

Dads, Your Impact Is Greater Than You Know

The small child froze in her footsteps and slightly cocked her head to listen more carefully. What was that sound?

In the stillness of the hallway near the family bedrooms, she heard it again. It sounded like a low, mournful cry ... a soulful weeping.

Knowing that her daddy was the only other person home, she tiptoed silently and slowly toward his room, filled with concern and curiosity. As she drew closer, the little girl could see that the door stood slightly ajar. She gently pushed it open just enough to peer inside.

A sense of holiness permeated the air, and in an instant her impressionable young mind and spirit were impacted so deeply that she would embrace the memory of that moment countless times throughout her life.

I was that little girl. And what I experienced that day some 50 years ago would forever define my father and guide my faith.

In the solace of his room, I saw my daddy, who was a pediatrician, kneeling beside his bed weeping and praying from the depths of his soul for one of his young patients. As the sobs and tears flowed freely from this great man, I lingered for a moment in breathless awe as I felt my faith in God soar beyond my own understanding.

My Papa Doc, as he affectionately became known in his later years, was a Johns Hopkins-educated pediatrician. He was the epitome of the brilliant, loving physician often portrayed in Norman Rockwell paintings. But as I peeked into my father's room to discover the source of the mysterious sound, it became

clear that my daddy relied on the awesome power and wisdom of the Great Physician to guide him.

This Father's Day I'm so grateful that I experienced the life-changing difference that Christ-centered, Bible-believing, Holy Spirit-filled fathers can make in the lives of their children.

Humble in spirit, yet confident in the Word of God, Dad didn't just "practice" his faith—he lived it. He studied diligently, worked tirelessly and prayed endlessly. He was a quiet man, but his actions boldly proclaimed the hope and grace of Jesus.

Dad loved, trusted and adored my mother in a manner rarely found in marriages today. His actions and heart toward Mom exemplified a biblical command that many don't even know exists: "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church, and even gave Himself up for her" (see Eph. 5:25).

He was a man of honor and the quintessential Southern gentleman. He approached others with the greatest of respect, defended those unjustly treated and kept silent when personally offended. I remember his telling me, "Becks, I just don't think it's right to question the word or the memory of another Christian in public."

For Dad, honesty wasn't the best policy, it was the only policy. I recall driving by a beautiful Georgia cotton field during a family vacation one summer. Having never seen a "snow-topped" crop before, my brothers and sister and I started begging Mom and Dad to stop so we could pick a few. Dad explained that it wouldn't be right to take even one of what didn't belong to us.

We then proceeded to drive for several miles well out of our way in search of the farmer's house to ask permission. The farmer graciously gave us our cotton, but the real gift that day came from our dad. Ever mindful of his own shortcomings and imperfections, Dad privately called on the mercy, wisdom

and grace of God throughout each day. As he worked, walked or read, if you looked closely, you'd often see his lips moving ever so slightly in prayer.

Dr. Henry J. Redd Jr. lived the life we should all strive for. He wasn't just a good man; he was extraordinary. I count it among the greatest of blessings to have been his daughter. And although he purposefully and intentionally taught me well, the greatest impact he had on me was that morning when he thought no one was looking.

Dads, your impact is far greater on your children than you may ever know. I'm sure there are days when you wonder if your tears and prayers and sacrifices have been worth it. But be encouraged ... your children "peek around the corner," listen intently and remember your actions. Your faithful example will make an eternal difference in their lives. {eoa}

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How You Can Develop a Power-Packed Prayer Life

Jesus addressed three types of prayers in Matthew 6. Let's examine Matthew 6:6 (NKJV), the prayer of an heir: "When you pray, go into your room ... shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place, and [He] will reward you openly."

1. The Priority of Prayer: Jesus said, “When you pray,” implying He expects all believers to pray and make no excuses. Prayer does not take time, it saves time, so prioritize prayer if you want it to be effective.

2. The Place of Prayer: Our prayers should be both private and public (Matt. 6:6, 21:13). Your prayer place is sacred and dedicated to meeting with God.

3. The Privacy of Prayer: Prayer is for intimacy with God. “Shutting the door” means removing distractions. When we pray, God looks at our heart’s posture. Is it facing Him? Closing the door helps realign our heart, attention and affection toward God.

