forget to...

## [An Invitation To Friendship](#)

I grew up in a home with lots of wall plaques. One had a quotation by poet Claude Mermet that stands out in my mind: "Friends are like melons; let me..."

## [Storm Tracker](#)

Normally, my favorite way to drive a speedboat is full-tilt, skipping across the water with the wind in my face. But this time my usual penchant for speed was tempered by...

## [Crisis in Kokomo](#)

The little airfield affectionately referred to as "Kokomo International" is hardly the bustling hub of a major metropolis. But it was my best option for getting to Grand Rapids, where I...

## [At the Core of the Crowd](#)

If Jesus were to walk into your town today, I wonder what kind of people He would attract. If you were like the rest of us, you'd probably expect all the...

## [Get a Haircut](#)

There we were, sitting in the middle of a statewide meeting for ministry leaders when the pastor of a large church leaned over and said to me, "You know, Joe, your...

## [The Trouble with "One Another"](#)

Clutching his blanket, and with unusual determination in his voice, Linus announced to Lucy that he had finally discovered his calling in life. He was going to be a doctor. Lucy,...

## [Jesus: The Ultimate Joy of Life](#)

I was seated next to Billy Graham at a dinner in North Carolina. I don't know how you would have felt, but, given the circumstances, I wanted to be sure to...

## [Fatal Flaws](#)

If you're a fan of Shakespeare, you know that his heroes always have a serious character flaw. I guess it's what makes for a good story—and teaches some important lessons too....

## [Making Hell Happy](#)

I was guest preaching at a church when a woman who had waited in line to talk to me told me that she was thinking about leaving the church because the...

## [A New Career](#)

For some guys, the annual fishing trip is the highlight of their calendar. They stay in cozy cabins and spend long days fishing just for the fun of it. You can...

## [Caring and Capable](#)

On my way home one night, I noticed a glow of flashing lights about a half mile up the road. As I got closer, I saw several emergency vehicles on the...

## Life Beyond The Rituals

A royal dignitary was greeting residents at a nursing home, when he was surprised by the unresponsiveness of one woman who just sat there and stared at him. Finally, the dignitary...

## The Pursuit of Happiness

The movie The Aviator portrays the fascinating life of Howard Hughes. In the 1930s and 40s, he wowed the public with his brilliant advances in aviation technology and became the wealthiest...

## On the Road Again

I hate being lost. I've always had a good sense of direction and can usually find my way around without much trouble. But on the rare occasions when I lose my...

## Our Distinct Advantage

Have you ever felt that if God were to show up today as often as He did in the lives of the people in Bible times, you too could be a...

## Kingdom Living

I have a lot of friends who work in bad neighborhoods. One of these city warriors transplanted his family to the inner city. One day as he was walking down the...

## The Truth . . . for Jesus' Sake

I'm a little tired of hearing angry Christians running around the world saying "We've got it right, and everyone else is wrong!" Granted, the clear teachings of God's Word are indeed...

## Giving God the Glory

The news from our mechanic threatened to scuttle our plans. A suspicious rattling noise prompted me to take our clunker of a car to the shop a day before we were...

## Love for the World

It was a cold December morning. Dressed in a white execution gown, he was led to the wall of the prison courtyard with the others. Blindfolded, he waited for the last...

## Transforming the Task List

What got you out of bed this morning (besides the lure of a hot cup of coffee)? If you're like me, you finally pulled yourself out of bed because you've got...

## Curiosity or Compassion?

Let me introduce you to a friend of mine. Arloa Sutter grew up on a farm in Iowa. One of her fond memories from her time on the farm was spawned...

## The Missing Piece

I'm not much for jigsaw puzzles, but I know that you need all the pieces to enjoy a satisfying outcome. In many ways, life is like a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. We...

## Where's The Leash?

Recently, while out for Chinese food with friends, I noticed a man walking his dog past the restaurant. Normally I wouldn't have looked twice. But the dog's owner had taken the...

## Pilgrimage Toward Intimacy

Several years ago, as I passed the fifty mark on the calendar of my life, I discovered a new and distinct desire to go deeper and pursue God more intentionally than...

## A Worthy Pursuit

Let's face it, if you are a follower in a world that celebrates leaders, you don't feel all that good about yourself. Walk into any bookstore, and you will note that...

