

The Biblical End-Times Prophecy Now Being Fulfilled Before Our Eyes

“We can see end-time prophecies being fulfilled all around us, but people are not paying attention. The four horsemen described in the book of Revelation 6 are beginning to somewhat show signs of their work. You only need to look at the last five years of the world, and you can see signs of their arrival--signs of their effects upon the earth.”

So opens this powerful video from Lion of Judah that delves into the book of Revelation to explore its hidden mysteries, including the way it reveals the true and living Christ as no other book in the Bible. Revelation also reveals the future, with its truths unfolding before our eyes. And one of these is an end-time prophecy now taking place all around us.

Watch the entire video above or at this link to learn more about this biblical prophecy and how you can approach the days ahead in faith, not fear. {eoa}

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How the Body of Christ Fulfills the Great Commission in 'Digital Babylon'

The modern body of Christ is full of nontraditional missionaries who use social media and digital tools to fulfill the Great Commission. As recently as 25 years ago, missionaries would surrender their lives to God; hop on a boat, plane or train; and stop off when they felt the Holy Spirit's prompting. But today, the Lord is raising up a generation of digital missionaries, who are using technology to share the gospel with the entire world.

For example, many people have never heard of Bobby Gruenewald, who serves as the innovation leader of in Edmond, Oklahoma—but they've probably used his app. Gruenewald is the founder of YouVersion, the world's No. 1 Bible app. YouVersion has been installed on over 400 million devices worldwide. Where missionaries used to smuggle Bibles into hostile countries, YouVersion can bring the Word directly to people's phones at no cost, translated in over 1,300 languages. Gruenewald says the internet is a game-changer for ministries—and it's an opportunity the church can't afford to dismiss.

"We're alive at a unique time in history," he explains. "God has put us here on this earth at this moment, when we have access to all these tools that can reach people all over the world. For us, that's not just an opportunity—it's a responsibility."

But it's not just about Bible apps. Christians are finding ways to share the gospel across every conceivable online platform. That includes obvious social networks like Facebook and Twitter, but it also includes Periscope, Instagram, Twitch and more. Evangelists on these diverse sites can preach

without ever setting foot in another city or country. And though the internet is host to many traps and temptations, the Holy Spirit is using these digital platforms to equip the saints and reach the next generation for Jesus.

Going Digital

Think of the internet as the new town square—a central place where people gather to meet, share life events and have fun. And like those old town squares, the internet can be the perfect place for an evangelist to witness and share the gospel with as many people as possible. But too many people neglect this outreach opportunity. In a June 2018 study, Barna Group found only 28% of Christians share their faith via social media.

That low evangelism rate is unacceptable for Jony Jimenez, creative director for UPPERRROOM, a Dallas-based church. UPPERRROOM streams all of its services online because, as Jimenez tells his team, “That’s where the people are.” Because of these online efforts, attendance is on the rise for both the digital and physical churches. Jimenez says it’s because the digital offerings make more people in the community aware of the church’s work.

But it’s not just about raising church attendance. If captured correctly, a digital audience can exceed even the largest megachurch crowds. Clark Campbell—co-founder of RVRB (pronounced “reverb”), which promotes clients online through streaming and social media—says technology makes the Great Commission more achievable than ever. Campbell works with major charismatic ministries, including Christ for all Nations (CfaN) and Jesus Image, and has seen the results firsthand.

“It makes not only business or financial sense to amplify a ministry’s message online, but also kingdom sense,” Campbell says. “That’s especially true when you’re trying to advance the message of hope, restoration, healing and the gospel.

Seven-hundred and fifty-thousand people can gather to hear the gospel in Nigeria during a CfaN crusade. What if 200,000 or even 2 million more could experience that online?"

Jimenez says the Holy Spirit can still speak and minister just as strongly through smartphones or a computer screen.

"We all experience the power of the Holy Spirit in various ways," Jimenez says. "It can happen through a movie, a billboard or other bizarre ways. ... In the same way, technology like iPhones are just devices that share information. That information can be inspiring, informative, funny, entertaining—or it can be Jesus. Phones have a way of being unbiased. They don't care what comes out of them. So our goal is to allow Holy Spirit to do His thing through YouTube, Instagram or Facebook."

Digital Babylon

Led by the Spirit, the internet can be a great kingdom tool. But it can also contain plenty of pitfalls for God's people.

For instance, though Jimenez supports online streaming for churches, he says God at first told UPPERRROOM not to stream, post to social media or even have an online presence. Why? Because it might distract the fledgling church from what was truly important.

"The Lord was very specific early on about not going online or promoting our church," Jimenez says. "When the church started, we didn't have a website, Instagram, Facebook—nothing—not because we didn't want it, but because the Lord told us to make it about Him and nothing else. Our goal was to minister to Him. When you lift Jesus, all men are drawn near. That's exactly what happened. Without any promotional marketing, people started showing up to church."

Two years later, the Lord clearly spoke to UPPERRROOM'S leadership again—this time, urging them to put their church

online. Now the church streams four services each week. During one season, the internet served as a snare for the church; during another, it was a gift from God.

“The internet is not good or bad,” Campbell says. “The internet is just the method we use to advance the gospel.”

Likewise, the same smartphones that bring the Bible to many around the world can be a spiritual hindrance to others.

