

# The New River Rapids

## Q-Tip Clarity by Pasture Scott



You've all seen the bespectacled, geekish man with cell phone firmly pressed against his ear moving about the country asking the anonymous person on the other end of the line again and again, "Can you hear me now?" It has been one of the most successful promotional gimmicks in recent years and that ingenious tagline has become a catchword for a modern generation, much like "where's the beef?" was in the 1980s.

The point was, of course, to show that Verizon had more coverage than any other competitor and one would have to be, say, *underwater* so as to not be able to complete a connection.

I know of One whose coverage is so Sprint-pin-drop-clear and Verizon-wide (times eternity) that the sharpness and clarity of the "Let there be Light!" that thundered into time and space many millennia ago is still explicitly articulate today. Same Voice. Ageless. Commanding. Clear.

I recall sitting in my junior high school speech class in 1973 and hearing my teacher say that every word that has ever been spoken is still trapped in our atmosphere—Lincoln's address at Gettysburg, John Adams' fervent appeals at the First Continental Congress, or the cry of warning from a sailor aboard the Titanic. Trouble is, we haven't the tools to capture them.

Ah, but the One Voice that trumps them all, we can hear. James tells us we have the tools to hear God with amazing clarity. The same James who grew up with Jesus and knew His Voice quite distinctly tells us we can hear His Voice.

Are you listening?

*I want to hear God*, you say. You hear of others speaking so freely about "God told me this..." "God spoke to me last night..." and your frustration level rises. Why can't that be me? Why can't I hear Him like that?



"Camel Knees" (a.k.a. James, because he spent so much time on his knees listening for his Elder Brother's Voice) gives us a clue as subtle as a sledgehammer: "putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted..." (James 1:21). The word translated "filthiness" is closely related to a word meaning 'ear wax'! He is telling us that many cannot hear because of the ghastly buildup and the passageway is blocked. Let me illustrate.

I am in a wheelchair at present (duh). Through my 27 years of disability I have been asked to come over to people's homes countless times, and, many of those times have been hindered from going too far inside because of steps, rooms crowded with furniture, narrow doorways, what have you. I believe we come to the Word in much the same way. "Come in, Lord. Speak to me." Yet there is so much clutter, off-limits rooms, and, excuse me, *wax buildup*, that our Lord can get no further than the foyer of our hearts.

He's always speaking. Am I listening? Can I hear?

In the same verse James tells us to "receive the Word with humility." Guess what else hinders my hearing God? Selective hearing. When my agenda will overrule His Word to me, I will not hear. When I am already prejudiced against and deaf to Truth, He won't waste words on me. But doers of the Word (v22) will have the blessing of a streaming dialogue with the Almighty!

When the LORD called Abraham, He only had to say His name once and he said, "Here, LORD." Such was the condition of the old patriarch's heart. God knew His man had an abiding "yes" within and the two could share an ongoing conversation all his days. Guess they had Q-Tips back then, too.

Clean ears. Open hearts. Obedient lives. Want to hear God? Now you're on the right frequency.

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### February Events

For more details about these and other events at New River go to [www.newrivercc.com/events](http://www.newrivercc.com/events)

Prayer .....	5th,12th,19th,26th
Navigator meeting .....	11th
Fellowship Dinner .....	15th
LIFEgroup leaders meet .....	15th
Body LIFE Forum .....	15th
Silent Siege .....	21st
City of Refuge .....	22nd
Venerate .....	4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
Men's Bible Study .....	Weds. 6 am



# LIFE ON THE RIVER



## LIFEgroup

## Spotlight



The Spann LIFEgroup meets on Monday nights at the Spann home 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Our group has been meeting for almost 2 yrs and we have about 14 members with 10-12 attending regularly. We come together to worship and praise Him in song and the study of The Word, in Christian love and fellowship with each other. We share our hearts and personal issues; we weep together and pray together. And of course there's always COFFEE and SNACKS!

The purpose of our group is to (1) have other Christians as well as unsaved friends and neighbors to come to a place where they can feel safe and unpressured, (2) share freely and have a open and frank discussion of the Word, (3) ask questions if there is something they do not understand in Scripture or from the Pastor's Sermon, (4) learn to know our Heavenly Father and the blessings of studying His Word, and (4) learn to live the Life of the Reign of God.



# New Orleans Mission Trip

Although Hurricane Katrina was over three years ago, there is still much Kingdom work to be done in the whole region around New Orleans. The youth will be leaving for New Orleans on April 4th and coming back April 11th. We are staying in St. Bernard Parish at Adullam Christian Fellowship. The cost is only \$55 per student! Every student is invited! We are going to be doing

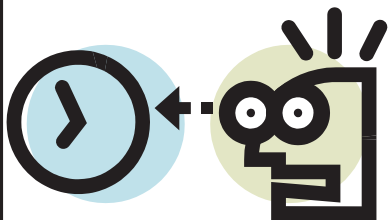
whatever is needed during the day; cleaning, rebuilding, yard work, etc. Then at night some different things like going to the French Quarter to do outreach ministry, prayer walks along the Mississippi River, giving stuff to the homeless, etc. Then other nights we'll be experiencing Nawlin's in different ways like getting snowballs and beignets, etc. We need chaperones! (mainly one adult man of God!!!) We don't really need another woman, but we'll welcome anyone! Hope to see you with us!