## A Promise Fulfilled

In the off-season of baseball, managers and coaches concentrate on trading players to set themselves up for a winning season the next year. But if you are a Chicago Cubs fan...

## Family Resemblance

I am the third in an extended line of Joe Stowells. As a young boy, I realized that my name often brought quick recognition and statements like, "Oh, you're Joe Stowell's..."

## As a Deer

Several years ago my wife Martie and I had the unique experience of going on a camel safari in the desert of the United Arab Emirates. We rocked back and forth...

## Generational Impact

I have always been fascinated by stories about the people God has chosen to use in significant ways. Two of my heroes are Charles and John Wesley. Charles penned hundreds of...

## What's For Lunch?

It seemed like a good idea at the time. Any thoughts of a diet were out the window when I spotted the steak on the menu. Not just any steak, mind you....

## Shattered

If you had a chance to meet her, you would agree that the name we have affectionately given her really fits. She has a fantastic command of the world around her...

## Dare To Be Different

My dad was a pastor, so I got stuck with the label known to every pastor's kid: PK. But, much to the congregation's disappointment, the title didn't stop me from being...

## Three Dollars' Worth of God

Most of us can blow through three dollars without even thinking twice. It'll get you a cup of Starbucks, a few snacks for a road trip, or

a squeak toy for...

### Be A Meter Reader

Do you remember how old-time TV shows used to have an applause meter to gauge audience reactions? A big arrow would spin around the dial to show how enthusiastic the crowd...

### The Lonely Hearts Club

Three men were stranded on a desert island. A genie appeared and promised to grant each of them just one wish. So the first guy says, "I want to go back..."

### Got Any Neighbors?

Jesus' life and ministry dramatically demonstrated that the word prejudice is not in His vocabulary. In fact, He hates prejudice in any form. He detests racism, classism, and religious snobbery. Why?...

### A New Friend

While flying from Europe back to the US, I found myself sitting next to a little girl who never stopped talking from the moment she sat down. She told me the...

### Supremely Significant

Modern counseling and psychology focus a lot of attention on obsessive behaviors—whether it's an obsession with food, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, drugs, or even work. But perhaps one of the most overlooked...

### The Tipping Point

In his book *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell observes that struggling businesses are often turned around by one key decision. Many once-founding companies are now thriving and successful because of a...

### Welcome to the Complaint Department

In one of my favorite children's books *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* the great philosopher Dr. Seuss writes about the ups and downs of life. Sometimes, he says, "Hang-ups can happen..."

### Don't Feed the Bears

Each year over 3.5 million people visit Yellowstone National Park. The park is loaded with signs that read, "Don't feed the bears," but visitors are constantly doing just that. As a...

### Connectedly Challenged

I'll never forget the time I bought a new stereo system. I brought the boxes home and carefully unwrapped each piece of equipment. I spread everything out on the floor. There...

### Cross Bearing

Right now it's summer! When I'm wearing flip-flops to the grocery store and running the air conditioner in my car. It's hard to remember the frigid days of January, and still...

### Getting Along

I can still remember what it was like to take our family on vacation, only to have the kids in the backseat mar the joy of it all by their bickering...

### What We Really Need

Veruca Salt, one of the not-so-sweet characters in Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, was notorious for demanding whatever she wanted. Her indulgent parents didn't know what to do, especially...

### More Than a Hobby

For most people I know, fishing is a hobby. Some approach it casually, picking up a pole and dipping a few worms in the lake for fun while they're at a...

### It's All Good

Auguste Bartholdi traveled from France to Egypt in 1856. His artistic mind was stimulated by the grandeur of the pyramids, the magnitude of the mighty Nile, and the beauty of the...

### Summertime

The old Porgy and Bess tune that declares, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy" no doubt was written when life was so much different than what it is now. If you're like...

### Saying "I Do"

No doubt about it, wedding season is in full swing. It's the time when the words "I do" are heard in churches all over the country and the weight of the promise...

### Getting Away From It All

A pastor friend of mine was telling another pastor about the long-awaited vacation that he and his family were preparing for. The other pastor immediately replied, "Vacation? I never take a...

### Wreck-less Drivers

I'm not sure who came up with the idea of driving around in circles on a small track in a tiny machine; nevertheless, riding go-karts is a popular pastime in America. Once...