“People have literal addictions to their devices and technology,” Gruenewald says. “Some people have been able to use technology to successfully connect them to the Bible or connect to a church. But then there are others who say, ‘Man, I have a tough time having my phone open, even if I’m reading my Bible, without being distracted by push notifications.’ I think each person has to understand where their weaknesses are and what the challenges might be, and then manage that by putting appropriate boundaries in place.”

Christians must also be cautious to influence their friends online—rather than being influenced themselves by the world. For this reason, David Kinnaman of Barna Group has even labeled the internet a “digital Babylon.” He compares young Christians with Daniel and his peers, who were plunged into an entirely different world with a different worldview, one that opposed God. Daniel and his close friends were able to succeed in that environment, but many peers succumbed to the temptations of Babylon.

“Certain corners of the internet have become full of hate, despair and hopelessness,” Campbell says. “I think Christians today, our generation, have the opportunity to stand in the middle of that fire and be God’s light. We can be this power in the middle of that hell you find in some corners of the internet. We can use the internet for good—being a beacon of light, love, Jesus and hope.”

Digital Harvest

To avoid those snares, Campbell ensures that he and his team at RVRB follow the Spirit's leading online, especially when working crusades and conferences. He says he's made a Spirit-led digital presence a core tenet of his web philosophy since RVRB's founding: "Even though we're not working in vocational ministry, we are tapping into the same Spirit-led resources and mindset."

When that happens, the internet can bring ministries three powerful benefits.

First, having an internet-based church can help people at their most vulnerable. Distraught individuals may Google resources about depression, suicide or health concerns they're uncomfortable sharing with their pastors. Gruenewald's team utilizes technology to serve ads or articles that help those people when they need it most.

"In that moment, we're able to draw them into community," Gruenewald says. "That's something you [can't] do in a physical context—to be privately in someone's home ... at the moment when they're by themselves or vulnerable."

That ad can then lead people to an online church or community, giving them a path toward life instead of death.

"The internet provides some really neat evangelism opportunities to share the gospel with people who are hurting," Gruenewald says. "Digital tools give you the ability to do what pastors alone don't have the availability to do."

Second, the internet can drive church attendance and Bible study. streams 84 services each week, with an average weekly attendance of 280,000. By comparison, Lakewood Church—the largest megachurch in the U.S.—averages approximately 52,000 people each week.

In addition, the YouVersion app has recorded more than 6.3 million Bible Plans started in 2019 alone.

The app also tracks a statistic called “Plan Day Completes” that breaks down like this: Each Bible Plan varies from three days to one year in length. Plan Day Completes count each day that is finished across all plans people are reading. If someone is reading the Bible in a year, they may not have completed a Bible Plan yet, but may have 14 days completed. In 2019, tallied 1.1 billion Plan Day Completes.

Third, the internet makes it easier than ever to reach beyond national borders and truly fulfill the Great Commission. Families can attend church services together even when separated by thousands of miles, in the case of deployed loved ones or missionaries serving overseas. In countries like India and Pakistan, where Christians are under constant persecution, the internet can provide a safe way for believers to attend church or fellowship with other believers.

“Technology is able to penetrate into countries and areas of the world where a physical church experience may be illegal,” Gruenewald says.

There’s never been a better time to go and make disciples. Finances, time or geography no longer have to be impediments to Christ’s Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jessilyn Lancaster is the managing editor of Movieguide.

How Holy Spirit Is Breaking the Chains of America's Opioid Crisis Victims

Every day, nearly 200 Americans die from a drug overdose. Millions more across the nation are unable to find freedom from addiction. In October 2017, President Donald Trump declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency. But Gary Blackard, president and CEO of Adult and Teen Challenge, says the opioid crisis is not a political problem; it's a spiritual one. He believes this addiction is fueled by spiritual warfare.

"We believe Satan is directing this epidemic, using it as a way to kill people and destroy families," Blackard says. "Every day, we see stories about parents being separated from their children, imprisoned for their drug use or imprisoned for the crimes they committed because of their addiction. This scene is at the forefront of not only the United States, but around the world, and it's a very, very spiritual battle. If you don't fight it spiritually, you miss that opportunity to really see Christ transforming lives."

Though some believe addiction could never affect them or their loved ones, for many believers, it already has. In a recent online survey conducted by Charisma Media, 84% of respondents said they or someone they know has been addicted to drugs. Drug addiction affects every race, class and religion without discrimination—and it's only growing worse.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 1999 to 2017, more than 700,000 people died of a drug overdose. Of the 70,200 drug overdose deaths in 2017, around 68% overdosed on an opioid. That number is six times higher than in 1999.

So how can Spirit-filled believers push back and shift the atmosphere in America? *Charisma* spoke with multiple sources—from addicts to parents to professionals—about the spiritual side of this national crisis for the Charisma News Podcast’s “Addicted” series (available now on). Their stories, presented one by one, offer definitive proof that the Holy Spirit is still in the miracle-working business.

Angel Colon

When Angel Colon woke up from a cocaine-induced blackout, his face was covered in blood. His bedroom appeared ransacked. Furniture was tossed upside down. When he asked his roommates what happened, no one knew.

But Colon did.

“What I didn’t tell my roommates at that moment was that I had a lot of nights where I had spiritual warfare,” Colon says. “There were a lot of nights where I fought with demons. ... I would wake up at night [and] I would literally hear demonic voices, and I’d fight with them, but even though I was in the world, I would rebuke them. I would pray, and they would go away.”

