

**Dear Jeff:** I'm truly sorry you are experiencing so much turmoil in your Christian experience. It happens to a lot of believers, so you are not alone. Perhaps it will help if you lean hard on the Bible as the true and firm basis of your Christian faith. You have acknowledged that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit lives in us (1 Cor. 6:19). Now, that is a true fact, whether or not we feel it, simply because God says so. Remind yourself often of this, and try to think of verses that assure you of God's love and concern for you--Matt. 6:33-34; Luke 12:6-7; Rom. 5:1-5; Phil. 4:13, 4:19; 1 Thess. 5:24; and Heb. 2:18, 4:14-16. Remember: your heavenly Father is deeply and personally concerned about you because He says He is, even if you are not sure about it! *or feel it to be so.*

4. (from LSO, February 20, 1997)

**Subject:** Praying to the Virgin Mary

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** Why do so many people believe Mary is the intercessor between them and Jesus? -- Cheryl P.

**Dear Cheryl:** There are possibly several reasons why people want to believe Mary is the intercessor between us and God. One is that she as a woman is perceived as being more tender and possibly more lenient than Jesus as Judge. Another might be that as Jesus' mother, she is in a unique position to persuade Him in a way so that He cannot turn down His mother. Mary's role as mediator and intercessor was seldom mentioned in church history before the 12th century. However, the Bible clearly says there is only "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). *Re - X is med. bet. us & God, but X needs a mediator bet. self & God.*

5. (from LSO, February 27, 1997)

**Subject:** Will all Christians be married?

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** Does God have a soulmate planned for believers of Jesus Christ? -- Allison C.

**Dear Allison:** Does God have a soulmate for every believer? I'm unsure as to your concept of a soulmate. If you mean a spouse, then the answer is No, because God's will for some is to be single (1 Cor. 7:32-34). If you mean a close friend with whom you can openly share, I don't think there is any biblical guarantee that every believer will have one, though I could wish this were so. Look at Philippians 4:3 in which Paul writes (but does not identify) of his "true or loyal companion." One other thought: In this technological age, geography plays a lesser part in enjoying the fellowship of close friends. *Phone, e-mail*

6. (from LSO, February 28, 1997)

**Subject:** Jehovah's Witnesses

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** Recently, a woman who is a member of the Jehovah's witnesses wrote a very warm and friendly letter asking us to join her for a Bible study. She also asked us if we wanted the answers to biblical questions. As born-again believers, we would like to write back to her and give her the true plan