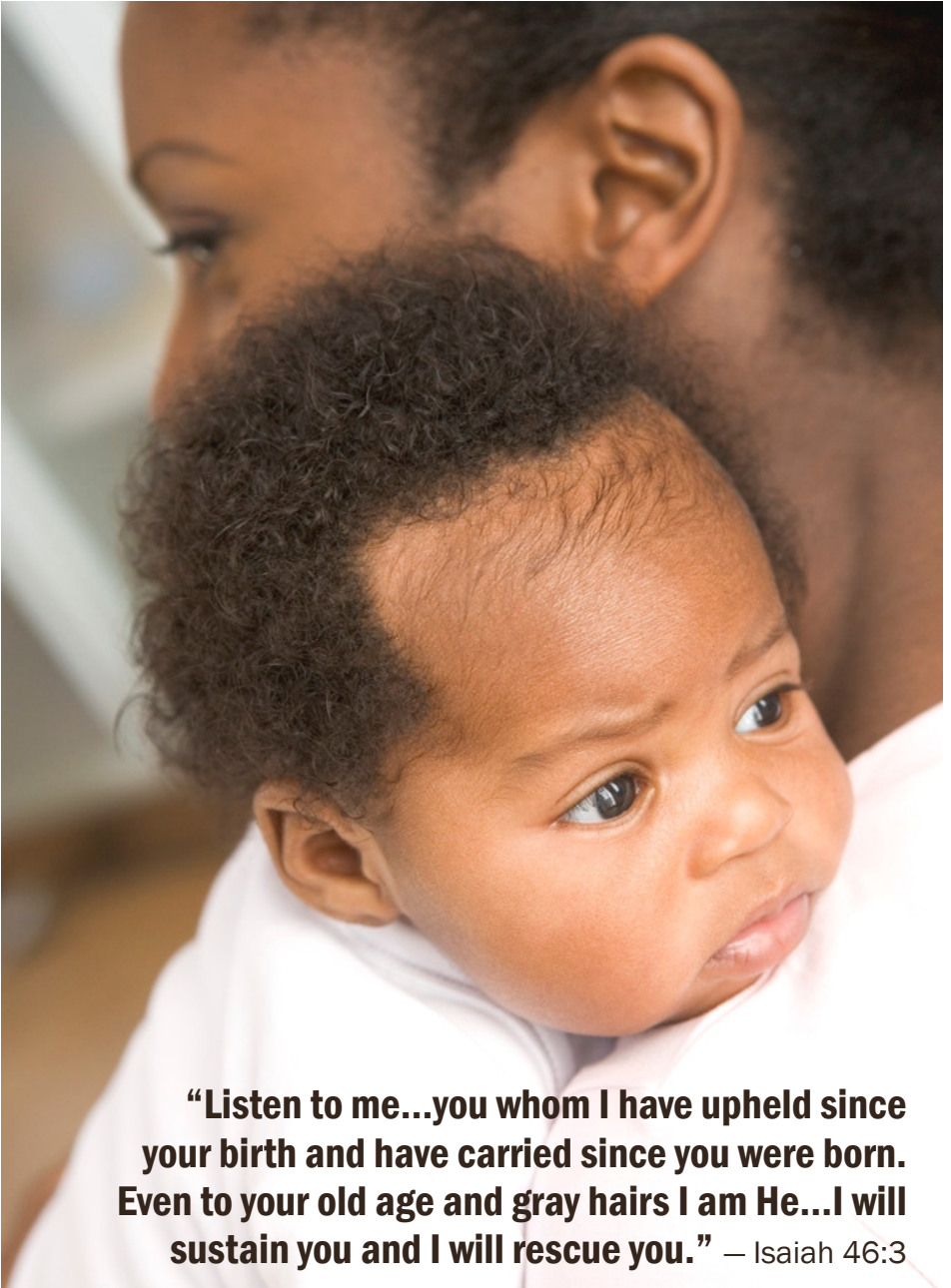


# TEMPLE NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 2013



**“Listen to me...you whom I have upheld since your birth and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He...I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” – Isaiah 46:3**

# Thoughts from the Editor

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## The “Non-fruit” of the Spirit

We’ve been studying Galatians 5:22-23 at our Tuesday night Bible studies, taking an in-depth look at each aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit.