### Solid Rock and Sinking Sand

Over the past several years we've seen hurricanes wreak mind-boggling destruction. When a hurricane hits, countless homes and lives are washed into the sea, and the things people count on the...

### Bull's-Eye!

If we're not careful, we may become like the man who prided himself on being an expert archer. The secret to his success was that after he shot his arrow at...

### Painting Pictures of Peace

The Last Supper, painted by Leonardo da Vinci, is one of the great Renaissance masterpieces. It took da Vinci 3 years to complete, and during this time in frustration his temper...

## Pleasing Him

It may not always seem like it, but children really do want to please their parents. Just picture the little boy who beams with pleasure when his mom proudly puts the crayon-scribbled...

## Getting Even or Getting Better?

I'll never forget an older woman who came to my office and heatedly dumped on me a long list of objections about her husband. I asked how long she had been...

## Never Surrender!

The setting was England's House of Commons in early June of 1940. Another World War had broken out and the prospects for Britain were uncertain at best. In the face of...

## A Parade Worth Marching In

For Americans, the Fourth of July is usually a day of picnics, parties, and parades. Putting aside partisan differences and political perspectives, the people of the nation gather to celebrate Independence...

## A Collector's Heaven

People love to collect things—from baseball cards to stamps to coins. And while collecting can be a fun hobby, it is sobering to think that once we leave this earth, everything...

## Get In The Game

I love going to Chicago's Wrigley Field for a baseball game—sitting in the stands, downing a great hot dog, and cheering the Cubs on to victory! Unfortunately, Christianity has become a...

## Finding Jesus in the Loop

My friend Craig Phillips was a 27-year-old rising star in Chicago's corporate world. His natural drive and determination landed him a premium position at a Fortune 500 company in the Loop—Chicago's business...

## Cause for Rejoicing

I'll never forget the Sunday morning when I was hanging out in the hall with a bunch of my "cool" junior high friends before Sunday school. Walking toward us was a...

## Living With a Clear View

I love Wrigley Field in Chicago. But like most old ballparks, it has the necessary but aggravating problem of support posts that obscure the view of the game. Unfortunately, I got stuck...

## Are You Down With It?

In the early hours of the morning, five drug dealers kidnapped Buster Soaries and drove him to a vacant lot. They dragged him out of the car and jammed a shotgun...

## She Loves Me, . . . She Loves Me Not

Did you ever try to figure out whether or not someone you loved, loved you in return? Who knows when, but a long time ago some romantic had the idea that...

## Getting Closer to God

With e-mail and text messages, the joy of letter writing—and, better yet, receiving letters—is almost a lost commodity. I love getting mail, especially from someone I deeply admire and appreciate. My dad used...

## Two-Way Street

Ever had a one-way friendship? You know the drill—people who always need a favor but never give anything in return. Every time they come close, you can almost hear that sucking sound...

## Dare to Call Him “Dad”

Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis has a beautiful, stately auditorium. I'll never forget the time I preached there. I was taken with the beauty of it all—the chimes of the carillon,...

## God's Instrument

I'll never forget my conversation with Erin, who is an accomplished violinist. As we were talking about violins, I asked her whether or not the coveted violins made by Stradivarius were...

## The Quarter In Your Pocket

Some things are irresistible. For me, it's bubble-gum machines. I can hardly resist the urge to watch one of those colorful gumballs roll down the tunnel so I can pop it...

## Open-Book Test

Have you ever taken an “open-book” test? At first blush they seem like a piece of cake. You can actually have the book open during the test! No late-night cramming. No last-minute...

## Whitewater Experiences

I was enjoying the start of my first whitewater rafting experience—until I heard the roar of the rapids up ahead. My emotions were flooded with feelings of uncertainty, fear, and insecurity...

## Out of Luck

An oft-quoted movie line comes from Napoleon Dynamite. The line closes the film, after Napoleon's brother, Kip, gets married and rides off on horseback with his new bride. If you're a closet...

## Peace in the Midst of the Pieces

There I was, minding my own business, shopping for an anniversary card for Martie when something on another shelf caught my eye. It was a box with a tantalizing picture of...

## What's For Dinner?

I can hardly imagine inviting special friends over for dinner and then throwing a few leftovers into the microwave to serve up to them. But if I were to do that,...

## Finger Pointer's Anonymous

A glass of wine or not a glass of wine? To dance or not to dance? To work on Sunday or not to work on Sunday? To play cards or

not...