4. The Plan of Prayer: Biblical prayer is verbally expressing your thoughts to God, as Jesus said to do in Luke 11:2. In Jeremiah 33:3, God promises to answer those who call to Him. Talk to God.

5. The Person of Prayer: Scripture teaches us to pray to the Father God, through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 15:16).

6. The Promise of Prayer: If God doesn’t answer your prayer as you want, don’t be discouraged. He promises to reward those who seek Him diligently (Heb. 11:6). Keep praying.

When in prayer, don’t pray out of desperation—pray out of faith. Make prayer a consistent, regular and habitual part of your life. Stick with prayer until you develop that Christian discipline, not so you can be saved, but so God can release His grace, strength and anointing into your life. {eoa}

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the salvation of souls, healing, deliverance and the raising of young leaders. He leads the annual Raised to Deliver conference, which attracts thousands from all over the globe. He leads three different internships. He is a sought-after speaker at conferences and camps.

The Prophetic Significance of the Jubilee

Over the past few years there has been a plethora of books written about special times according to the biblical or Jewish calendar. These books have stoked the fires of those who are prophecy-minded. Some have written books about the Shmita year while others focused upon the Yovel or Jubilee years.

Each of these books looked at the relationship between these biblical concepts and current events. Some of these authors proclaim deep meaningful insights into future events by connecting the Shmita and Jubilee with the words of the prophets from both *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and *Brit Chadasha* (New Testament).

To comment about my personal thoughts about each of these books would take more space than this article would allow. But I will say that if you are reading books concerning the Shmita and Jubilee to find out what is going to happen in the future, you are looking in the wrong direction.

In order to understand the Shmita and, by extension, Jubilee, as well as their relationship to current and future events, we

must understand that the Shmita and Jubilee are connected to each other—because we count the Shmita in order to arrive at the Jubilee. In order to understand the prophetic significance of the Jubilee we have to start by looking in Torah at the words of the commandment concerning Jubilee. Here is what we read in Leviticus 25:10 (TLV):

“You are to make the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It is to be a Jubilee to you, when each of you is to return to his own property and each of you is to return to his family.”

As we read these words from Leviticus we notice several key things. First, we see that the Jubilee was to be holy or separate. Second, it was to be proclaimed throughout the land. Third, liberty was to be proclaimed to everyone.

Almost everyone who knows anything about the Year of Jubilee is familiar with the first two of these. I would like to focus on the last provision, which most people read but do not fully pay attention to because we tend to focus on the provisions of the Jubilee rather than the “who” of Jubilee.

Let me clarify: Most people understand that at the proclamation of the Jubilee servants were released, debts were released and property was returned. What we don't often pay attention to is that the proclamation of liberty was not just to those who were servants or to those who owed money or even to those who would reclaim property they had sold. The proclamation was to all the inhabitants of the land—not just to servants but also to those who were served, not just to the debtors but also to those who held the debt, and not just to those who had sold their property but also to those who had purchased the property.

The Jubilee liberty affected both sides of the equation. It set free both the servant and the served. The debtor and the lender. The ones who sold their property and the ones who

bought the property. Because the truth is that both the servant and the served were in bondage. Both the lender and the debtor were in bondage, and both the seller and the purchaser were in bondage.

Earlier I mentioned that if you were reading books concerning the Shmita and Jubilee to find out what is going to happen in the future, you are looking in the wrong direction. This is because the most significant prophetic fulfillment concerning the Shmita and Jubilee took place in Capernaum nearly 2,000 years ago, when Yeshua stood up and read the words from Isaiah 61:1-3 (TLV):

The Ruach of Adonai Elohim is on me, because Adonai has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of Adonai's favor and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of Adonai, that He may be glorified.

As we read in Luke 4:17-21 (TLV):

When the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him, He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Ruach Adonai is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of Adonai's favor."

He closed the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue were focused on Him. Then He began to tell them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled

in your ears.”

As Yeshua read these words from Isaiah He sat down and stated that the words of the prophecy in Isaiah 61 had been fulfilled *that day*. So if you want to understand the prophetic significance of the Year of Jubilee, you won't find it in books concerning 21st-century America or Russia, or for that matter even 21st-century Israel. You have to look back to that day in Capernaum when Yeshua proclaimed not that *all will be set free* but that *all have been set free*.