A couple of weeks ago, while we were going over the qualities that must be evident in spirit-filled Christians (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control), I started thinking about the characteristics the world may actually perceive when they look at us or when they see Christianity played out in the public arena.

The way the “Christian” message is sometimes presented and lived out might easily lead an unbeliever to wonder whether the results of conversion are:

- pleasure
- prosperity
- health
- fame
- self-esteem
- beauty
- comfort
- success
- security

These are all commodities that human beings naturally lust after, so it shouldn’t surprise us that even religious leaders would use these temptations as

bait, promising these rewards to reel in unbelievers and turn them into faithful followers.

This is the ultimate deception, however. Nowhere in Scripture—particularly in the ministry and message of Jesus Himself—do we ever see these things promised to believers. You might say that comfort is promised to us, but that is in a spiritual context—not a physical one.

If we, as Christians, say we belong to Jesus and yet pursue things that serve only to make us feel better about ourselves, we leave no room in our lives for the spiritual fruit God intends to produce. If we say we love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and strength and mind and yet spend the majority of our waking moments seeking our own will and desires, we deceive ourselves.

Making God our number-one desire does not necessarily mean giving up comfort and security or any of the other things that we tend to hold dear. However, it does mean that those things stop mattering because we recognize that they can actually turn against us when we worship them. But not God. He promised: “*Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well.*” (Matthew 6:33)

Spiritual “non-fruit” is deadly. But the fruit of the Holy Spirit gives life.

*Ann-Margret Hovsepien*

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5815 Durocher Ave., Outremont, QC, H2V 3Y5  
Phone: 514-279-9626 / 1-888-909-9626  
Web: [www.templebaptistmontreal.com](http://www.templebaptistmontreal.com)  
Mail: 5945 Park Ave., Montreal, QC, H2V 4H4  
E-mail: [templegoodnews@gmail.com](mailto:templegoodnews@gmail.com)

**Publisher:** Joseph Hovsepien  
**Editor:** Ann-Margret Hovsepien  
**Printing:** PositiveMarketing.ca  
**Contributors:** Quentin Newhouse  
Stella Papadopoulos  
Rita Pehlivanian

This newsletter is given out freely... but we appreciate your gifts to help with printing costs!

# Letters

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## **Pasay City, The PHILIPPINES**

*Dear Pastor Hovsepian, Thank you for your support and prayers! My Daddy told us kids about how you and your church have been helping and sending support for our family and mission for many years now. We really appreciate it.*

*Please let us know if we can pray for anything for you and your family. God bless you!*

**Fiona Bishop and Family**

*Editor's Note: We were thrilled to receive this handmade card from Fiona, one of Jonah and Maria Bishop's daughters. Our church family has been blessed to get to know, over the years, four generations of Bishops.*

## **Lafayette, TENNESSEE**

*We pray you are all okay, blessed and well. We pray you all have a wonderful Easter. [Note: We received this letter in late March.] So many will be celebrating egg hunts. How sad this is. We will be celebrating Jesus' resurrection. I know you will, too.*

*If you can, we would love some more tracts. God bless you for all you do.*

**Denis R. Waynick**  
Highway Ministries

## **Stephens City, VIRGINIA**

*I am writing to thank you for your prayers, requested for me throughout this last year by my brother and sister-in-law (Bedros and Elizabeth Guekguezian).*

*Last April, just as my wife and I returned from Utah where we had been helping our son with the care of his family because his wife has cancer, I was diagnosed with a brain abscess requiring*

*surgery and a long recovery from stroke-like symptoms. God in His infinite mercy gave me complete healing for which I praise Him. Then, in October, I had to have colon surgery due to a polyp that would become cancer. As of the present time, I have had three surgeries due to intestinal leakages causing infection. I am still under the care of the surgeon but trusting God for His healing touch once again.*

