

# KATHY'S GOOD NEWS



# KATHY'S GOOD NEWS

— *WILSON AWASU*



**Outskirts Press, Inc.**  
Denver, Colorado

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Outskirts Press, Inc.  
<http://www.outskirtspress.com>

PB ISBN: 978-1-4327-6934-5  
HB ISBN: 978-1-4327-6935-2

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

“Promise you’ll not laugh when I tell you what I want to say,” Kathy said, looking worried. We sat facing each other in front of the pastor’s desk.

I thought. *What does this twelve-year-old have to say? I’ve just finished a weeklong seminar on Life, Freedom and Power in her church. Women and men, and college and high school students said they’ve been spiritually renewed. Might it be that what I taught went over the heads of younger people? Would I know if I promise?*

“Kathy, I promise,” I said.

“Thanks. Now, listen,” she said. “I like what you said. But I’m glad you didn’t ask people to come forward to receive Jesus.”

“Why?”

“You still promise?”

“Yes.”

“Okay. I would come forward, but I hate coming.”

“Why?”

“That would be the tenth time,” Kathy said and looked away, wiping tears from her cheeks.

When she turned round to look at me, I asked. “Why is that?”

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“Don’t you know? You’re supposed to.” She pulled forward to the edge of her seat, searching my eyes. She looked convinced that I knew what she was talking about.

Unfortunately, I had no clue. Should I take a guess?

“No, Kathy, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“Okay, I’ll tell you,” she said, and sat back in her seat. “I don’t think I understand the good news. If I did, I wouldn’t go forward every time I hear it. Don’t you think?”

I began to get it, but not quite. Who exactly is this twelve-year-old? How could I, a guest speaker, help her at the end of my series of talks?

“Tell me, Kathy. How can I help you?”

She stared at me for the longest moment and said, “Tell me the good news so that I get it. Isn’t that what Jesus wants? Then I, too, can tell others, right?”

“Right.”

Just then, Kathy’s mom came in, saying it was time to go.

Kathy tore off the name and address page from her Bible and gave it to me. “Here,” she said. “Write me.” Her last look burned the saddest face of a twelve-year-old on my mind.

“I promise,” I said.

All night long, and on my return flight to Minneapolis, Minnesota the next day, I saw that face captioned: “Tell me the good news so that I get it.”

Kathy’s e-mail reached my office before I did.

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*Date: 3/5/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Dear Doctor,*

*I think Mom was rude to you when she called me away last night. Please forgive her. They looked for me everywhere. Mom was going to work at 11 p.m. That's why.*

*Well, don't forget my request. I call it Kathy's good news, if that's okay. Let me hear from you soon. Thanks.*

*Your friend,*

*Kathy.*

Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 3/6/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Dear Kathy,

I have nothing to forgive your mom. I hope she got to work on time Sunday night.

Sure, Kathy. I think "Kathy's good news" is a good title for our discussion. But before we start, tell me more about how you feel about yourself, family, church, and school. Okay?

Your friend,

Doctor Wilson.

## KATHY'S GOOD NEWS

*Date: 3/7/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Dear Doctor,*

*I don't see how my feelings about myself and family and church and the school I go to relate to Kathy's good news. But you know what you're doing. So I'll tell you.*

*Me: I think I'm not a Christian yet. I have gone forward nine times to receive Christ. And as I told you if you had invited people forward at the end of your talks, I would have come. Why that many times? I read my Bible. I pray. I go to church.*

*I try to obey Daddy and Mom. I also try to be good to my brother and sister. But it's hard to forgive them when they're mean to me. Both of them are leaders in the youth group at church. They're supposed to know better. But they don't.*

*If I were a Christian I should forgive them, right? But how about them, they're Christian. Why doesn't it bother them when they mistreat their younger sister? I feel bad about bad things I do. Why don't they?*

*Oops, I began to talk about how I feel about my family without telling you I've started. Anyway, I am the youngest of three children. I thought parents and brothers and sisters spoil youngest kids. How come I'm not? Daddy doesn't allow me to spend a night out with friends. He only allows me to invite Pat over once a while. She's my best friend.*

*We live in a 6-bedroom house with five bathrooms. Daddy*

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*and Mom should hire a housekeeper, but no. We all clean house, even me. I wonder what Daddy and Mom do with all the money they make. Daddy is President of a computer company. Mom is an ICU Nurse at Huntington Memorial Hospital. Where does the money go? I wish I knew.*

*Oh, I know. Daddy gives a lot of it to the church. That brings me to how I feel about church. Daddy and Mom are church elders. Are church elders supposed to give lots of money? Well, our church has 2,000 members, so I'm told. I don't know how many elders we have. But I know we have six pastors.*

*Mom says I embarrass the family when I keep going forward to receive Christ. But I can't help it when I haven't received him yet. And that's why I sometimes don't like going to church.*