### [The Great Race](#)

The month of June brings many sure signs of summer: the sweet smell of cut grass, soft breezes, picnics, fireflies, thunderstorms—and runners. This unique breed of humanity, forced to run circles in...

### [Compete Or Converge](#)

Walking through campus one day, a seminary professor came upon a custodian reading the Bible during lunch hour. The professor asked what he was reading. "Revelation," the custodian said. "I'm sure..."

### [Join the Revolution](#)

In one of my all-time favorite Peanuts cartoons, Charlie Brown is standing on the deck of a cruise ship with a rather disheartened look on his face clutching his unfolded deck...

### [Hearing The Sermon Again](#)

A story is told about a man who preached an impressive sermon, seeking to be the pastor of a new church. Everybody loved it and voted for him to become their...

### [Final Exam](#)

In universities everywhere, mid-May brings late-night study sessions, caffeine-fueled writing binges, and ulcer-inducing stress as students are preparing for final exams—those critically important tests to determine how well the student has...

### [Whose Side Are You On?](#)

Ever been caught in the middle of a fight? When I was a kid in junior high school, two of my buddies had a disagreement and planned to prove their dominant...

### [Under Pressure](#)

When our kids were growing up, we loved having picnics in the backyard. No picnic was complete without a plate full of big, juicy watermelon slices! From my kids' point of...

### [Thank God for Mothers!](#)

It was Sunday morning and her son still had not appeared at the breakfast table. She had tried yelling up the stairs: "Wake up and get down here!" But there had...

### [Drumroll, Please . . .](#)

There are some moments in Scripture that I would have choreographed a little differently if it had been up to me. Now, before you start writing in to tell me I'm...

### [Getting Along](#)

I'm guessing that even astronomical gas prices won't stop many parents from packing up the car and taking the kids on a road trip for vacation this summer. And if the...

### [Disappointing Sideshows](#)

When I was a boy, one of the biggest annual events in town was the circus. My dad would take us early in the morning to watch the circus trains unload...

### [Wake Him Up!](#)

Elouise worked the cash register in the food court at Chicago's Moody Bible Institute. She was, by far and away, one of my favorite people. I liked a lot of things...

### [Don't Forget](#)

We all have little slips in our memory once in a while, right? I love the story about the guy who decided to do something about his increasing forgetfulness. This poor chap...

### [Ash-heap Christians](#)

A few years ago, a series of fires raged through parts of southern California, fanned by the notorious Santa Ana winds. Laguna Hills, a posh, picture-perfect community set inland from the...

### [The Good Old Days](#)

I must confess: I'm a romantic at heart, which means I love to hear stories of how people met and fell in love. What's more, I love to hear stories of...

### [Bull's-eye](#)

Here's some bad news: left to ourselves, we're not very good shots when it comes to living. We are, at the core, sinful, which explains why we lead such "ready-fire-aim" kind...

### [Friends in High Places](#)

Most of us would like to be known by someone important—to have friends in high places. So being invited to the White House to meet President George W. Bush was a...

### [A Worthy Offering](#)

I was delighted when a mutual friend gave my neighbor a Bible. But my neighbor told me she stopped reading it because she couldn't understand why God would be so unfair...

### [Trash Talk](#)

One morning when I was pulling out of our driveway on my way to work, I noticed that someone had thrown a beer can on our lawn. I picked it up,...

### [A Place Fit for a King!](#)

While in seminary I worked as a bellman in a luxury hotel in Dallas. On most days it was a ho-hum job, except for the time when the Vice President of...

### [Let's Hear it for the Rules](#)

Most of us don't really like rules. I don't know why, but deep down inside we have an aversion to people telling us what to do and what not to do....

## What's In The Name?

There are a lot of fun events associated with being a pastor. And while great food at church dinners and getting invited to cool events with people in your church are...

## Under New Management

It's always an unsettling moment when you pull up to one of your favorite haunts only to see a sign posted in the window that reads "Under New Management." A change...

## Brand New

I love the smell of a new car. You open the door and, wow, there's just something about it! If you were like me, you'd buy it just for the aroma....

## Agents Of Change

With 4 years of seminary under my belt, I walked into my first ministry with a long agenda. As a new pastor, I thought I was there to change that place....