*I have followed the Biblical instruction in James 5 and my faith is in the Great Physician who makes no mistakes. Please continue to pray for me. I tell my Christian friends, "I need the prayers and you need the practice."*

*I do so much enjoy the Temple News. It has been a blessing to me. We also go to the website to enjoy the services of Temple Baptist. May God bless Pastor Hovsepian and the congregation there.*

**Vahe Guekguezian**

## **Maracaibo, VENEZUELA**

*Hello, TBC family. I am in Maracaibo again. It was a pleasure for me to be with the ladies at the Women's Fellowship [while in Montreal]. Thank you for your warm welcome.*

*God bless you all. With fraternal love,*

**Emperatriz Arreaza**

## **Prince Albert, SASKATCHEWAN**

*Happy Easter to you all. Would you be willing to send some tracts or newsletters? Hopefully you'll prosper while doing it.*

**Bobby** (an inmate)

*More letters on page 11*

## Another Baby!

If we're counting right, we've now had ten babies born into our church family (including three who now live out of town) in the last the last two-and-a-half years. What a blessing!

We're thrilled to welcome the latest arrival, **Chloe Maggie Dzaghouni**, the first child of **Vahe** and **Meerna**. Congratulations to the new parents! We pray that the Lord will continue to bless this family and guide and protect little Chloe.

## Shirley Heatlie

Not many of you will recognize this name but those of you who have been at Temple for over 30 years or who have been involved with Baptist Women for about 10 years will remember **Shirley Heatlie** fondly. We recently learned that "Miss Shirley," as many of us called her, went to be with the Lord on March 28. She was living in a seniors' residence in Hawkesbury, Ontario, at the time.

Shirley was a local missionary who had a special outreach to new immigrants in Montreal some decades ago (and was even the first person to welcome Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** to Canada). She was an active member of Temple Baptist Church for many years before she began serving the Brownsburg and Lachute areas of Quebec.

You can read more about Shirley in our 100th Anniversary book, on page 21.

## Mission to Armenia

As some of you already know, Pastor **Joseph Hovsepian** will be making a fourth trip to Armenia, from August 13 to September 3. This time, his younger daughter **Ann-Margret** will be accompanying him.

Please begin praying for this trip, that hearts in Armenia will be prepared to receive the gospel message, that Pastor Joseph and Ann-Margret would be able to support and encourage the believers in Yerevan and surrounding villages, and that our ministry here in Montreal would continue to be a blessing to the Church in Armenia. *You* are part of this work, too!

Some of you have asked how you can help the people in Armenia. As you prayerfully consider the financial aid you can offer, these figures may help (dollar amounts are in U.S. currency):

- Salaries in Armenia range from \$25 to \$100 per week but the average is closer to \$25 to \$30.
- Bus fare costs \$1.50 to \$2 a day.
- Shoes cost \$40 to \$45 (or nearly two weeks' salary).
- Meat for a small family costs \$7 to \$10 (about a third of a week's salary).
- Bread costs from 50 to 75 cents a loaf.
- Bibles and New Testaments cost from \$7 to \$10 each.

If you would like to make a special donation to Armenia, you may add this

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*Happy  
Birthday!*

Jasmin Shikdar - May 1

Sarah Saliba - 4

Jeremiah Osei - 14

Marie Dobrowskyj - 18

Peter Economou - 22

Kate Li - 31

If we've missed *your* birthday, please let us know when it is!

# News

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amount to your regular offering and indicate the designated amount as “Armenia” on the envelope.

The Hovsepians will also be able to take some clothing to Armenia with them. If you have new or very gently used clothing for men, women or children that you’d like to donate, please speak with Ann-Margret for more details.

## Quebec Baptist Women Spring Event

Instead of our regular Women’s Fellowship meeting in May, our ladies will join with those from our sister Baptist churches in Montreal for the annual Quebec Baptist Women Spring Event. This will take place at Val Royal Baptist Church (11800 O’Brien Blvd.) on Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m.

This year’s theme is Keep It Alive! (based on Romans 12:11-12) and the co-speakers will be **Rita Pehlivanian** and **Ann-Margret Hovsepian**. Following the program, there will be a potluck lunch.