*Preachers often talk about being born again, accept Christ, receive Jesus, repent, and stuff like that. I want to do it and get it done. But then I feel sad for embarrassing the family. So I have a secret wish when I'm going to church. I pray the preacher wouldn't use those words or invite people forward. It's bad to pray like that, isn't it?*

*School: I feel better at school. Though it's the church school, the born again stuff doesn't come up that much. My most favorite teacher is Mrs. Foster. She's pretty. And she's a good teacher. She says religion is a matter of the heart, as it should be.*

*Doc, I wonder. Is this an essay or what? Anyway, I've told you a lot of things. But please don't let this stuff get in the way of telling me the good news so I get it. That's the important thing.*

*Love,  
Kathy.*

## KATHY'S GOOD NEWS

Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 3/8/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Hello Kathy,

Superb! You've given me a clearer picture of you and your situation. Below is my summary of what you said.

You belong to an upper middle-class family, a Christian home, and a large suburban church. And you go to a Christian school. But you desire a personal relationship with God beyond

- the comfort of a well to do family, and
- the upbringing of a Christian home.

I'm proud of you for not hiding that desire. I'm also proud of you, Kathy, for showing me that you feel lost at church. So I'm thinking

- you want clear understanding to remove the confusion that your church experience has given you
- you want a heart experience of God beyond the head knowledge you now have about God
- you want to have a personal relationship

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with God and be sure about it instead of  
being unsure about it.

Tell me, Kathy, if that's it, thanks.

Love,

Doctor Wilson.

*Date: 3/8/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Dear Doctor,*

*Wow. That's exactly what I want. I'm excited. Can we start  
talking about Kathy's good news now?*

*Your friend,*

*Kathy.*

Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 3/9/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Dear Kathy,

Yes, yes, we'll start talking about Kathy's good  
news in a moment. But before then, you and I need to

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take a good look at feeling lost at church in terms of

- people-lostness
- origin of lostness, and
- Jesus and lostness.

A thorough understanding of those issues is foundational to Kathy's good news.

Give me ten days and I'll get back to you.

Your friend,

Doctor Wilson.

Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 3/23/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Hey Kathy,

Thanks for your patience. It's taken me two weeks to get back to you. But during that time, I went back to study Jesus' teaching on people-lostness in Luke 15:1-24 (see the attached file on people-lostness). The teaching says it doesn't matter whether the lost

- are unconscious that they're lost
- are conscious and care about it or don't care they're lost, or

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- brought it on themselves, that is, they chose to be lost.

Lost is lost, because being lost is disconnection from God. Most lost people are content to live free, independent of God.

Find more about this in the attached, thanks.

Love,

Doctor Wilson.

*Attachment file to 3/23/07 e-mail*

## **People Lostness**

In Luke 15:1-24, see passage below, Jesus used imageries of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, to teach about people lostness.

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders,

## KATHY'S GOOD NEWS

rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman, having ten coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger one of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. 15 So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’”

20 “And he rose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; 23 and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry.”

### *The lost sheep (verses 1-7)*

The lost sheep strayed from the flock and shepherd. It was lost and it knew it. It might bleat for attention. So the lost sheep represents “conscious lostness.”

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### *The lost coin (verses 8-10)*

The lost coin on the other hand dropped from the owner's hand. And it rolled away, buried under furniture or clutter in a room. It was also lost. But because it was metal, a non-living thing, it didn't know it was lost. Therefore the lost coin represents "unconscious lostness."

### *The lost son (verses 11-24)*

Unlike the lost sheep and the lost coin, the lost son was a person. He chose to leave home and be gone from home, free to live as he pleased, unbothered by his mom or dad. He chose to be lost. The lost son, then, represents "willful lostness."

*Date: 3/23/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Hi Doc,*

*I was getting anxious when your deadline passed and I didn't hear from you. But I said I'd wait. I'm glad I did.*

*I've heard many sermons on the lost. But I've never seen lostness as disconnection from God. And the disconnected, the lost, are content to live independent of God? That's scary. I think*

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*I get it but I don't. Please, tell me more about "lostness" and "disconnection from God."*

*Hey, Doc, I told my best friend, Pat, about you. Can I share your e-mails with her?*

*Take care,*

*Kathy.*

Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 4/6/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Sure, Kathy, share my e-mails with Pat. And tell her I say Hi.

Find attached a document titled "Unconscious and conscious lostness." You'll see that I've broadly divided the lost into two groups, one, unconscious lostness, and two, conscious lostness. Each group sub-divides into three.

The groups and sub-groups are examples of lost people. But I hope they give you a good picture of people-lostness, or disconnectedness from God. Tell me what you think after you've gone through the document. Thanks.

Your friend,

Doctor Wilson.

*Attachment file to 4/6/07 e-mail*

## Unconscious and Conscious Lostness

Lostness is disconnection from God. The disconnected or lost live independently of God. That is living without conscious awareness of God. The attitude is, "Leave me alone to do as I please." Broadly speaking, lostness or disconnection divides into

- being unconsciously lost or disconnected from God, and
- being consciously lost or disconnected from God

### *The unconsciously lost split into*

- occult-controlled victims
- religion-controlled victims
- mind-controlled victims, etc.

