



Pastor Ken Studer

**Sunday, August 12, 2007**

**Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

**TODAY'S THOUGHT: Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?  
—Corrie Ten Boom**

Recently a friend of mine told me that he was riding a bus for the first time in years. When the driver announced his stop he made his way to the rear exit door. The bus stopped but the door didn't open! He waited a couple of seconds, thinking the driver had forgotten to open the door. Still, the door remained closed. So he shouted at the driver: "Back door!" And a shout came back: "Step down, and the door will open!"

He said that he was so embarrassed. He had ridden buses like that before. He knew that on many buses, the first step is like a trigger that, when stepped on, releases the door. But he had forgotten.

When he shared his story with me it reminded me that faith often requires a first step! It's not faith to stand in front of a door and expect it to open all by itself. Sometimes a step is required, or we must grasp the doorknob and twist, or put our hand against the door and push.

Another lesson is that faith often requires a step down! Ouch! The step my friend took that enabled the door to open was a step down. Faith doesn't work very well with pride. In fact, the Bible says that God lifts up the humble, and the proud are cast down.

Being willing to "step down" is often the key to letting God "step up" and do marvelous things.

**Prayer: O Lord, I believe. Help me in my unbelief! Amen.**

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** James 1-2  
**Monday:** Jeremiah 9-12  
**Tuesday:** Jeremiah 13-16  
**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 17-20  
**Thursday:** Jeremiah 21-23  
**Friday:** Jeremiah 24-26  
**Saturday:** Psalms 85-87

*Verse to Remember*

*“Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”*

—James 1:12

**MAGIC SQUARE**

The square below is a **magic square** because each of the horizontal, vertical and diagonal rows adds up to 15. Can you complete the other magic square so that each horizontal, vertical and diagonal row adds up to 34? Numbers 1-4 have been given to you. Use only numbers 5-16.

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

1			
		2	
	3		
			4

**Answers:**  
 Top row: 1, 12, 7, 14;  
 Second row: 8, 13, 2, 11;  
 Third row: 10, 3, 16, 5;  
 Bottom row: 15, 6, 9, 4

**CONFUSION**

The Bible says in Acts 2 that on the day of Pentecost, people from all over the world heard the disciples speaking their language! Can you unscramble these letters to reveal who these people were and/or where they came from?

1. AAIS \_\_\_\_\_
2. ASBAR \_\_\_\_\_
3. ASPOMATIEOM \_\_\_\_\_
4. DUJAE \_\_\_\_\_
5. ENTSCAR \_\_\_\_\_
6. EOMR \_\_\_\_\_
7. GYTPE \_\_\_\_\_
8. HPASNTIRA \_\_\_\_\_
9. HPPMLAIAY \_\_\_\_\_
10. IPPCDAAOAC \_\_\_\_\_
11. MTSILEAE \_\_\_\_\_
12. SEDME \_\_\_\_\_
13. SUTONP \_\_\_\_\_
14. YAGIHRP \_\_\_\_\_
15. YIALB \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:** 1. Asia, 2. Arabs, 3. Mesopotamia, 4. Judea, 5. Cretans, 6. Rome, 7. Egypt, 8. Parthians, 9. Pamphylia, 10. Cappadocia, 11. Elamites, 12. Medes, 13. Pontus, 14. Phrygia, 15. Libya