It doesn't matter if you are the servant or the one being served, the borrower or the lender, the one who sold his land or the one who bought it. That day, Yeshua proclaimed liberty to all and gave sight to the blind so that we could see just how oppressed by the bondage of this world we had become. This liberty goes beyond the financial and physical aspects of the Jubilee and opens our eyes to the spiritual aspects and bondage we have allowed to consume us.

As you read these words today, it doesn't matter if you are a debtor or a lender, whether you work for someone or others work for you. Please allow the *Ruach* to search your heart and show you if your thoughts and actions are being controlled by your circumstances, and if they are, please allow Yeshua's words proclaiming liberty that day to become real to you today. {eoa}

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Will Time Exist in Heaven?

There is a common misconception that time itself is done away with once we are in heaven. The reason many think this is because God is outside of the time domain. But are we? The Bible contains many verses that indicate there will be the passing of time for those in heaven. However, the burden of time will no longer exist. The pressure we now feel to hurry or wait will be removed.

Some say that time is actually an enemy, and is the result of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. This is not so. Time existed before the fall. Remember when God created the earth before there was sin? He established evening and morning, which were the first day, and then the second day, and so on for those six days (see Gen. 1).

There is also the period of time coming on the earth after the Tribulation. It is called the Millennium. According to the Bible, it is a thousand-year period of time that has been determined by God. This is when Christ will reign on the earth (read Rev. 20:3). It will be precisely 1,000 years in duration.

Did you know that time will also exist for those in hell? Revelation 14 states, "The smoke of their torment will ascend forever and ever. They have no rest day or night" (Rev. 14:11a). This is a reference to the awareness of days and nights. There are additional verses that say the same.

Here on the earth, we are all burdened with the pressure of not having enough time. It is like a weight on our shoulders, something we are always aware of. In heaven, though, there will be no shortage of time, as we will be living in eternity.

The negative aspects of time will no longer exist. We will be redeemed from its pressure and burden. Time will be only a commodity that we will never exhaust. {eoa}

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For more information about Bill Wiese and Soul Choice Ministries please visit us at:

You can find more of Bill's teachings at:

Your Spirit-Powered Secret to True Success

'Tis the season of graduations ... and graduation speeches. And almost every speech will encourage the graduates in their pursuit of success.

A recent search for the word "success" in the Amazon books category yielded more than 60,000 results. At the click of a button, 60,000 books are available today on how to become successful!

Let's face it. No one wakes up thinking, *today I will strive to be a failure*. Yet we often search for the secret to true

success in all the wrong places. For the Christian, the key to real success is a simple, four-part instruction found—where else?—the Bible.

Second Corinthians 5:7-10 (NIV) tells us: “For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

The answer to a successful life is all there, spelled out in easy-to-follow details:

1. Live by faith: “For we live by faith, not by sight” (v. 7).

Everyone lives by faith in *something*. Even if you consider yourself to be an atheist, you still live by faith. When you set your alarm clock to wake up at a certain time, you have faith it will work. When you flip the light switch, you have faith the light will turn on without sparking a fire inside your walls. When you place the key in your car’s ignition, you have faith the car will start.

According to the Bible, the first key to success is found in living by faith. And the object of our faith is the Lord who created us to glorify His name.

2. With an eternal perspective: “We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (v. 8).

Is this life all there is? Is this the best life we can expect? Even if we don’t believe that, we often live as if we do. We make the pursuit of comfort and convenience a priority. But everything about this life is temporary. Every earthly pursuit will fade into the obscurity of extinction.

Doesn't it make sense to maintain a perspective that values things that will last? That's true success. Anything less will fail because it will pass away.

3. With a right goal: "So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it" (v.9).

Advice on obtaining success usually mandates the inclusion of goals. When I worked in the corporate world, one of the first things I learned about goals is that they must be .: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound. So how does the apostle Paul's goal to please the Lord stack up against the . standard?

