

# God Is in the Turbulence

I despise airplane turbulence. Even though I enjoy high-speed roller coasters, there is something about hurling through stormy skies in a commercial jetliner at 37,000 feet that turns my knuckles white. This is why I always ask for a window seat. Whenever we hit rough air and the seat belt sign flashes on, I feel safer if I can look outside.

But that didn't help me recently when I was flying into Canada. I was not aware that rough weather was raging below and that parts of Vancouver were flooding. All I knew was that our journey through Canadian airspace reminded me of Doctor Doom's Fearfall—a theme-park ride I've enjoyed many times with my daughters.

That ride lasts only a few seconds, and it is firmly bolted to the ground. The turbulence over British Columbia lasted half an hour.

It was 11 p.m., and I couldn't see anything outside my window except horizontal rain. I kept reminding myself that the pilot was using radar and other high-tech instruments to avoid crashing into the side of a mountain. But my knuckles did not believe this. I clutched the armrest, prayed and—for a few seconds—wondered how my wife

would plan my funeral.

Of course the plane did not break apart  
in mid-air. When we descended below the cloud cover and the  
lights of  
the city became visible, all my color returned. I breathed a  
prayer of  
thanksgiving when I heard the familiar sound of wheels  
touching the  
runway.

You may not share my fear of turbulence,  
but all of us have walked through scary times in life when we  
couldn't  
see the path in front of us. Many people I know are going  
through such  
times right now because of the economic downturn. Some are  
facing job  
loss, financial hardships, foreclosures or unusual spiritual  
challenges.

Churches, too, are finding it hard to  
navigate change. More people than ever are in a season of  
transition  
because old business models don't work, and ministry paradigms  
are  
shifting. Some of us find ourselves digging our fingernails  
into the  
armrest while the plane is bouncing all over the stormy sky.  
And when  
we look out the window we see nothing but darkness.

I have found comfort in the words David  
penned after he escaped from Saul's pursuits. He wrote in  
Psalm 18:4-6:  
"The cords of death encompassed me, and the torrents of  
ungodliness  
terrified me. ... In my distress I called upon the Lord, and

cried to  
my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my  
cry for  
help came into His ears” (NASB).

In describing God’s  
just-in-the-nick-of-time rescue, David borrowed vivid imagery  
from the  
day when God opened the Red Sea to deliver His children from  
Egypt.

“The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High  
uttered His  
voice. ...Then the channels of water appeared, and the  
foundations of  
the world were laid bare. ...He sent from on high, He took me;  
He drew  
me out of many waters. ... He brought me forth also into a broad  
place;  
He rescued me, because He delighted in me” (vv. 13-19).

David’s transition wasn’t easy. In the  
most difficult moment he noted that God had “made darkness His  
hiding  
place” (v. 11). We must remember that darkness is not a sign  
that God  
has abandoned us. It became stormy just before the Red Sea  
split open.

Yet God was working behind the scenes, even when the clouds  
were black  
and the wind was violent.

If you are in the midst of a transition,  
hold tightly to His promise as you enter this new year of  
2010. You can  
trust Him. Better things are still to come. In yet a little  
while He  
will intervene.

Don't focus on your job crisis, the bad economic news, your lack of options or the bumpiness of the ride. Call upon the Lord.

When His lightning flashes, He will split the obstacles in front of you and make a dry roadbed in the midst of the sea. He can make a way where there is no way.

Ask the Lord to transport you. Eventually you will hear the sound of wheels touching down on the wet runway. You are helpless to make this transition on your own, but your Deliverer will safely carry you from your present crisis into a broad place of future fruitfulness.

---

J. Lee Grady is editor of *Charisma*. You can find him on Twitter at leegrady.

---

## Prayer That Works

- Read this if you don't want your prayer life to become mundane.