## Loving God

Early in our marriage, I thought I knew the ultimate shortcut to my wife's heart. I arrived home one night with a bouquet of a dozen red roses behind my back....

## Promises Kept

I am about to let you in on a deep, life-changing, earth-shattering theological truth. Are you ready for this? God keeps His promises! I mean, He really keeps His promises. Even...

## Unloading the Baggage

I boarded the plane in Chicago with too much baggage. Not the kind of baggage you stow in the overhead compartment or squash under the seat in front of you. Not...

## The Search For Satisfaction

When it comes to jigsaw puzzles, we all know that to enjoy a satisfying outcome you need all the pieces. In many ways, life is like that. We spend our days...

## Our Co-Pilot?

The bumper sticker "Jesus is my co-pilot" may be a well-intentioned sentiment, but it has always troubled me. Whenever I'm in the driver's seat of my life, the destination is nowhere...

## Who Are You?

If someone were to ask, "Who are you?" my guess is that you would tell a little about yourself and what you do—"I'm an electrician" or "I'm a nurse." But that's...

## Naming Rights

Is there anyone out there as excited as I am that it's baseball season again? Some questions were once brewing about "the Friendly Confines"—the home field of my beloved Chicago Cubs....

## [Time For A Change](#)

A friend once told me, "In my lifetime I've seen a lot of things change, and I've been against them all!" Perhaps he overstated the point, but many of us would...

## [Price Tags](#)

You may have heard the story about the pranksters who broke into a hardware store. Strangely enough, they didn't steal a thing. Yet what they did created chaos of epic proportions—they...

## [The Middle](#)

I am a passionate fan of Oreo cookies. The mere thought of a tall, ice-cold glass of milk and a huge stack of Oreos is enough to induce some major hunger pangs....

## [Hurry Up and Wait](#)

One of my all-time favorite school teacher stories is about a kindergarten teacher who at the end of an exasperating day had to put boots on all 31 of her students...

## [Gate Crashers](#)

There is a new twist in the war on terror. The Pentagon is building a new breed of warships that are designed to fight terrorism. This new class of battleship will...

## [A Tongue That Moves Dirt](#)

R. G. LeTourneau, the owner of a large earth-moving equipment company, often told this story: "We used to have a scraper known as the Model G. Somebody asked one of our...

## [Your Faithful Friend?](#)

Junior high school can be one long intensive seminar on drama in relationships. I am convinced that any psychological malfunction in my life today is directly traceable to those two years...

## [Fear Of The Unknown](#)

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed unreasonable? Something that took you into the territory of the unknown? What if He asked you to refuse a long-awaited promotion...

## [Jell-O Knees](#)

Somewhere in the distance I heard a siren. Buildings loomed on either side of us and my pulse quickened each time we passed an unlit alley. I was a boy at...

## [Are We Small Yet?](#)

Kids are great! Things that we take for granted are occasions for awe and wonder for them. And their perspectives are often convincingly right on. Take, for instance, the little girl...

## [Bravo for the Boundaries](#)

In case you haven't noticed, we live in a no-holds-barred, do-your-own-thing world. We have been force-fed on the thought that we

exist to experience pleasure, that the pursuit of happiness and...

### Before and After

I'm sure that you've seen those before and after pictures in ads for diet pills. The before picture always features some tremendously out-of-shape obese guy. The after picture then shows him...

### This Time It's Personal

I'll make a confession if you promise not to tell. Having been selected to represent my college in a traveling music team one summer, I had a few days to relax...

### No Cause For Alarm

The sound of the alarm blaring from inside the church struck panic in my heart. I had arrived at church early one Sunday morning, planning to spend a little time in...

### Gone Fishin

Not long after I married my wife, Martie, I realized that she had a deep love for animals in general and dogs in particular. She grew up with Trudy, a black...

### The Problem With Self-Sufficiency

The city of Laodicea had a water problem. One nearby town had fabulous hot springs and another had cold, clear water. Laodicea, however, was stuck with tepid, mineral-laden water that tasted...

### Help Is on the Way

My aging Chevy Tahoe has a nifty little feature—the OnStar button. Some time back, General Motors started installing this blue button on many of their vehicles. If you need help, all you...

### Voices

Hearing voices has to be the most haunting of all the mental disorders. After all, which voice do you listen to? Talk about massive confusion! But before you think that you...