Please let us know if you plan to attend as we need to arrange our contribution toward the meal.

## Spring Cleaning

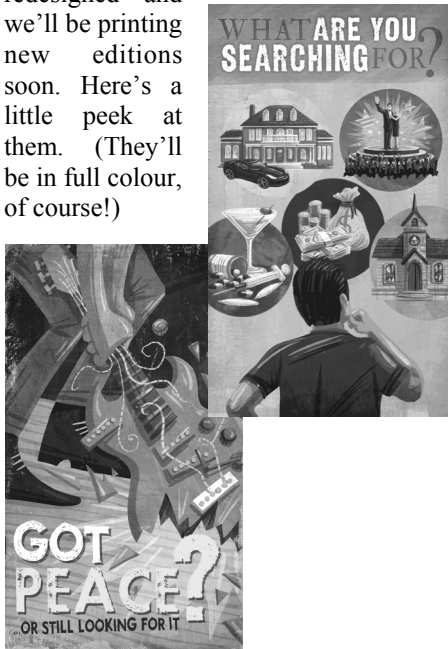
Now that the weather is finally starting to feel spring-like, it’s time for us to freshen up the church building and grounds. Will you help us? The more

hands we have on deck, the faster the work will go.

Our clean-up day will be on Saturday, May 25, starting at 9:00 a.m. We’ll need help with dusting, mopping, vacuuming, cleaning windows, tidying various rooms and storage areas, etc.

## New Tract Covers

These aren’t available yet (we only received the final artwork the day this new item was written!) but we’re very excited to share that the cover pages of both our tracts have been professionally redesigned and we’ll be printing new editions soon. Here’s a little peek at them. (They’ll be in full colour, of course!)



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## Men’s Fellowship

Breakfast and fellowship on  
Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m.

## Couples’ Fellowship

Next meeting on  
Saturday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

## Hands

By Stella Papadopoulos

Years ago when I was in art school, we had a “hippy dippy” assignment in painting class. We had to create a piece of art that reflected us and was autobiographical. At the time, I was the mother of a four- and five-year-olds. Time was not plentiful and I had mastered the art of taking 40-hour assignments and compressing them into four hours.

My project was handmade book comprised of collages of photocopies of memorabilia. What came out of that assignment were *hands*: hands that held me in their arms as a baby, hands that held my hand in the park, hands that held an old tattered Bible, hands that showed me how to sew and do needle works, bake and use a typewriter. Not all the hands were my mother’s—some belonged to great-grandmothers, grandmothers, great aunts and aunts. Regardless whose hands they were, however, they contained love that was poured out into me.

Today I still have my mother’s hands to cherish. Her once-slender fingers are swollen and bent at the joints. As I hold her hands in mine, I remember all the things she taught me and how she used to cup my face in her hands when I was a little girl. Her hands have written “love you, Mom” on cards, bookmarks, and sticky-notes. In her hands I now see the passage of time.

Time is still not plentiful for me, although my children are young adults now. A full-time job keeps me from going on drives and having lunches with



Mom in our favourite places. Days blend into weeks and months. I am confronted with the realization that life isn’t going to slow down and time spent with Mom is one of the most priceless investments I will ever make.

So, on Sunday afternoons, we like to drive along Lakeshore Road to Wild Willy’s in Pointe Claire village and have an ice cream cone, dipped in Belgian chocolate. Such sweet time spent together!

**Illustration, above:** An original sketch Stella made for a children’s book she wrote.

She says: “revisiting this is very significant and it has become a prayer for me.”

**“I will comfort you as a mother comforting her child.” (Isaiah 66:13)**

## GOOD NEWS!

Did you know you can tune in to WCHP 760AM every weekday at noon to hear a short inspirational message by Pastor Joseph Hovsepian?

We’d love to hear your comments or suggestions about the program.



# What You Missed

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The church members who spoke at the Men's Fellowship and Women's Fellowship meetings in April have both submitted their notes for inclusion in the Temple News. For those who attended one of these meetings, this page provides a handy review. For those who were not able to participate, we hope you'll enjoy these overviews.