Everyone has a different preference when it comes to prayer and how he or she feels is the best way to connect with God. The important thing is that you don't want your prayer life to

become  
mundane and never grow or change. You want it to be fresh,  
exciting and  
even explosive in the Spirit. We all want our prayers to be  
effective,  
and anyone who is full of the Spirit has the anointing to pray  
powerful prayers that produce miracles.

We can pray in such a way that our  
prayers just flow. We don't have to force them. They can even  
become  
prophetic—the heart of the Holy Spirit pouring out of our  
words and  
expressions.

Several years ago, we were praying at a  
prayer meeting in our church, asking the Lord to use the  
ministry more  
effectively to touch lives in our city. The Lord directed us  
to pray in  
such a way that our prayers would have “bull’s-eye” accuracy.

We knew the Holy Spirit wanted to develop specific  
prayers that were going to be like instruments of warfare  
targeted  
toward building certain key parts of the church’s vision.  
After that  
time of prayer, we were amazed at the number of breakthroughs  
we  
experienced in our ministry.

As believers, we sometimes pray  
randomly, repeating things—not really thinking about what we  
are  
saying. To pray effectively, we must pray calculated prayers,  
with  
biblical, Spirit-led accuracy.

These kinds of prayers are like swords in the Spirit (see Is. 49:2-3). They shoot out, and something just “clicks” when you pray them. You know you hit the target and don’t walk away wondering if you received the answer.

James 5:16 tells us it is “effectual” prayer that avails much. *The Amplified Bible* says that is prayer that “makes tremendous power available.”

Effectual prayer is accurate, targeted prayer that is done with action. In the Greek, it is the word *energeo*, which means to be “efficient, full of energy, and to display working activity.”

In other words, when you hear someone pray with effectual prayer, you don’t have to wonder whether it’s working because there is energy behind it. You can sense and feel power on it.

One way to ensure you are praying prayers that work is to pray according to the Bible. Rather than just praying whatever you think, find out what God’s will is for the situation and bring your prayers in line with it. God has a certain way of thinking when it comes to things in our lives, and we need to align with that.

Case in point: When you need prayer for physical healing, you may feel terrible in your body and want to cry to the Lord about how bad things are for you. However, a more effectual way to pray is to find the Lord’s promises about healing from

Scripture  
and pray in agreement with God.

This doesn't mean you cannot cry out to the Lord in your time of adversity. What you need in order to stay accurate in prayer, however, is then to refocus on trusting in God and His promises.

When you make a habit of praying this way, you will learn to pray from the river of your spirit. You plug into the Holy Spirit's way, the source of power in you, because you are agreeing with the Lord's opinion.

Instead of trying to swim upstream, you are flowing with the current. Remember that when the power of the Holy Spirit flows out of you like a river, it contains miracles, blessings and answers to prayer. Accurate prayer will help you flow in all those things.

Suddenly, instead of praying random, disconnected prayers, you are grabbing hold of the blessing that God has already placed in the river of your spirit. A new energy and confidence will come to your prayer life, and you will have conclusive results because you are targeting what you need with what God has already promised.

---

**Brenda Kunneman is**

co-founder, with her husband, Hank, of One Voice Ministries and co-pastor with him of Lord of Hosts Church in Omaha, Nebraska. She ministers worldwide in conferences and churches and is the author of several books, including *The Supernatural You* (Charisma House).

---

# The Secret Blessing of Generosity

*Read Genesis 13*

In Genesis 13, Lot chose selfishly and moved his family to the choicest land—near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose inhabitants sinned greatly. Abram, Lot's uncle, generously let him go; and for his generosity, God blessed Abram and allowed him to settle his family in a safe area.

Later, God used Abram to rescue Lot from the evil cities before He destroyed them. Abram learned the blessings of being generous and following God's plan.

---

# Becoming Lucy




By Martha Rogers | Realms | softcover | 304 pages | \$10.99

In *Becoming Lucy*, the first installment of the Winds Across the Prairie series, Boston heiress Lucinda Bishop is shaken when a tragic carriage accident kills her parents. She moves to her aunt and uncle's ranch in Oklahoma Territory, where she struggles to face her grief and adjust to a primitive land.