### What's In Your Wallet?

An advertising blitz for a credit card company once featured two humorous television commercials. One featured Vikings who were defeated by credit card's low interest rates. The other series of ads poked fun at...

### Brain Drain

When I travel, wake-up calls are really important! More than once I have registered my wake-up time with the hotel desk confident that they would call right on time. Well, you...

### Déjà Vu All Over Again

Baseball legend Yogi Berra is known for his oft-repeated quips like, "It ain't over till it's over" and "It's like déjà vu all over again!" I wonder if the disciples felt...

### Hitting the Rapids

I'll never forget my first white-water rafting experience. The guide made me wear a dorky helmet and a life jacket that was anything but flattering. Thankfully, my sagging self-image was rescued...

### Providential Partnership

Dads love it when their kids ask, "Can I help?" Even though the job may be too complex, they welcome the chance to let their kids take part in the project....

### Reversing the Flow

Chicago is a world-class city. It's known for its great pizza, architecture, symphony, sports teams, and lakefront setting. I love Chicago! If you were to visit Chicago, you'd see the beautiful...

### My Only Hope

Any Star Wars fans out there? Remember the opening scenes of the first movie that begin with a laser battle between a little spaceship (the good guys) and this huge, ominous...

### Somebody Cares

When I was a little boy growing up in Hackensack, New Jersey, I would often fall asleep listening to my little radio. One of my favorite shows was "Big Joe's Happiness..."

### The Safety Zone

The first church I pastored was in Springfield, Ohio. Our home was situated near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base—directly in the flight path of landing B-52 bombers that were coming home after...

### Can You See Her?

For most of us, prostitution represents a rather repulsive aspect of the underbelly of society. Given our disdain for such a godless practice, my guess is that few of us have...

### Getting "In The Way"

The ancient Romans were known for their roads, which crisscrossed their empire with wide, heavily traveled highways. It's what Jesus' audience would have pictured when He claimed, "I am the way"...

### Joy of Loving Jesus

Ever been in love? If so, you know what it means to be preoccupied. I met my wife Martie in the fall of our freshman year at college. It didn't take...

### Garden Talk

Okay, I have to confess . . . I like gardening. There, I said it. Sorry guys, but I do! So, liking gardens, I have often thought about how wonderful the Garden...

### Back Seat Serenade

I'll never forget a double date that Martie and I had with another couple in college. I was driving, which meant that my then fiancée, Martie, was in the front with...

## It's Not Good to Be Alone

While reading through the creation narratives in Genesis for the umpteenth time, I was struck by God's commentary on Adam being alone in the garden. What caught my attention was the...

## The People Principle

I didn't mean to break it! In fact, just the night before, as our hosts for the evening were showing my wife Martie and me around their beautiful home, they drew...

## Who Will Help?

I don't think I'll ever forget the story my son told me about taking his family to see the stage production of The Lion King. A good time was being had...

## Bad News . . . Good News

Today our dose of daily strength comes from [Matthew 5:11](#), when Jesus gave a "good news . . . bad news" announcement to His disciples. First the bad news: They could...

## Stunned by Grace

For all of us who think that God is the hammer guy of the Old Testament, think again! I'm just a little put out on the prevailing thought that God was...

## The Best Things in Life Really are Free

Recently I read the creation narratives in [Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-25](#). I've read them lots of times, but something special emerged this time. That's one of the things that is so wonderful...

## What Are We Holding On To?

Tolkien's classic The Lord of the Rings trilogy came to life in recent years on film. In the second epic story, the hero, Frodo, reached a point of despair and weariness...

## Leaving a Legacy

Do you ever wonder what kind of legacy you'll leave behind? I remember an older gentleman from one of the churches I pastored. He was the epitome of grace toward others;...

## Delight in the Details

Each year Time magazine publishes an issue focusing on that year's "Best Inventions." Notable technological marvels once included a 130 mph electric roadster, a mattress that uses magnets to levitate 16...

## Love on Display

A few years ago my wife Martie and I had an opportunity to travel to Hong Kong for a ministry trip. One of the highlights of the trip was spending time...

## This Little Light of Mine

I have a lot of favorite stories, but this one has to rank near the top. My friend Paul Eshleman is the founder of the Jesus Film Project, which arguably has...

## Protocol

If you were invited to a meeting at the White House with the President of the United States, regardless of your opinion of him or her, you would probably go. Upon...