## Spiritual Ethics

By Quentin Newhouse (Men's Fellowship)

What is *ethics*? It is:

- the discipline dealing with what is good and bad with moral duty and obligation;
- a set of moral principles or values;
- a theory or system of moral values;
- and the principles of conduct governing an individual or group

What is *spiritual ethics*? How should we live as spiritual persons? How can we use these four ways to live a spiritually ethical life? It is through: commitment of will (Matthew 6:33), repentance (Matthew 4:17), forgiveness of others (Matthew 6:14-15) and faith (Luke 5:50).

Additional Scriptures: Titus 2:11-12; Joshua 24:15; Judges 17:6; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Isaiah 24:5; Jeremiah 10:23; Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:20-21; Romans 13:8-20.

In her article *Christian Ethics 101: What Makes Ethics 'Christian'?*, Ellen Painter Dollar lists the contrasting secular and spiritual principles that tend to govern human behaviour:

### Secular principles:

*Fairness, reason* (is a particular cultural stance reasonable?), *cultural norms, level of harm to self and others, parental values and guidance, autonomy*

(independence, freedom of choice), *duty* (what allegiance or actions do we owe to family, community, nation) and *avoiding or preventing suffering*.

### Christian principles:

*Stewardship* (caring for what God has entrusted to us), *sacrifice* (putting others ahead of self, doing the right thing even when it means our needs might go unmet), *valuing both self and others because we belong to God, dignity of all people* (every person is valuable because they are made in God's image), *community/communal values over individual values, staying true to all that we profess and compassion* (responding to suffering when we see it).

### How can the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) help us become better spiritual persons?

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

See Women's Fellowship notes on page 10

# What You Missed

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## Relationships

By Rita Pehlivanian (*Women's Fellowship*)

What is the foundation of a good relationship? How satisfied are you with your relationships with others? How is your relationship with God?

This word “relationship” took on a new meaning for me four years ago when I rededicated my life to God. I began to re-evaluate all my relationships and found that I wasn’t satisfied with any of them. I wondered what I could do to change that.

I knew that a right relationship with God would promote a right one with others but, although I had heard about God all my life, I didn’t know him personally. I had heard Pastor talking about having a relationship with God, but what did this really mean? If I couldn’t see Him, how could I have a relationship with Him?

God clearly says in His Word that if you seek Him you will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:12-14; Proverbs 8:17). And so this was my challenge and my goal four years ago. I really wanted to know whether this God I read about and spoke about existed and, if He did, what He meant to me.

Here are the four ways I built and have kept my relationship with God:

### Honesty

God already knows what’s in our heart but He wants to hear it from our mouth. If you have a hard time being real with God, ask Him to help you.

### Communication

Go to Him *first* with anything you want to share. Talk to Him daily; how would you feel if someone only came to you when they were in need? Involve Him on your weekends, too.

### Listening

I had a problem here. I would pray and then get up and leave. Wait. Give Him a chance to talk to you. Get rid of distractions. Be silent (note that if you rearrange the letters of “listen” you get “silent”) in your mind, heart and mouth.

### Commitment

Be faithful even if it’s not easy or you are going through trials. Commit to spending time together even if you don’t feel like it. Give God credit for everything and remember Him when things are going well in life.

I found that as I worked on my relationship with God, I became aware of my other relationships, how I could change, and what I could do to improve my relationships. Also, I began to trust God.

I became curious to know:

- His name
- His character
- His voice (discernment) — Can I recognize His voice in all the noise in the world?
- His way

How do you find your relationship with God. Is it lacking excitement? Or are you running to Him daily sharing and listening to Him?

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**Check our Web site regularly for updates, as well as for helpful resources and archives of sermons and messages.**

[www.templebaptistmontreal.com](http://www.templebaptistmontreal.com)

# The Pastor's Page

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conduct into line with what pleases Him. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (Ephesians 2:10)

We must face and deal with our bad habits and identify those areas that need change. It is a challenge to face bad habits realistically, because they are easy to start but hard to break. Good habits are hard to start and easy to break.