– **Specific:** *We're to please the Lord first, before we please ourselves or other people. And the details of what this looks like are laid out in God's instruction book for life: the Bible.*

– **Measurable:** *How do you know if you're succeeding? The commands and exhortations in Scripture describe how we are to live. And they become our standard. More on this when we look at the next verse.*

– **Attainable:** *Is it possible to please the Lord? Yes, but only through the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us because of our relationship with Jesus Christ.*

– **Relevant:** *What's the point of having goals if they're not relevant to who you are and what you hope to achieve? Since Christians are children of God, it matters that they would desire to please their heavenly Father.*

– **Time-bound:** *Is there an end date in mind? The life of every person is limited to a finite number of years, so we all have an end date for living in a way that will please God. So, since none of us know when we will cease to be time-bound, let's take every opportunity to please our heavenly Father in the days we do have.*

4. Using a right measure: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (v. 10).

Here is the final measure of our success: the final evaluation. What have we done with the life given to us? The ultimate judge is Jesus Christ, who will determine if the things we have accomplished have eternal value (1 Cor. 3:12).

There’s no need to read thousands of books on the subject of success. And you can spare yourself the need to compare the graduation messages of hundreds of thousands of speakers. The secret to true success is living by faith, longing to be with the Lord, desiring to please Him and doing it all in view of the judgment seat of Christ.

How did your definition of a successful life stack up against the apostle Paul’s definition?

Is there a graduate in your life who needs to hear this secret to true success? {eoa}

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Why the Spirit of Death Is Rising Today—and How We Can Conquer It

The spirit of death is running rampant throughout this earth, and its forerunner is the spirit of fear. But God's Word tells us that Jesus came to this earth to undo the works of Satan. If this is so, and we know that it is, then why are these spirits so strong upon this earth today? Let's consider some of the reasons and what we can do to conquer this spirit of death and its buddy, fear.

First John 3:8 says, "Whoever practices sin is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the devil." This Scripture clearly explains why Jesus came to this earth: to destroy the works of the devil. We read in the four Gospels that He came, and He indeed fulfilled His purpose. So why are these demonic forces so strong upon the earth now?

Maybe there is more to this gospel truth that isn't being taught as it should be today. When Jesus ascended into heaven to be with the Father, He announces the arrival of another. Who is the other arrival? Holy Spirit. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). And Holy Spirit is the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and dwells in the followers of Christ (see Rom. 8:11-14).

This helper, Holy Spirit, is sent to us for many reasons. One

of these is to empower us with God's strength. Jesus tells us in Luke 10:19 that He gives to us all of His authority over the devil: "Look, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you." This isn't so we can be proud and arrogant, but that we wield His authority over our enemies and walk in the victory He gave to us. Romans 8:37 says it this way, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

God does not intend for us to fight these demonic spirits such as fear and death in our own strength, but in His. The word of the Lord in Zechariah 4:6b says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."

With these great promises comes great responsibility. The church eagerly accepts the promises but often ignores the responsibility. And in doing so, the works of Satan—along with his demonic forces of the spirit of death and the spirit of fear—tread upon our territory where they should not be. They take advantage of the areas where the church chooses to remain weak. But we do not have to choose to remain weak. One word of faith, spoken with authority, will send the enemy on the run.

Proverbs 18:21 states the fact of the power that we have been given, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

The Spirit of the Lord is stirring a message for the body of Christ within my spirit. And it is all about taking down the enemy, Satan, his evil spirits of fear and death, and all the destruction they and those who cooperate with them. It's radical indeed. And it is beginning to come forth from deep within. I can hardly wait to release this in the up-and-coming online healing course, "Conquering the Spirit of Death", and I will share what I am able to here in posts as well. But you must first understand the basics and believe what He says. And what are these basic truths?

1. Jesus came to undo the wicked works of the devil.
2. He gave to us all of His authority.
3. We are more than conquerors.
4. And we possess the power of life and death in our words.

Christians are being surrounded by a spirit of fear and a spirit of death that are aligned with an antichrist spirit. Their purpose is to steal, to kill and to destroy us (see John 10:10). In order to walk in the life and the life in abundance that Jesus came to give us (also found in John 10:10), we must be willing to fight the good fight of faith (see 1 Tim. 6:12.). We must get radical and become more than conquerors. We must learn what this means and follow the leading of the Spirit of the living God in these latter days.