Colon made international headlines when he was one of 49 people wounded in the Pulse nightclub massacre in 2016. Most people know his story because the Lord set him free from homosexuality. But Colon says he rarely gets to share about freedom from another addiction—hardcore drugs.

Colon first turned to drugs when his father, a pastor, had an affair.

“I thought if my dad did this and he was a man of God, then I could live the way I wanted to,” Colon says. “That’s when I turned into an alcoholic.”

From drinking, he turned to ecstasy, cocaine and poppers, a

euphoria-inducing drug that leads to intense muscle relaxation.

“I would hear voices every time I went into a club or a party,” Colon says. “They would tell me I didn’t belong here. It was the Holy Spirit, and I would take a few more bumps of cocaine to drown out the voice.”

Still, he denied he had an addiction—until the night he believes he wrestled with a demon. That’s when he invoked the faith of his youth and commanded the demons to leave in the name of Jesus. But the experience shook him to his core.

“After that moment, I realized I had a serious problem,” Colon says. “And I realized the enemy wanted to take me out.”

Colon was desperate to break the addiction, so he prayed one of the most dangerous prayers of his life.

“I told God to do whatever [He needed to do] to bring me back to Him,” Colon says.

He prayed that prayer in 2015, about a year before he was shot approximately six times by a gunman at Pulse. Incredibly, Colon says the shooting actually saved his life. Because of his blood loss, he received a transfusion that saved him from going through painful withdrawals from the cocaine.

Colon says he is now completely clean, despite the repercussions of the shooting.

“I wake up every morning and see my scars, and it just gives me a chance to say, ‘Thank you, Lord,’ because not everyone has this chance,” he says. “There are others who gave their whole lives and are not here today, so I want to give everything I have to God. He is worthy of it all—all my praise. Everything I do is for Him and nobody else.”

Colon’s powerful testimony is something to celebrate.

By the grace of God, he never experienced an overdose, but other Christian families have to hold fast to their faith when addiction steals the life of their loved ones.

Robyn Korn

Robyn Korn's teenage son, Tim, died of a heroin overdose in 2010.

"He was one of the first [overdose deaths] before the heroin epidemic became really big," Korn says. "He was on the beginning wave of the heroin epidemic in Shelby County, Alabama."

By the church's standards, Korn did everything right. She raised her two sons in church. They attended Sunday school and youth group. Tim was even baptized at a conference hosted by a Spirit-filled church. He was also actively involved in Boy Scouts. Still, the addiction took root.

Korn says she believes two main factors contributed to Tim's addiction. First, the Korn family had relocated from overseas when Tim was in middle school. The only friends he could find were alcoholics and peers who smoked pot on a regular basis. Second, Korn's husband left the family when Tim was just 15.

"To go from a two-family income to a single-mom income impacted Tim's perspective," Korn says. "He was used to being able to have many things, and we really had to cut back. Plus, he went from having an active dad in his life to somebody who was no longer around at all. I think that created a lot of pain."

Tim went from drinking to marijuana to pills to heroin. But Korn kept fighting for her son's life and future with the help of the church.

"I never realized how much I was on my knees before God lifting Tim up, asking for help with him," Korn says. "Every

Sunday, I was up front getting prayer, and I wasn't ashamed to do that. I knew I needed God's help."

Church elders connected Tim to counseling services and even tried interventions on multiple occasions. Korn says many men in the church stepped in as father figures, taking her sons to monster truck rallies and other activities. The women of the church surrounded Korn with love, support and comfort, even on her darkest days.

"It was my 50th birthday, and Tim ended up going to juvenile detention center that night, but there was a group of women who took me out just to celebrate [my birthday] with me," Korn says. "I knew I wasn't alone, and I wasn't the only one trying to muddle through this."

People from the church met Korn at the hospital when Tim overdosed but didn't die. They also were the first people on the scene after paramedics when addiction ultimately took Tim's life.

Korn believes that it's this effort that allowed Tim to return to God in the months just before his death.

"He realized he needed God's help in trying to get out of this addiction process, and he would ask people for prayer," Korn says.

Six weeks before Tim's death, he was arrested for drug-related charges and sent to jail. While behind bars, he wrote a letter to his mother saying he was ready to be clean.

"He had hit rock bottom for a while, but I think adult jail really opened his eyes to what he wanted to do with his life," Korn says. "... He said the problem with addiction is that when you can stop, you don't want to, and when you want to stop, you can't. While Tim recognized he was an addict, he was very careful to prevent others from going down that path."

Korn says after his death, many people told her stories of how he tried to protect others from addiction. And even in Tim's death, Korn still saw the grace and mercy of the Lord. Two people accepted Christ after Tim's death, including his girlfriend. She was baptized in the very church Tim was raised in.

Today Korn uses Tim's death to minister to other families devastated by addiction.

"There is hope, and God can walk you through it," Korn says. "The one thing I have found in Tim's death is that I don't know where I'd be if it weren't for the grace of God. A loss like this is so devastating, but much more so if you don't have the hope and grace of God to support you through it."

Jenna Winston

Jenna Winston was angry to be alive. After doctors pumped 87 oxycontin out of her stomach, she woke to realize her suicide attempt had failed. That's when Winston says a beautiful woman named Rachel came into her hospital room.

