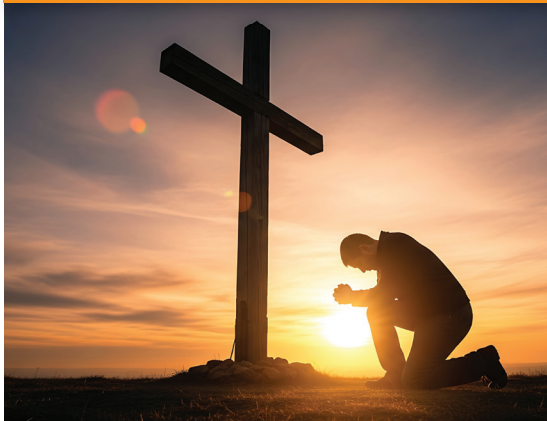


SURRENDER



by Ernest Gommel, 6/14/1987

You, O God, say, "Come, Follow Me!"
 "Surrender to me"
 "Let your only concern be to please me",
 Says the Lord.
 In My Spirit, please Me only, says the Lord.
 It doesn't matter what men think,
 Only what I think, says the Lord.
 And you don't have to do anything!
 Look it up, and walk away.
 I'll still love you.
 Just don't go to work today
 That's ok. I called you. I love you.

Upset because you can't be good enough?
 Can't believe enough?
 I accept your distress as repentance -
 Your tears bring my forgiveness.
 I called you. I love you.
 Give up the fight. Surrender.
 Let Me, my child. Let Me.

Just give up. Surrender. Start over.
 Instead of "I ought!", Let it be, "O God!"
 Instead of "I must!",
 Realize you don't have to.
 Just give it up. Surrender. Start over.
 You don't have to do anything. I love you.
 I am not like men.
 My love is unconditional.

The only way you can break the bonds
 of my love
 Is to be unrepentant - - - to turn away,
 harden your heart. Stubbornly to resist.
 To shut out my Holy Spirit.

Just give it up. Surrender. Start over.
 Each day. Each moment.
 Let each anxious, "I must!",
 by my Spirit
 Become "I don't have to!"

Let the tense "I ought" go to the hell it
 draws men to.

Look the demands of men and women
 Straight in the eye and in my Spirit
 Respond, "To hell with it! I don't have to!",
 And turn to Me - -

Ask me what I want of you.
 First, I bless you by asking you to
 surrender to Me - - -
 It brings the peace that is beyond
 understanding.
 I love you. No, not I love you if.
 Simply: I love you.
 When I called you, I knew who you were,
 Warts and all.
 When I call you today - - each day - -
 I know who you are.
 Good, bad, indifferent.
 I love you just as you are.
 You may rest, assured, of my love.
 You can do nothing to earn it.
 You have it. Simply surrender to Me.
 Don't fight Me - - My Spirit
 Simply SURRENDER.

And if you want, when you want,
 You might ask me what I want of you - -
 Today, perhaps. In this or that situation.
 But don't sweat it.
 Let my Holy Spirit. Surrender.
 And if you don't surrender all that well,
 So big deal.
 I said that I love you, just as you are.

Now - - - Do you perhaps want to know
 What I'd like you to do today?
 No - - not what others would
 hassle you about - -
 What I'd like you to do!
 Just give it up. Surrender. Relax
 See things as I see them.
 You were trained by people to
 take things so seriously - -
 Each blip in the vastness of eternity -

So seriously! - -
 Laugh with Me.
 Be amused.

The heavens and the earth and
 timeless Eternity!
 See this with Me!
 You said, "I must!" "I ought."
 "I have to!"

Stand back with My perspective.
 Be amused.
 So what if it doesn't get done?!

Do you perhaps want to know
 What I'd like you to do today?
 Just give it up. Surrender. Relax.
 Be amused at this frantic world - -
 And yourself. Accept My love. - -
 My unconditional love.

Now, in my Spirit, is there something
 you want to do today? - - - -



Pastor Ray Bentley
 June 21, 1957 - January 4, 2022

THE HOPE OF CHANGE

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you." —1 Peter 1:3-4, NIV

When God created the world, He planted the hope of resurrection into the structure and makeup of His creation. Everywhere we look, we see the pattern repeated, in multitudes of poetic and practical ways.