The Lord has me turning to all situations in life right now, whether it be in our physical body, our relationships, our daily provision, our nations, our governments or our borders. He is bringing many years of study to remembrance and thoughts He planted in my spirit for a time such as this to disarm the enemy and his wicked attacks against us. Even though these spirits of fear and death are passing through the earth, we are not harmed but protected from it all. The world will know of the ones who truly believe and walk in the power of the Spirit, and they will run to us for help.

I pray that you will join me. {eoa}

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Let These Simple Food Choices Improve Your Mental and Emotional Health

The Bible shows us that mental health issues have been around since the beginning of mankind. For example, David struggled with depression. Today mental health problems have accelerated with the pressures of modern living, stress and poor food choices. Hippocrates said, "Let food be your medicine, and medicine be your food."

Dr. Bob DeMaria agrees. He claims an apple a day holds your anxiety at bay.

Years ago, DeMaria saw patients with skin pigment issues. He connected the dots between stressed patients who had pigment loss on their skin and were tired and fatigued to the amino acid tyrosine, which makes skin pigment and adrenal hormones. Tyrosine is a natural antidepressant. People who are stressed and are using all their tyrosine up could also have a thyroid gland issue and depression. His book *Dr. Bob's Drugless Guide to Mental Health* discusses that connection in detail.

A simple lab test will evaluate the amount of tyrosine in your system. Or you could be a do-it-yourselfer and take your blood pressure sitting, then standing. If your blood pressure drops when you stand, that's an indication that you have weak adrenal glands.

Your diet impacts your mental health, and simple changes can have significant results. To increase tyrosine, DeMaria suggests eating more protein like chicken, lamb, fish and turkey. Walnuts are great brain food. He says avocados are a

perfect food—a source of potassium and good oils for your brain. Your body also needs the mineral zinc, and adding pumpkin seeds to your diet will help.

Bad food choices have consequences. Sugar is a big no-no. It takes minerals out of your body. Do you cry easily or attract mosquitoes more than others? That could indicate too much sugar in your diet, which depletes your body of minerals.

The bottom line is that depression, stress, memory issues and emotional issues can be improved with optimal food choices that will assist brain function. {eoa}

Marilyn Hickey *founded Marilyn Hickey Ministries more than 45 years ago with God's vision to cover the earth with the Word. Marilyn co-hosts a daily television program, Today with Marilyn & Sarah, reaching a potential viewing audience of over 2 billion households worldwide. Marilyn communicates deep biblical truths in a way that is understandable and practical for everyday life.*

Sarah Bowling *is on a mission to connect everyone with the heart of God while loving those who are overlooked, excluded and ignored. Led by Holy Spirit and anchored in the Word, Sarah seeks to inspire all to know the unconditional and transformational love of God in our daily lives. A Bible teacher, author, international speaker and global humanitarian, Sarah also co-hosts a daily television program, Today with Marilyn & Sarah.*

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Embrace the Sarah Anointing to Walk in a Kingdom Marriage

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?—Amos 3:3.

Sarah and Abraham were a power couple. They were called to be something great together. They were called to change the world together. But being a power couple and changing the world takes a lot of work. It also takes a lot of humility.

All couples that God calls to do things together to advance the kingdom have at least a degree of the dynamic between Sarah and Abraham in their relationship. Every union between a husband and wife has a kingdom purpose. It may be to start a church or a ministry or a business, or it may be to just work regular jobs and love their kids well. But each couple has a purpose. Once you have a vision for your union and you know the purpose of why you are together, you can set goals and see them achieved to make the name of Jesus famous in the earth. And as a couple, you can produce sons and daughters, whether natural or spiritual or both, all to grow the kingdom of God.

Called Out

Abraham and Sarah went through a process together. They didn't get married and instantly become the father and mother of faith, and have God make a covenant with them. There was a progression, a path they had to follow. And the beauty of it all is that they followed it together.

It started when they were called out. They were called out of their country, away from their family and out of Abraham's father's house. They were called completely out of their culture because God was going to do something new. He was going to use them to create a new culture.