"It was like 2:30 a.m., and it looked like a bad '80s horror movie, because I'm in a hospital gown and on a gurney in the corner, and there's really bad lighting," Winston says. "She comes in and closes the door behind her and says, 'I'm not supposed to do this. I could lose my job, but God's been telling me for two hours to come in here and tell you that He loves you, and if you look up, He's going to pull you out of this.'"

Winston cursed God, but something inside her broke.

"I just started weeping uncontrollably," Winston says. "I started opening up about all of this stuff that had been stuffed inside for so long. In that moment, everything changed. Within a couple of weeks, through the most supernatural chain of events, I ended up in faith-based

recovery.”

Once a raging addict who would fake tooth pain to get narcotics, Winston now runs Heartscaping, a prophetic deliverance ministry that helps heal the root of pain and addiction.

“Most people focus on their behaviors and what they do wrong,” Winston says of working with addicts and traumatized victims. “But my passion is getting to the roots behind what got them there in the first place, because when you can get those roots ripped out and loose the perfect love of heaven—the perfect love of Jesus—those behaviors fall off on their own.”

Winston says much of addiction is rooted in fear and lies.

“When people hear the word ‘deliverance,’ they think it’s like, ‘Come out, you evil spirit,’ but deliverance can be as simple as exchanging a lie for asking God what His truth is about me,” Winston says. “Sometimes, we need to let His truth be louder than the lies, and that brings so much deliverance.”

Winston knows this firsthand.

“I grew up in a home where I dealt with all kinds of abuses and traumas, at the same time as going to church and saying we loved each other,” Winston says.

By 18, she was married. At 19, she had her son. When she turned 28, she began to suspect her husband of cheating, which triggered suppressed memories.

“All the traumas I suffered and all the memories were popping up,” Winston says. “I became crazy with neurotic anxiety and ended [up] in the psych ward a few times for meltdowns where I took a lot of psych meds.”

That’s where she discovered her penchant for opiate-based pain pills.

"They made all my pain and anxiety go away, and I felt like Superwoman," she says. "It was like a lightbulb switch, and I became an addict overnight."

Winston says she was a functioning addict for years. She held a job while popping pills on the side.

"Slowly but surely, I lost it all," Winston says. "I went from beautiful homes and cars and functioning with a job to having my teeth pulled for drugs."

That's when she attempted suicide with the 87 oxycontin. Shortly after the failed attempt, Winston found herself in a faith-based recovery program. Still, she smuggled in weeks' worth of drugs, fearing the detox would kill her.

One morning, everything changed.

"I said out loud, 'God, I'm done picking and choosing which parts of me You can have,'" Winston says. "I took all the meds over to the main house [of the rehabilitation center], and we flushed them down the garbage disposal."

That was her natural deliverance. And two weeks later, she experienced her supernatural deliverance.

"Jesus was going into that darkness, and it had to leave," Winston says. "I had this moment where I just started screaming, and all the rage and anger inside me came out. I screamed forever. I remember falling out in my bed spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically exhausted. And Jesus crawled in that bed with me and just started to play with my hair. He goes, 'I am so sorry for the things that happened to you that made you not want to feel. And if you trust Me, I'm going to make every day of your life better than any day that you ever lived.'"

She surrendered everything to Him and now works with addicts as well as people who suffer from anxiety, depression and

other emotional disorders.

“My favorite thing in the world is seeing people get freedom,” Winston says. “Everything the Lord has set me free from, from rape to trauma to addiction to infidelities—from everything you can imagine, we can carry breakthrough.”

Caleb McCall

Caleb McCall was 13 years old the first time police arrested him for drug possession. What started with pot quickly evolved into snorting cocaine before junior high basketball games.

“My parents had an idea some things were going on, but they didn’t understand how bad it really was,” McCall says.

McCall was dealing the same cocaine he smoked and turned to methamphetamines as a freshman in high school. The drugs didn’t impede much on his athletic performance, and colleges began scouting him for basketball.

But at 18, he got his girlfriend pregnant.

“I turned down all the [college] offers and said I was going to work,” McCall says. “But keep in mind, I was a drug dealer. It was all I knew.”

McCall would pick up a job every few months to keep the police off his back, but drugs remained his consistent source of income.

“At 18, I’m a kid trying to raise a kid, just a drug dealer who has become addicted throughout my years of dealing and using drugs,” McCall says. “I always had them, and I was taking them as I was selling them.”

McCall said he wasn’t an intimidating presence at the time, which made him a target. His 6-foot-5 frame carried maybe 100 pounds.

“I wasn’t a violent person,” McCall says. “I was always soft-spoken and never really liked fighting. Word got out about this skinny kid who has all these drugs, all this money, and these other people who’d been dealing drugs were more violent. They began to hear about his, and two robberies changed the trajectory of where my life was heading for the next six years.”

The first occurred in a Walmart parking lot.

“They held a .45 caliber pistol to my chest and told me to give them the drugs,” McCall says. “My pregnant girlfriend was in the vehicle at this time, and they took all the drugs and robbed me.”

McCall didn’t retaliate, so other dealers jumped him in an apartment complex a few weeks later.

This time McCall changed his approach. He started injecting steroids to bulk up.

“I got really big really quick—I mean, really quick,” McCall says. “I started lifting weights, and the violence began coming out of me. My mentality changed.”