Before a seed is planted, it must die. The new life that emerges is very different from what was put into the ground. A tiny, bare seed becomes a life-giving plant, providing beauty, nourishment, or protection. God gives it a form that allows it to live a useful, abundant life.

Think of the caterpillar. Does it think of flying when it is earthbound with a slug-like body and tiny legs? Does it know it has a destiny more beautiful and adventurous than it can imagine?

One day, that caterpillar crawls up a tree, excludes a little glue, and spins a chrysalis around itself, following an ancient pattern infused into its DNA. In time, the chrysalis will shake and vibrate with convulsive movements. Within that cocoon, wings unfold to reveal beautiful colors or stripes. Soon, the new creature emerges as a butterfly, ready to soar in the winds, over fields and fences, free to live to its full potential.

A metamorphosis has changed the body and nature of the caterpillar.

That is what God does with us. We are born again, new creatures in Christ, emerging from a long sleep to become beautiful new creatures growing in His love. Sometimes we grow slowly, learning the lessons He longs to teach us to help us live to our full potential. No matter how old we are or how long we've known the Lord, we will be changed, and we will grow, for *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 1:6, NIV).

Jesus set the precedent by dying for us—and resurrecting. Through Him, we experience hope, new life, beauty, and the love that will nourish and carry us through the end of our days and into eternity. Spring is here. Time to start celebrating new life and the Resurrection!



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LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic
 Development Association)

Monday, April 27th

5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
 on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Rd.

LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State, and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

**Is something bugging you?
 COME TO THE NEXT MEETING
 TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**



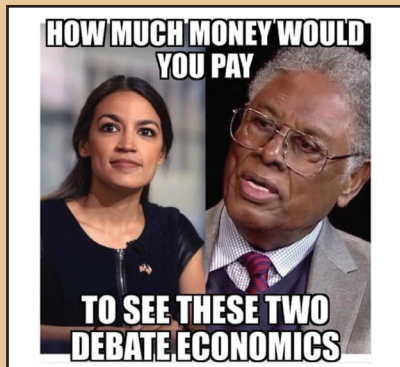
will be here, on the Porches

April 23, 2026 / 10am-3pm

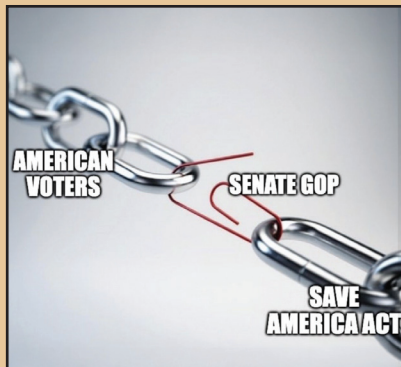
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On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



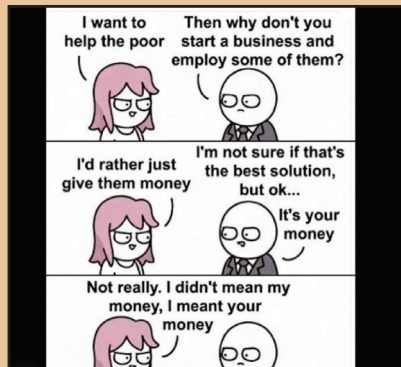
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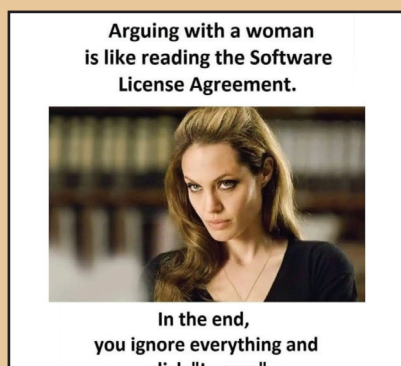
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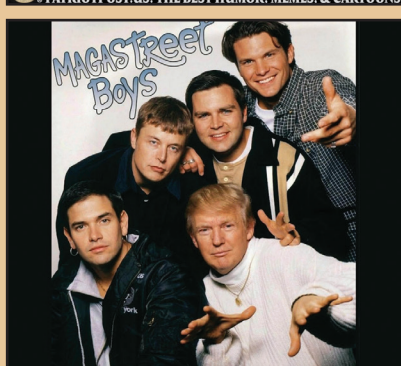
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LVM Commentary - April 16-22, 2026



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