#### **a. Occult-controlled victims**

Occult-controlled victims grow up in occult homes and read occult books from childhood. They also watch occult related videos and play computerized occult games. And maybe they dabble with tarot cards and ouija-boards. They consult palm-readers, psychic counselors, channelers, TM, etc.

**b. Religion-controlled victims**

Religion-controlled victims are raised on religious views that say gods live out there. Seek them and worship them. Worshipping them draws them closer so they can offer answers on some of life's tough questions. Another view says that there's god in everyone. Get to know the god within, and you have no need for a god out there.

**c. Mind-controlled victims**

Mind-control victims grow up breathing and drinking insistence on running everything through the grid of "What makes sense." What makes sense is real and important. What doesn't make sense isn't real. Therefore it's not important.

All these are lost. They live independent of God but don't know it. Or they do but they don't care about it.

*The consciously lost divide into*

- unsaved worshippers of God
- false starts, and
- willful haters of God, etc.

**a. Unsaved worshipers of God**

Unsaved worshipers of God know about God. They consciously worship him. They're moralists, do-gooders. But they remain unsaved because their knowledge about God and worship of God lack a knowledge of Jesus.

**b. False starts**

False starts know about God (and sometimes about Jesus). They might grow up in Christian homes. Therefore they read the Bible and pray. But they, too, are unsaved. Here's their biggest problem. They lack experience of the things they believe and are trying hard to do. There's a big gap between their head and heart, knowledge and experience.

**c. Willful haters of God**

Unlike the false starts and unsaved worshipers of God, willful haters of God choose on purpose to go away from God and Jesus. Some of them might have served God as pastors or missionaries. But somewhere, somehow, they feel disappointed in God.

For example, God let 4-year-old Melissa die after they'd prayed and waited 15 years for her. Or they've served God faithfully, yet God let their dreams, plans and efforts for success and recognition blow up. They blame God for it all. He "let them down." So they desert him to pay him back for failing them.

Others are kids brought up as 'Christian.' They knew and did all the right things. But they didn't have a personal relationship with God while growing up. In adulthood their childhood worship of God makes no sense to them. So, they toss the faith of their parents and go looking for some religious experience that makes sense.

In spite of the differences, the consciously lost and the

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unconsciously lost live disconnected from God. They all need reconnection to God.

*Date: 4/6/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Hi Doc,*

*Pat was here spending the night when I opened your e-mail. We read it together. I'm a false start. But know what, now I wonder why I read the Bible, and pray, and go to church, and try so hard to be good?*

*I know Daddy is a no-nonsense man. Mom is too, but in her own way, if you see what I mean.*

*I wonder. Do I do it all to please them? Don't tell me. Let me think. I think that's it.*

*Pat isn't like me. She has a spirit guide, she told me. She said her parents practice the occult. She and her sister, five years older, wear a crystal around their neck. Pat doesn't remember when she started watching horror movies and playing occult related video games.*

*The kind of family you grow up in has a lot to do with it, like Pat and me, right? Okay, Doc, please tell me how I can experience what I know about God and Jesus.*

*Love,*

*Kathy.*

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*Date: 4/7/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Doc, it's me again. I can't stop reading your document on 'Unconscious and Conscious Lostness.' It's full of good stuff. The stuff about willful haters of God is getting me. I can see why someone can become like that. Who wants to go on worshipping God when worshipping God becomes meaningless?*

*I'm scared. I may become like that. I don't want to. What do you think?*

*Okay Doc, bye,*

*Kathy.*

*Date: 4/8/07*

*Subject: Kathy's good news*

*From: Kathy*

*To: Doctor Wilson*

*Hi Doctor,*

*I hope you don't mind three e-mails, one after the other? I just have to tell you. You've got me thinking. Can you please add this to what you'll be telling me? How did lostness come to be a problem for everyone? Thanks.*

*Your friend,*

*Kathy.*

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Subject: Kathy's good news

Date: 4/11/07

From: Doctor Wilson

To: Kathy

Hello Kathy,

No, I don't mind reading three e-mails from you all at once.

Good for you, Kathy. You see yourself as a false start. You do all your Christian duties to please your mom and dad. But I think going forward again and again to receive Jesus at church is more than that.

It seems to me, deep down, you desire to know God in a personal way. And because you haven't yet, you keep going forward looking for it. That desire shows an awareness of being disconnected from God. The need to get back to God began at the time people-lostness began. You'll see how it all fits together in the attached file titled "Origin of lostness."

I hope our discussions will help you to enter a personal relationship with God. Then you wouldn't become a willful hater of God later in life.

Okay, Kathy, hurry to the attached and see what it says.

Your friend,

Doctor Wilson.

*Attachment file to 4/11/07 e-mail*