Now McCall was the one behind the gun, conducting robberies of his own. From age 19 to 26, he lived a life of crime and addiction. But he also began hearing the voice of the Lord.

At age 24, McCall says he went into church the morning after a bar fight. He was on crutches, and hobbled through the church doors after the service and shook the pastor’s hand.

“As we were leaving, he stopped me and said, ‘Man, let’s grab some lunch sometime,’” McCall says. “And I’m sitting there thinking, ‘Does this dude even know who I am?’ A lot of people in the church knew I was the biggest drug dealer in the area. But sure, yeah, let’s go to lunch.”

McCall says the pastor really began to minister to him and

offered him odd jobs at the church. The church became his haven.

“The reason why I went to church is I knew that the only way my life would change was if somehow God intervened and had mercy on me and changed my life,” he says.

As McCall began to paint walls, the pastor introduced him to an audio clip of Todd White’s testimony, detailing how God set the evangelist free from a life of drugs.

“I walked around the corner of the church and broke down crying,” McCall says. “Me! This big, violent, angry, mad drug dealer. But God was speaking to me through him. And I told God, ‘God, if You’ll do it for that man, You’ll do it for me.’ And there was a breakthrough that happened in my spirit.”

McCall says he spent the next six months living in hypocrisy, working at church but selling drugs on the side. When McCall got into more trouble, the pastor recommended a Teen Challenge program.

“When I got to the program, I realized Jesus is way more than I thought,” McCall says. “It’s so much better to actually live for Him, to have a relationship with Him, and not just go through the motions.”

McCall says he devoured the Bible, renewed his mind and felt a fresh call to ministry: “When I went to Teen Challenge, they taught me how to be a man, how to get up, go to work, do your devotions and spend time with the Lord.”

He now leads a program similar to Teen Challenge called Be the Bush Ministries in Middle Tennessee.

“We teach them Christ and disciple them,” McCall says.

It’s testimonies like McCall’s that really make a difference in the lives of addicts today.

Courage to Change

Breaking addiction is not just a physical or mental issue. Instead, it's often a supernatural occurrence led by the Holy Spirit. And without the Holy Spirit, taking down addiction seems impossible.

Ann White, founder of Courage for Life, has developed a method that helps addicts recover while reminding them of what's most important. She often ministers in prisons, where she preaches, teaches and encourages them to embrace God's Word and His peace that comes with it. White's own story, one of alcohol addiction, gives her a relatable platform when she ministers.

"It breaks down walls," White says. "When you begin to share your testimony—and it's the same way in churches, support groups or any place we are seeking help—we're encouraging other people in their walk with the Lord with hope and healing. That transparency is critical. As I begin to share my story, and my ministry team shares their personal stories, these gals can relate to our walks with insecurity, our walks with shame and self-condemnation, walks with mistakes and codependency. ... Pain recognizes pain, and these gals begin to connect."

White depends on the acronym "COURAGE" to preach the truth about recovery from any addiction or emotional bondage. "C" means to commit to change.

"We have to ask ourselves, 'What does God want me to change?'" she says. "I need to make a commitment that I'm going to do this—and it's not going to go out the window like our New Year's resolutions, because we're going to follow it up with six more steps."

"O" stands for overcoming obstacles: "When God is calling us to make a necessary change in our lives, we are going to look at what stands in our way. Is it other people? Our own issues? Codependency? Our attitude? Satan is going to be attacking us

at every turn, but we need to be prepared.”

The third step, “U,” is about uncovering your real self.

“It’s not who the world says we are, but who God says we are,” White says. “He is with us at every step and every turn to give us everything we need. When He calls us to do something, He is going to equip us to do it.”

The “R” step allows someone to replace worldly lies with scriptural truth. This step has been instrumental in White’s own life and ministry.

“Now when Satan tries to interject a lie into my life, I can say, ‘I reject that lie in the name of Jesus because the truth is...,’ and then I can recite the Scripture related to that,” White says. “When you practice it, when you put God’s Word in, it’s going to come right back out. When we put God’s Word in, we begin to grow stronger and more courageous in a positive way.”

“A” means to accept the things we cannot change.

“I can’t change someone else,” White says. “I can’t fix my husband or my kids, but the one person I can change is myself. And with God’s help, I can see that He’s trying to change me, but I need to put that other person in God’s hands and pray for that person.”

“G” is to grasp God’s love for you.

“Satan wants to keep on perpetuating the lie that you aren’t worthy,” White says. “But no, we must grasp God’s true love for us, how He died on the cross, He gave His life, He shed His blood because He knew we could not do it on our own. We must really get in touch with God’s love.”

And finally, “E” is to embrace a life of grace.

“We’ve got to have grace for others, so we receive God’s grace

for ourselves,” White says. “This can be quite difficult and very challenging if you’ve been wounded. But if you begin to look at the other person as a flawed human, a sinner in need of a Savior, ... it helps us to forgive other people when we understand what their background is.”

White’s faith-driven formula may be a difficult prescription to follow, but the results allow for addicts of any kind to find the freedom they crave delivered by the cross.

But no matter what method is employed for freedom, the only solution to a problem this big must come from heaven.

“This is an epidemic of unprecedented proportions,” Blackard says. “There are 20 million substance abuse users in the United States, 12 million with opioids. Every seven minutes, someone dies from a drug overdose. ... We’ve got a serious problem that if we don’t address the whole person, including their spiritual life and their soul, we’re missing a huge opportunity.”

Ultimately, Blackard believes Spirit-filled Christians are uniquely positioned to help those caught up in addiction. That’s because they can introduce addicts to true freedom through a relationship with the greatest chain-breaker of all.

“Christ is the transformer of all our lives, and He alone transforms addiction,” Blackard says. “...The Holy Spirit is very core to what we do, because we believe that, day in and day out, the Holy Spirit is the one that brings conviction, that brings refreshing and wisdom to our lives. The Holy Spirit engages and interacts with us on a day-to-day basis. So if you’re an addict needing that support and structure, the Holy Spirit is the first person to work with.” {eoa}

READ MORE: For more articles about Spirit-filled responses to drug addiction, visit [.](#)

Jessilyn Lancaster is the managing editor of Movieguide®..

CHARISMA is the only magazine dedicated to reporting on what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of believers around the world.

American Missionary Hunted by ISIS: 'Jesus Himself Is Appearing to Many Muslims'

"Sir, do you want to cut my head off?"

Stunned and aghast, the interpreter stares back at Victor Marx.

"I don't think he would appreciate—" the interpreter says.

"Just ask," Marx says. "I feel like that's my opening line."

After a moment of hesitation, the interpreter relays Marx's question to the high-ranking imam code-named "the Professor." This infamous imam served as a cleric under Saddam Hussein before eventually mentoring and training Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi—the leader of the Islamic State (ISIS).

So it was a surprise to Marx, a Marine-turned-missionary, when the Professor invited him to a meeting—but as a "high-risk" humanitarian serving in the most war-torn regions on earth, Marx has always been drawn to danger. He knew he had, at most,

72 hours to get in and out of the region before ISIS tracked him down. He had to be flown in under the cover of night. But Marx was following the Holy Spirit—and he believes it's the Holy Spirit who gave him his opening question.

For a moment, the interpreted question hangs uncomfortably in the air. Then the imam leans back and bursts into laughter.

“Victor, why would I cut your head off?” the Professor asks.

“Because you're Muslim!” Marx responds. “And you teach that I'm an infidel. Aren't you supposed to cut my head off?”

The Professor shakes his head, saying, “That's the problem with clerks and imams who have come under the sway of evil and have turned to ISIS.”

He reveals to Marx that Al-Baghdadi invited him to become the spiritual head of ISIS. The Professor considered it—on one condition: “I will [accept your offer] if you come and repent for everything you've done.”

Al-Baghdadi did not like that answer. Shortly thereafter, the Professor received word that ISIS operatives had murdered his brother. Several of the Professor's colleagues were murdered while praying in the mosque. The imam knows all too well the savagery of ISIS.

Max knows it too. He has served in the Middle East for nearly five years as a humanitarian missionary. His ministry, All Things Possible Ministries, goes where no one else wants to. Marx travels covertly through the Middle East, meeting with high-ranking Muslim leaders and the families of the Islamic State militants. In that time, he's seen men, women and children placed in impossible situations, where they need the love of Christ expressed to them in practical ways.

“I want Christians to understand that we don't have to agree with Islam at all, because I don't,” Marx tells *Charisma*. “My

way of salvation to God is a relationship through Jesus Christ. ... [But] our first goal is to show people in need—specifically women and children who have been affected by terrorism and ISIS—the love of the Lord.”

Love Your Enemies

Marx grew up in a chaotic and abusive household. As a result, he had a lot of unresolved anger and bitterness in his heart.

“I come from a background where my mother was married six times,” Marx says. “I’ve gone to 14 schools and grew up in 16 or 17 houses. I was abused as a kid, and I was very disillusioned by some aspects of Christianity and the church.”

Everything changed for Marx in 1983, when terrorists drove two trucks into service-member barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The attack killed 241 U.S. service personnel, including 220 Marines. And Marx found a cause to channel his anger into.

“I joined the Marine Corps, which directed my anger toward Arabs,” Marx says. “I trained and wanted to fight. I wanted to kill bad people. But the reality is that God had His hand on me.”

Ultimately, the love of God changed Marx’s heart, and his hatred for the Arab people turned into passionate love.

“The reality is that I went from hating the Arabs and Muslims to having a love for them,” Marx says. “Once you hold one of their children, you realize God’s love for them, and that’s what we’re trying to do.”

God’s love transformed Marx from a hardened Marine into a devoted missionary. His military background equipped him with the discipline, training, structure and leadership skills necessary to lead teams into some of the most dangerous places on the planet—right into the heart of ISIS’s territory.

Three weeks before Marx spoke with *Charisma*, he and his wife,

Eileen, visited a highly guarded camp in Syria that wives and children of ISIS members call home.

“The men are taken prisoners, and the wives and children can’t be released,” Marx says. “Many of the wives are definitely radicalized, so they’re in this camp. And we had to use tactical wisdom, prayer and relationships with leaders and decision makers in Iraq and Syria to get in. [Americans] don’t have any clue, because the media really keeps Americans in the dark, but some figures say there are over 64,000 ISIS wives and children in one camp.”

At the Syrian camp he visited, Marx says 85% of the occupants were younger than 18. He and his associate team go into camps like this to meet the physical needs—not necessarily to evangelize.

When asked why, Marx says, “We are not there to convert Muslims. That’s the job of the Holy Spirit alone.”

Some Christians may interpret that as cowardice or a misguided effort to appease. Marx says he often encounters flak from other believers who think he should be more vocal about preaching when working in camps.

“I call them ‘super saints,’” Marx says. “They ask me why I’m not over here preaching and [suggest] maybe I’m just not that good at it. But then I invite them to fly over themselves. I tell them I’ll take them to a very rich environment with many Muslims, and they can show me how it’s done. I’ve yet to have anyone take me up on that, though.”

Instead, Marx says, it’s about using the gifts God has given him. And this attitude has granted him favor in the eyes of Islamic leaders and the chance to bring the kingdom of God in places that were previously untouchable. He’s positioned himself as a safe, loving figure—and that means he’s ready to respond when Muslims begin to ask supernatural questions.

“The Lord Jesus Himself is appearing to many, many Muslims,” Marx says. “They have a respect for Jesus as a prophet, and we know that that’s something we can agree on. [Christians] just take it to the next level because He is the Son of God who offers us eternal life through His death and resurrection.”

Miracles in the Middle East

Marx isn’t the only one ministering in the area. Bethel worship artist Sean Feucht agrees that the spread of the Islamic State has allowed his ministry, Light a Candle, to evangelize to people who have never heard the gospel.

“Satan has overplayed his hand,” Feucht says. “The massive amounts of oppression, darkness and wickedness that these beautiful people have experienced? The Lord is using it.”

Feucht’s approach is to use music to shift the spiritual atmosphere and usher the Holy Spirit into even the darkest places.

“Songs go to places where sermons can never go,” Feucht says. “We’ve taken songs into palaces, into war zones, into places where you just can’t preach. Our songs carry the message [of Jesus]. They carry the heart, the DNA [of who God is].”

On one of his trips to Iraq, Feucht brought his guitar into a refugee camp built near a compound previously run by ISIS. The compound had been destroyed after allied forces reportedly dropped a bomb on it.

“We went literally in that destroyed house and released the song of redemption and of hope,” Feucht says. “I felt like that was an important thing for us to do, to be prophets of hope and sing over the nation and release salvation.”

Feucht’s team recently filmed one of its trips into an Iraqi refugee camp for the documentary *Heart and Hands: Iraq*. The film tells the incredible testimonies of the Christian men and

women in the camp and how their faith endured through horrific persecution.

During filming, Feucht's team encountered one man who said Jesus appeared to him twice in a dream.

"They were hitting me with big blocks on my body," the man told Feucht of his persecutors. "But the stones were not affecting me. And the last time, they drenched me with 20 liters of gasoline, and they burned me. But I didn't burn."

Feucht says the refugee's story, while profound, is not unique.

"The amazing thing is, once we start talking about Jesus, we realize how many people have had encounters with Him," Feucht says. "So many people have actually had dreams and visions, and it gives us a really great foundation to begin to speak to them."

Feucht says Muslims need the encounters to embrace Christianity.

"Arguing doesn't work," Feucht says. "Apologetics don't really work, but really talking about Jesus [works]. I really believe that one of the most powerful ways for Muslims to encounter Jesus is through divine encounters."

These divine encounters often manifest in supernatural miracles. Feucht recalls meeting with one family who had recently escaped the Islamic State, many of them bearing battle wounds. The experience was filmed for the documentary.

"You watch as one by one, every single person in the tent gets healed," Feucht says. "The coolest part about that is there was a little girl who was just 2 years old, and she had some really bad injuries to her arms and had never been able to raise them above her head. We prayed that the Lord would just straighten her arms. She raised them above her head and she

started clapping, and her parents basically started crying because they couldn't believe what was happening."

Evangelist Robby Dawkins has also witnessed the Holy Spirit at work in the Middle East. Earlier this year, Dawkins was in Pakistan when the Holy Spirit began to move with healing power.

"I brought 13 Muslims on stage with severe back pain," Dawkins recalls. Instead of praying himself, though, he had 12-year-old girls, also Muslim, lay their hands on the group. Healing flowed, and so did salvation. Dawkins reports they all came to Christ, along with 15,000 others.

"The organizer of the event shouted at me, telling me that I would get everyone killed, and stormed off the stage," Dawkins said. "He sent another translator to come up and finish the night, but when he saw the thousands of Muslims accept Jesus, he had a bit of a change of heart."

Anwar Fazal has seen miracles among his people as well. Fazal is the senior pastor of Eternal Life Church in Pakistan, founder of Isaac TV and operator of a 24/7 prayer house. He says that as he surrendered to the Holy Spirit, he began to see miracles break out among his countrymen.

"Many people are receiving the power of Holy Spirit baptism and being filled with the fire of Jesus Christ," Fazal says. "Many people are receiving healing signs and wonders. The blind can see. The paralyzed are healed. We also see many miracles through dreams."

Fazal reports that one man came into the prayer room ready to die. Doctors had just released him from a cancer hospital with no hope. The man suffered from horrid bedsores and bled profusely from his backside.

"The man asked me to please be in prayer for him so he could receive new life," Fazal says. "He just wanted to die.

Everything was broken in his body.”

After the prayer, Fazal says he ran outside to gargle water and breathe fresh air. When he turned around, he was shocked.

“The bleeding stopped,” Fazal says. “He was walking, and he has no cancer. Glory to Jesus!”

It’s stories like these that prove God’s goodness is still at work among Muslims, provided Christians operate from a place of love. That’s why Marx says it’s important to remember that love is always the first priority. It’s God’s love that sets believers apart.

“What is infectious in the region is love and care, and that speaks volumes,” Marx says.

Marx says he was in Washington, D.C., attending a lecture with a Nobel Peace Prize journalist, and the discussion moved to the Islamic State. The journalist—an alleged expert on ISIS—was asked, “What do we do about ISIS?”

He admitted, “I don’t know.”

That’s when Marx laid out his work and what he’s seeing on the ground. And he laid out an unconventional strategy first proposed years ago by Jesus: Love your enemies.

“Politically, we’re limited,” Marx told them. “Militarily, we can’t kill an ideology. And some people need to be killed. It’s a reality in the work of iniquity, because these people won’t change. They kill and burn babies. They have to reap the consequences of their actions. If they’re not stopped, they’ll continue what we call a manifestation of evil. But what will work is love.” {eoa}

READ MORE: *For more stories about missionaries, check out .*

Jessilyn Lancaster is the managing editor of *Movieguide*.

CHARISMA is the only magazine dedicated to reporting on what the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of believers around the world. If you are thirsty for more of God's presence and His Holy Spirit, subscribe to *CHARISMA* and join a family of believers who choose to live life in the Spirit.

Theaters Cancel 'Unplanned' Showing Due to Death Threats

Due to safety concerns, two movie theaters in Canada have canceled the screening of *Unplanned*.

Precautions had to be taken after theater owners received death threats.

LifeSiteNews reports that the cinema owners contacted police after receiving threats they perceived as real, causing them to be "fearful for their families."

'Unplanned' chronicles Abby Johnson's eight-year career as a director at Planned Parenthood and her conversion to the pro-life movement after watching a doctor perform an abortion via ultrasound.

The film has overcome multiple obstacles, including an R-rating by the Motion Picture Association of America and having its ads banned on major television channels.

CBN News previously reported Johnson saying, “I hope this film will be a really powerful tool that people can use moving forward to show the truth of abortion and show also the powerful, redemptive nature of Christ.”

“We just want people to understand that this is a very powerful tool. It’s not about me,” she added.

The film raked in more than \$6 million and took fifth place at the box office in its opening weekend.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this story from our content partners at CBN News.

[Listen to the podcast](#) to hear more from Abby Johnson.

How God Totally Changed Missy Robertson’s Business Plan

Missy Robertson, a former reality TV star, stumbled into hiring addicts for her jewelry business, Laminin.

“When I started this jewelry company, my initial thought was to create a business where I could spend more time with my kids and have a community of moms who needed to add that support to their families but also wanted to be with their children,” Robertson says.

“And then God said, ‘No, we’re going to take this in a different direction,’” Robertson says.

Her business has flourished as she’s honored the Lord and hired multiple women who have a history with opioid addiction.

“Whether it’s word of mouth, whether it’s God sending me these women because of what we’re doing and being successful at it, He’s like, ‘This is what you need to do.’”

Robertson said that though she hasn’t intentionally sought out women with a history of drug addiction, those are the women who often need jobs.

She shares their heartbreaking stories—and the Lord’s redemptive power—in her interview for “Addicted” on the Charisma News podcast, sponsored by Courage for Life.

Listen to the podcast for all the details.

Brazil’s President Addresses 3 Million Attendees at March for Jesus

Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro addressed 3 million attendees at Sao Paulo’s March for Jesus last month.

“You were decisive in helping change the destiny of Brazil,” Bolsonaro said. “It is very good to be among friends. And even better when they are friends with God in their hearts.”

Conservative commentator Steve Turley says Bolsonaro’s presence could be indicative of a rise of a global Christian civilization.

Watch the video to hear Turley explain.

Publix Bagger Inspires Customers Because 'I Have Jesus in My Heart'

They say everyone knows Joey Hale. The Publix bagger has been a staple at the Birmingham, Alabama, area store since it opened in 2016.

His positive attitude and corny jokes make customers feel welcomed at the supermarket.

But Hale says his demeanor stems from something deeper.

"I have Jesus in my heart, and that makes me think so much about others," Hale says.

It's his faith that's kept him going, even after multiple brain injuries and surgeries.

Watch the video to hear more of his inspiring story.

Pulse Survivor Details Never-Before-Told Story of Demonic Encounter

When Angel Colon woke up from a cocaine-induced blackout, his face was covered in blood.

His bedroom appeared ransacked, with furniture tossed upside down. When he asked his roommates what happened, no one knew.

But Angel did.

“What I didn’t tell my roommates at that moment was that I had a lot of nights where I had spiritual warfare, a lot of nights where I fought with demons. I had a lot of nights where even though I was in the world, I still went through spiritual warfare. That’s how I knew there was a purpose for me,” Colon says.

“I would wake up at nights where I would literally hear demonic voices, and I’m fighting with them, but even though I was in the world, I would rebuke them. I would pray, and they would go away.”

Colon’s story made international headlines when he was one of 49 people wounded in the Pulse massacre in 2016.

Most people know his story because the Lord set him free from homosexuality.

But for the “Addicted” series on the Charisma News podcast, sponsored by Courage for Life, Colon opens up about his raging drug addiction and the intense spiritual warfare that fueled his habits.

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