## Neighborly Love

It would have been simpler just to buy a new hair dryer. But determined to save a buck, I decided to fix it myself. In order to loosen the screw that...

## Who's Holding All the Cards?

To borrow a poker phrase, some people seem to hold all the cards. They are dealt a winning hand while the rest of us do the best with what few resources...

## Instrument-rated Living

You've probably heard the expression "flying by the seat of your pants." It smacks of living in a random, spontaneous, unconnected way. And, if I am being honest, there are times...

# SOVEREIGNTY

## Interruptions

Interruptions are inevitable. It's just the way life works. But, I keep asking myself, why is it that they come at such inopportune times? After listening to a zillion options in...

## Grace and Truth

It's a grandfather's prerogative to tease his grandkids a little bit, right? So when one of my young grandkids is first learning math, I quiz him about his newfound knowledge. "Do..."

## Life on Level One

In an ancient form of Chinese drama, plays were often performed on a two-level stage. On the first level, the drama would unfold in the natural sequence of the script, while...

## What to Do Until the Stars Fall

My biology professor, Max Dowell, was an unapologetic southerner with a drawl as thick as deep-South molasses. And while I'm sorry to admit that I don't remember a whole lot of...

## A World of Change

In case you haven't noticed, our world has dramatically changed. It wasn't long ago that it would have been unthinkable that nearly 40 million unborn children would be murdered in America....

## Our Only Hope

The early days of November in America signals election time, when the politicians maneuver for votes and the people cast their ballot for their favorite candidates. And, like it or not,...

## Life in the Waiting Room

We've all heard the prayer: "Lord, make me more patient—and do it now!" Of all the spiritual virtues, patience is one that tends to be troublingly elusive. Let's face it; if...

## Don't Feed the Bears

Each year over 3.5 million people visit Yellowstone National Park. The park is loaded with signs that read, "Don't feed the bears," but visitors are constantly doing just that. As a...

## Agents of God's Glory

A friend of mine is an agent for professional athletes. His whole career is based on representing his clients to teams in hopes of securing them the best possible salary and...

## What's In The Name?

There are a lot of fun events associated with being a pastor. And while great food at church dinners and getting invited to cool events with people in your church are...

## Chosen

A recent journey through the book of Genesis got me thinking about Abraham. Ever stop to realize how significant Abraham is to literally billions of people around the world? Jews claim...

## Providential Partnership

Dads love it when their kids ask, "Can I help?" Even though the job may be too complex, they welcome the chance to let their kids take part in the project....

## From Fear to Faith

I have a friend who says, "Through the years I have seen a lot of things change, and I have been against them all!" Change can be very unsettling. It interrupts...

## At Just The Right Time

Why is being on time so challenging for some of us? Even when we start early, something inevitably gets in our way to make us late. But here's the good news:...

## Stunned by Grace

For all of us who think that God is the hammer guy of the Old Testament, think again! I'm just a little put out on the prevailing thought that God was...

## Playing with Fire

No doubt you've noticed that people around you are not into absolute truth these days. When it comes to matters of morality, the prevailing philosophy is a multiple-choice view, with competing...

## That's Awesome!

The word awesome is tossed around a lot these days. Talk about cars, movies, songs, or food—and somebody will say, "That's

awesome!" But if we call earth-side stuff awesome and then...

### [Who's Holding All the Cards?](#)

To borrow a poker phrase, some people seem to hold all the cards. They are dealt a winning hand while the rest of us do the best with what few resources...

## FAITHFULNESS

### [The New Covenant Part 2](#)

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts," the Lord declared in [Jeremiah 31:33](#). With that powerful Old Testament promise, God laid the foundation for...

### [Interruptions Part 1](#)

We often think about Christ's arrival on earth in joyful terms. But for the birth of Christ to take place, there had to be some devastating interruptions in the lives of...

### [God's Heart In Our Hands Part 3](#)

Discover six steps to bringing God's heart to your world. Last week we heard Joe Stowell share the first step: loving our neighbors as ourselves. Today you'll walk through the final...

### [Gone Fishing Part 1](#)

"I didn't think my life would turn out like this." We've all felt buried by feelings of discouragement at some time in our lives. Even the disciple Peter became discouraged—and it...