February  
11th is the  
deadline for  
the Youth's

**Deadline  
Feb. 11**

"Money for India" drive. Please help



them reach their  
goal of \$1000 to  
send to India.

Look for New River to do some-  
thing a little different this spring.



This is a little hint!

### Miracles, Signs & Wonders

It was getting late, and as I neared my destination I realized that I was getting hungry. It had been three days since I had a hot meal and fresh fish at Red Lobster came to mind. I said, under my breath, "O Lord, Red Lobster would be nice." Having never been on this particular road before, the possibility of finding a Red Lobster seemed somewhat remote and I was tempted to eat some of the food that I had with me in the ice chest when suddenly a highway sign appeared before me stating that a particular city was 111 miles away. I pondered the three ones. Then I realized that maybe I was being a little too specific with the Lord about where I would like to eat and I said "Lord, whatever you want to feed me would be fine - but a hot meal would

be really nice."

As my hunger increased, I was again tempted to reach into the ice chest, when I noticed another sign with 111 on it (an exit sign I think) - once again I pondered the three ones, this time reflecting on the fact that they appeared as columns.

More miles rolled by, with no sign of hot food in sight. Again as I thought of the food in the ice chest, there appeared in my headlights a mile marker with a 111 on it. At this point I was fairly sure that the Lord was trying to tell me something, but when two more mile markers with 111 in them went by (they were some kind of special markers showing an alternate route) I was certain of it.

As I came into the city, there was a sea of signs and lights. I looked, and I looked - and there it

was - a tiny Red Lobster sign amongst all the confusion. Incredibly there was no traffic around me, and I was able to cross over three lanes to make the exit.

Oh, how I praised the Lord as I ate my fish. Glorifying in the fact that He cared enough to provide me with my hearts delight. Then it occurred to me, the three 1s - The exit I had taken was 3A. As I pondered this further, I remembered that I had told Him that anywhere He wanted me to eat would be fine - and I had not even bothered to ask Him if this was the right place. When I looked up, there before my eyes was a poster that read "You've Come to the Right Place."

Oh Lord, forgive Thou mine unbelief.

-*sermonindex.net*

**BARE  
YOUR  
BOOKSHELF**



Average American Christian: 9 Bibles  
Average Third World Pastor: 0 Bibles

Everyday more than 122,000 people come to the Lord all over the globe. In our country, the church isn't growing so much. But the pile of Bibles on every Christian's bookshelf sure is. At CRI, we receive more than 400 letters a month from pastors and Christian workers in developing countries whose churches own no Bibles or Christian books.

Go to <http://cribooks.homestead.com/bareyourbookshelf> to learn how you can help Christians all over the world with that extra Bible you have under your bed or collecting dust on the bookshelf. This is yet another way we can be good stewards of God's word and His property we are managing.

**FEB. 15TH**

Double Header!  
Fellowship Dinner  
&  
Body LIFE Forum!

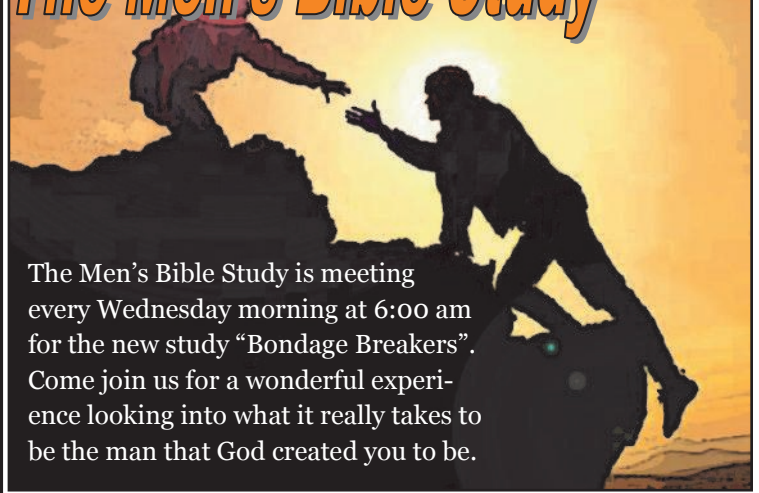
NEW RIVER PICTURES PRESENTS

SCOTT MITCHELL  
NEAL BEARD  
ED CORLEY

**LIFE INSTITUTE**  
**THE MAKING OF A DISCIPLE**  
**2007-2008**

THIS TWENTY PART DVD SERIES IS AVAILABLE FOR \$40  
COMPLETE WITH A BONUS CD OF ALL MESSAGES IN MP3 FORMAT

# The Men's Bible Study



The Men's Bible Study is meeting every Wednesday morning at 6:00 am for the new study "Bondage Breakers". Come join us for a wonderful experience looking into what it really takes to be the man that God created you to be.

# The Normal Kingdom Life

New River Community Church  
3464 Fairburn Road  
Douglasville, GA 30135

Phone: 770-942-5008  
FAX: 770-942-5608  
Web: [newrivercc.com](http://newrivercc.com)  
E-mail: [jerald@newrivercc.com](mailto:jerald@newrivercc.com)



"Our mission is to advance the kingdom of God as devoted followers of Jesus Christ by intentionally passing our faith on to our children, our community and the world,  
**MAKING AND MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES TO THE GLORY OF GOD!"**

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE