

# When People You Love Become Stumbling Blocks

Stumbling blocks. You don't want to be one. And you don't want them in your life, either. But what do you do when the stumbling block comes from someone you love dearly, or from someone with whom you know you are called to labor in God's Kingdom?

In order to avoid stumbling blocks, we need to recognize them when they arise along the narrow path. At the most basic level, a stumbling block is an obstacle to our progress in the Lord; it's something that gets in between us and God's perfect plan for our lives; it is anything that leads us into temptation. It's a snare. Strong's Concordance defines a stumbling block as "any person or thing by which one is (entrapped) drawn into error or sin."

The phrase "stumbling block" is used 14 times in various translations of the Bible. I am going to focus on just one in this exhortation—one that came straight from the lips of the Anointed One to my spirit. It's an example that shows how even those closest to us—even those called to walk with us and do great things for the Lord alongside us—can at times present a stumbling block in our path. How do we deal with loved ones who present stumbling blocks in a spirit of grace, mercy and love without falling into the trap?

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## Why You (Still) Can't Buy a

# Spiritual Breakthrough

A newspaper reporter called me the other day to solicit my opinion on an elderly woman's so-called "divinely inspired concoctions." Her little shop of mystic wonderments peddles oils, herbs, sprays and candles that claim to bring love into your life, and even get others to obey your every command. As the reporter described the woman's mixtures, supposedly potent enough to solve any problem known to man, I couldn't help but see mental images of the apostle Paul wrestling the beast at Ephesus. But I digress ... .

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## Looking Into the Supernatural Mirror for Prophetic Revelation of Christ

Did you know that about 17 percent of Americans believe the Bible is full of man-written fables and fairy tales? Only 30 percent believe the Word of God is the literal Word of God. So says a recent Gallup poll.

Although fairy tale writers draw inspiration from the Bible, I'm here to tell you that the Bible can in no way be compared to Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland or Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, where a wicked queen peered into a mirror, mirror on the wall to get assurance that she was the fairest of them all.

However, there is a supernatural mirror, if you will, that we can look into to get assurance that we are the most cherished of them all. This mirror transforms us from glory to glory. It's called the Bible, the Word of God, the Holy Scripture. And its authors, inspired by the Holy Ghost, compared it to a mirror on three occasions. By exploring the Bible as a mirror, we gain a clearer understanding of how to become more like the holiest of all.

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## **Can You Really Buy a Spiritual Breakthrough?**

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The elderly woman has 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and a divination sanctum littered with statues and images of various

saints. A necklace adorned with charms of the tools each saint works with dangles from her neck, according to the reporter's observations.

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## **Three Wise Words From A Prophetic Granny That Saved My Life**

Some say you can smell the spirit of death. I wasn't born again when my great-grandmother was on her death bed—discerning of spirits wasn't in operation—but I somehow still knew it was the last time I would see her.

And she had something important she wanted to tell me.

I want to share those same words with you; words with eternal implications. But I first want you to understand the spirit from which they came.

My great-grandmother was born in the 1800s and lived to be nearly 100 years old. During her lifetime seven states joined the Union. She lived through the women's suffrage and several world-shaking wars. She also lived through the Azusa Street Revival, witnessed the rise of a young Billy Graham and witnessed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Mama Norris, as she was affectionately known by hundreds, was also a pillar of the church. She helped plant a handful of churches in the small Florida town she called home. (I still have her Bible in my room and relish to read all of the Scriptures that she underlined; Scriptures that touched her

heart.)

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# **Beware: A Prophetic Warning for the End-Time Church**

Beware. It's prophetic word of warning to be on your guard; a verbal alert that danger lies ahead. But are modern-day Christians bearing in mind the Scriptural admonishment to "beware" in these last days?

Current news headlines warn us to beware of the stock market; to beware of partisan politicians; to beware of Muslim extremists and so on, and so on, and so on. To be sure, society offers us so many ominous cautions that it's easy to see how men's hearts could fail them for fear as a sinful world waxes worse and worse (Luke 21:26).

Although godless fear mongers often issue notices to "beware" that are motivated by greed and power, there is wisdom in warnings that originate from a pure and godly source. And the New Testament is full of such red alerts. Beloved, there are flashing sirens throughout the Word of God to warn us of danger all around—but the first place we need to look is within our own hearts.

Listen, much is written about the Beatitudes, as well it should be. (The Beatitudes are the foundation of kingdom living.) But the Bible also warns us to "walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). Walking circumspectly means to consider all circumstances and possible consequences. So when the Bible says to "beware," we should abandon our pride and receive the word.

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# Battling Babylon

*Benny Perez in a 'war' to save his church campus*



Benny Perez isn't wrestling against flesh and blood—but he is wrestling. The pastor of The Church of South Las Vegas, a 4,000-member charismatic megachurch in Henderson, Nev., is battling a Babylonian system to save his campus from foreclosure.

“This is a spiritual battle,” he says. “The enemy loves to stop churches by using money. We are one building away from feeding and clothing more people, reaching more youth and children, and helping more prostitutes. This is not about a bank. It is a principality and a power.”

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# The Muslim Mission

*Barnabas Aid is working against trends such as the Insider Movement to convert Muslims to Christ*



Barnabas Aid is on a mission to bring hope and relief to the persecuted church—but the group also has a massive outreach to Muslims. The international ministry has more than 400 full-time missionaries and pastors in Islamic countries. It distributed nearly 1 million tracts last year and funded TV and radio broadcasts that evangelize the Muslim world. Barnabas Aid also supports new church construction and income-generating projects that sustain converts when they lose everything for following Christ.

“We are seeing considerable growth of the church in the Muslim world. The Lord is doing a remarkable thing,” says Patrick Sookhdeo, international director for Barnabas Aid, who himself converted from Islam in the 1970s. “The numbers are not as some have been reporting about many millions of Muslims each year turning to Christ. Still, Muslims are turning to Christ in an unprecedented way.”

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## **FCC Kills Controversial Fairness Doctrine**

The Fairness Doctrine is dead, and few conservatives will shed a tear. The Federal Communications Commission on Monday official removed the controversial doctrine from the Code of Federal Regulations.

“The elimination of the obsolete Fairness Doctrine regulations will remove an unnecessary distraction. As I have said, striking this from our books ensures there can be no mistake that what has long been a dead letter remains dead,” said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski.

The rule enabled the FCC to compel broadcasters to air opposing viewpoints on controversial issues that the government decided to be of public importance. The Fairness doctrine was first put on the books in 1949, and later eliminated in 1987. But there was a push by liberals to give new life to the old rule.

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# Virginia Earthquake Rattles D.C., New York

New York is shaking—and it's not just Wall Street. In what some may view as a sign of the end times, an earthquake struck Virginia on Tuesday afternoon, rocking the Northeast U.S. No injuries have been reported.

*DID YOU FEEL THE  
QUAKE? SEND IN AN EYEWITNESS REPORT TO CHARISMA NEWS.*

The earthquake hit Washington, D.C., forcing the Pentagon to evacuate, before rolling over Manhattan and causing skyscrapers to sway in the sky. Even the White House felt the shaking. CNN reports that traders on the New York Stock Exchange felt the shaking and nonetheless shouted "Keep trading!"

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the earthquake was half a mile deep. But the shaking reached southward to Chapel Hill, N.C. The center of the quake was near Louisa, Va., south of Washington and northwest of Richmond.

Developing...