Habits cannot be "wished away." Good intentions are not enough. We must work at it. Cures are not instantaneous and easy. We must confess a bad habit to God as sin, and seek forgiveness.

Make a covenant with God to work

through the changes you need to make. Make a definite commitment at a definite place and time, which will set the stage for change... and eventual victory.

Take a stand. Be an overcomer. And remember that there is a spiritual alternative for each bad habit that can be broken! Select one habit to overcome, set some immediate goals and pray for victory over that habit, always to the glory of God.

In James 4:7-8 we read: *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you."*

Romans 8:37 says: *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us."*

*Pastor Joseph Hovsepien*

## Letters

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...continued from page 3

Several weeks ago, we asked for feedback about the weekly e-mail update we send out, to determine whether we should continue. Here are the encouraging notes some of you sent in:

*I really appreciate the TBC weekly updates. I find they always give me a little refresher during the busy week, and I can stop and think about the little devotional you write for them. I love, love, love them!*  
— Jill

*I always like reading the small messages in the weekly update.* — Greg

*I really enjoy reading them and staying informed every week in regard to what*

*is going on at Temple Baptist Church. Your thoughts are usually interesting and sometimes deeply touching. I've never missed the opportunity to read it.* — Wilson

*I do like all the updates. May the good Lord bless you!* — Emil

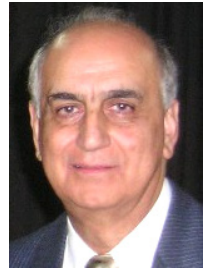
*Of course I read it!* — Guy

*I think they are great and often useful. God bless.* — Richard

*I look forward to reading the emails every week and they're useful. Thank you.*  
— Bill

*I enjoy reading this weekly email. Thank you for putting in the time to send this out regularly!* — Tamar

# The Pastor's Page



## Habits

Habits—unlike instinct, which is in-born—are formed when someone learns to do something over and over again without thinking about how to do it. Many everyday actions are habits.

How do we learn habits? Most habits begin as actions that a person is aware of. The more he performs this action, the easier it becomes to do it. Strong habits become automatic and require little or no thought.

Many psychologists believe that a person will learn a habit only if it benefits the person in some way. Psychologists call this satisfaction a reward or a reinforcement. If the habit satisfies a person, he tends to keep it. When a habit offers no reward or becomes unpleasant, a person may break or discard it.

For example, someone may believe he gets pleasure from smoking. Because of the pleasure (reward), smoking becomes a habit. If the habit becomes unpleasant or no longer brings a reward, this person may stop smoking.

Some habits are simple and require only movements of the muscles. As a person approaches a door, he automatically places his hand on the doorknob. This action is called a simple motor act. Some habits are more than simple motor acts. They are thoughts and attitudes we

have about things and people. These are called habits of adjustment.

Some of these habits are “good” and others

are “bad,” depending on how they affect others. We learn good habits to act as others expect us to act.

For example, neat appearance and pleasant manners are considered good habits. A person may learn bad habits when he thinks he can gain something from them. But they may actually be annoying to others.

It has been said that human beings are creatures of habit. The designation “bad habits” cover a wide range of negative behaviours and could be defined as the so-called sins of the spirit, such as envy, jealousy, malice, gossip, lying, selfishness, impatience, quarrelling, and procrastination. On the other hand, we may be speaking of compulsive behaviours such as eating, drinking, uncontrollable spending, gambling, and swearing.

The subject of bad habits takes on special importance in the light of the biblical demand that Christians “*walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:5, KJV) or “*live a new life*” (Romans 6:4, NIV).

As we surrender to the Lord, asking Him to search our hearts and reveal all that is displeasing to Him (Psalm 129: 23-24), we begin to see many ugly things that need to be dealt with.

The most important things to remember with regard to bad habits are that they displease God, and with His help they can be broken and replaced with alternatives.

None of us is immune to change. The Bible specializes in change (2 Corinthians 5:17). We know that God can work in our lives in order to bring our

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