---

# A Year of Blind Dates

 By Megan Carson | Regal Books | softcover | 192 pages | \$12.99

*A Year of Blind Dates: A Single Girl's Search for 'the One'* by debut author Megan Carson is a comical account of her own experience while searching for Mr. Right. Assisted by a dating service and friends who are all too willing to introduce her to potential mates, Carson embarks on a series of dates that change her in a way she never expects.

---

# 90 Minutes in Heaven



By Don Piper and Cecil Murphy | Revell | \$34.99

The best-seller *90 Minutes in Heaven* chronicles Don Piper's experience of death, heaven and recovery. According to the book, Piper was driving home when he was involved in a traffic accident with a tractor-trailer. His car was crushed, and he died instantly, medical professionals said. As he lay lifeless, Piper was in heaven experiencing its glory, beauty and music.

---

## Antonio Meets His Match



Thomas Nelson | \$14.99

Sometimes, following the biblical admonition to “love your neighbor as you love yourself” is hard to do—especially when your neighbor might be a bit different. Children will learn this important lesson on the latest episode of Max Lucado's *Hermie & Friends*.

---

## The Book of Remembrance

**Malachi 3:1-4:6** I trust you have been blessed by reading through the Bible with me this year. I pray your first New Year's resolution will be to read the Bible through next year and every year until you go to be with the Lord. Perhaps you would like to write devotionals of your own as you read through the Bible in this next year. I plan to write devotionals on those passages that I did not cover this year.

---

# January

# January

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

**–Romans 12:2, MEV**

Jan. 1	; Luke 1
Jan. 2	Gen. 3-5; Luke 2
Jan. 3	Gen. 6-8; Luke 3
Jan. 4	Gen. 9-11; Luke 4
Jan. 5	Gen. 12-14; Luke 5
Jan. 6	Gen. 15-17; Luke 6
Jan. 7	Gen. 18-19; Ps. 3; Luke 7
Jan. 8	Gen. 20-22; Luke 8
Jan. 9	Gen. 23-24; Luke 9
Jan. 10	Gen. 25-26; Ps. 6; Luke 10
Jan. 11	Gen. 27-28; Ps. 4; Luke 11
Jan. 12	Gen. 29-30; Luke 12

Jan. 13	Gen. 31-33; Luke 13
Jan. 14	Gen. 34-36; Luke 14
Jan. 15	Gen. 37-38; Ps. 7; Luke 15
Jan. 16	Gen. 39-41; Luke 16
Jan. 17	Gen. 42-43; Ps. 5; Luke 17
Jan. 18	Gen. 44-46; Luke 18
Jan. 19	Gen. 47-48; Ps. 10; Luke 19
Jan. 20	Gen. 49-50; Ps. 8; Luke 20
Jan. 21	Ex. 1-2; Ps. 88; Luke 21
Jan. 22	Ex. 3-5; Luke 22
Jan. 23	Ex. 6-8; Luke 23
Jan. 24	Ex. 9-11; Luke 24
Jan. 25	Ex. 12-13; Ps. 21; Acts 1
Jan. 26	Ex. 14-16; Acts 2
Jan. 27	Ex. 17-20; Acts 3
Jan. 28	Ex. 21-22; Ps. 12; Acts 4
Jan. 29	Ex. 23-24; Ps. 14; Acts 5
Jan. 30	Ex. 25-27; Acts 6
Jan. 31	Ex. 28-29; Acts 7

---

# The New Jerusalem

**Revelation 21:1-27** As we draw near to the end of our yearly readings, this passage in Revelation should cause our hearts to leap. If you know your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, you can look forward to living in the New Jerusalem. The description of this holy city is mind boggling, but I believe every word of it. Yes, we will walk streets of gold, and there will be gates made of pearl. There will be no need of the sun or the moon because the light will emanate from the glory of God.