### [Load Limits](#)

Daddy, can I help you?" It was my four-year-old son, Matt, who was watching me carry cartons of empty pop bottles to the car. Back then you could return them for...

### [Managing the Mess](#)

When we meet Naomi in the Scriptures, her life is a mess. She and her husband had gone to Moab searching for food during a famine. While in that land, their...

### [Kaleidoscope Glory](#)

When was the last time you looked into a kaleidoscope? Remember those long tubes, usually made of cardboard with hundreds of little colored beads at one end? Inside, a series of...

### [Giving Thanks](#)

There are few things that bring greater energy and strength to our souls than the exercise of lifting praise and thanksgiving from our hearts to God's. Gratitude has a uniquely wonderful...

### [Aging Grace-fully](#)

Very few advertisements tout the benefits of growing old. In fact, an outsider studying our culture would surmise (perhaps accurately) that we are deathly afraid of growing old or, even worse,...

## Humpty-Dumpty Days

Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that children's nursery rhymes are a little bizarre? Take, for instance, the depressing tale of Humpty Dumpty. Humpty Dumpty sat on a...

## Supporting Our Habit

A businessman buddy of mine has the proverbial "Midas" touch. It seems like every business venture he touches turns to gold. I'll never forget the day he said to me, "Joe,...

## The Muchness of God

Quite frankly, I'm "out" on posh restaurants that have things on the menu you can't even pronounce and nothing to show for it but two bites of fish and an empty...

## Life in the Waiting Room

We've all heard the prayer: "Lord, make me more patient—and do it now!" Of all the spiritual virtues, patience is one that tends to be troublingly elusive. Let's face it; if...

## Our Distinct Advantage

Have you ever felt that if God were to show up today as often as He did in the lives of the people in Bible times, you too could be a...

## Giving God the Glory

The news from our mechanic threatened to scuttle our plans. A suspicious rattling noise prompted me to take our clunker of a car to the shop a day before we were...

## Be A Meter Reader

Do you remember how old-time TV shows used to have an applause meter to gauge audience reactions? A big arrow would spin around the dial to show how enthusiastic the crowd...

## Drifting Away

On a recent vacation, Tom was casually bobbing around on a raft just offshore. He closed his eyes, basking in the warm sun. Before he realized it, he had drifted too...

## What Has He Done For You Lately?

My friend Frank Tanana, who pitched the Detroit Tigers into the American League Championship Series, has an interesting take on baseball fans. He pitched a stellar game against the Toronto Blue...

## Welcome to the Complaint Department

In one of my favorite children's books Oh, the Places You'll Go! the great philosopher Dr. Seuss writes about the ups and downs of life. Sometimes, he says, "Hang-ups can happen..."

## Agents of God's Glory

A friend of mine is an agent for professional athletes. His whole career is based on representing his clients to teams in hopes of securing them the best possible salary and...

## Operation Rescue

I recall counseling a woman who had just come to know Christ. She was interested in becoming God's kind of woman, so we were studying passages of Scripture that had to...

## Full Pockets

Every man needs pockets large enough to carry all the important things in life: wallet, keys, breath mints. By looking at my wife's purse, it seems she has a whole universe...

## Drumroll, Please . . .

There are some moments in Scripture that I would have choreographed a little differently if it had been up to me. Now, before you start writing in to tell me I'm...

## Don't Forget

We all have little slips in our memory once in a while, right? I love the story about the guy who decided to do something about his increasing forgetfulness. This poor chap...

## Promises Kept

I am about to let you in on a deep, life-changing, earth-shattering theological truth. Are you ready for this? God keeps His promises! I mean, He really keeps His promises. Even...

## Don't Get Stuck

I had just landed in Phoenix for some meetings when the clerk at the rental car desk told me they were all out of cars except for one expensive luxury car...

## Your Faithful Friend?

Junior high school can be one long intensive seminar on drama in relationships. I am convinced that any psychological malfunction in my life today is directly traceable to those two years...

## At Just The Right Time

Why is being on time so challenging for some of us? Even when we start early, something inevitably gets in our way to make us late. But here's the good news:...

## Who Will Help?

I don't think I'll ever forget the story my son told me about taking his family to see the stage production of The Lion King. A good time was being had...

## Leap of Faith

What do you picture when you hear the word faith? One of my mental pictures of faith in action is the memory of my two-year-old grandson, Silas, shivering by the side...