If God is calling you and your Abraham out of something, you

need to heed that call. There are times when God wants to put separation between us and the things that may distract us, slow us down or even block us from pursuing the vision He has given us. Sometimes He calls us out so the voices we have spent our lives listening to don't drown out His voice. When there is a voice behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it" (Isa. 30:21b), you don't want to miss that voice because of all the others shouting in your ears.

God didn't just call Abraham and Sarah out of something. He called them into something.

Every marriage has a purpose, and it's different for everyone, but the husband and wife need to be in agreement about that purpose. Especially when God is calling you out and you don't know where you are going—as was the case with Abraham and Sarah—being in agreement, both of you having a yes in your hearts, is vital. For when you have that yes, it gives you the grace to handle all the unknowns as you walk your God-given path together.

When you have the vision for your union, when you know your purpose, and when you are both in agreement, you can both be comfortable with your defined roles. That agreement means that you can do what you are called to do and be OK with it, whether you are on the front lines or not. One of you may be the CEO while the other handles humanitarian efforts. You may be together in a ministry where both of you have a strong voice, or one of you may have a strong voice while the other is in a supporting role. One of you may be in ministry while the other is a businessperson. One of you may be working a regular job while the other one homeschools your seven children. The roles don't have to be traditional, but they can be. The vision for your marriage should allow both of you to use the gifts God has given you in your respective roles so you can find that place of synergy and unity.

The Power of Difference

When God created Adam and Eve, He created them to be different. Men and women are different from each other. Our bodies are different, and we can have different gifts and different strengths and weaknesses. God did not create women to do everything men can do, nor did God create men to do everything women can do. But that does not mean that women are somehow inferior to men or that men are somehow inferior to women. God made us different, and we need to embrace that difference rather than trying to eliminate it or pretend it doesn't exist. Satan is the author of division, confusion and strife between women and men. God wants us to move and work together, but Satan does everything in his power to get in the way of that. For even Satan recognizes that we are better together and that our differences make us stronger.

Differences are important. God doesn't create covenants based on sameness. Covenants bring people together so they benefit from each other's strengths. If everyone had the same strengths, the covenant would not have much of a purpose. When a man and a woman enter into a marriage covenant, the idea is for their strengths and weaknesses to complement and cover each other. The Word says that "love will cover a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8b, NKJV). One person's strengths can be the answer to the other person's weaknesses, and vice versa. Celebrating and valuing your differences will help you both move forward in your growth process. The very differences you have are behind your superpower as a couple, and they will become your greatest strengths when you acknowledge them, honor them and use them effectively in pursuit of your purpose.

Sarah recognized her value as a woman. She had different strengths than Abraham did, and her strengths helped to cover some of his weaknesses. For example, Sarah was a contender for the vision God had given them. When Abraham was getting off track, she used her voice to try to get back onto the right path. As a modern-day Sarah, you also need to recognize your

value as a woman. God did not make a mistake when He designed you the way He did. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. The things that make you uniquely you are gifts; they are blessings.

While Sarah recognized her own value, she also recognized the value of Abraham. His gifts were different, and she looked to him to cover her and to protect her by using those gifts. Modern-day Sarahs must do the same. They must recognize the value of the men in their lives, especially their Abrahams, and honor and respect those gifts. Yes, we are different, but there is power in that difference. And when we, as daughters of Sarah, begin to demonstrate valuing and celebrating the differences between us and the men in our lives, the next generation will take notice. Honoring each other's differences will become part of the spiritual legacy we leave for the generations to come.

Michelle McClain-Walters' Prayer for Your Abraham

Father, I thank You for my husband.

I ask that You will cause his dreams and godly desires to come to pass. Lord,

I ask that You will protect our marriage covenant from anything or anyone that would come to destroy it. I pray that my husband would see himself as You see him. Give him the ability to walk by faith and not by sight. Let him believe You and Your words and walk in Your power. Make him a wise master builder. Let him be fully persuaded in Your calling and favor on his life. Let wisdom and favor be his portion. Open doors and opportunities for him to advance Your kingdom. Bless him, and make him a blessing to this generation. Anoint him to do everything You've created him to do. Lord, when You called him, You also downloaded in him everything he needs to succeed. You enabled him to walk in his calling and become the man of God You created him to be.

Walking With Your Abraham

As you are walking with your Abraham, he will have stages in his growth process. At first, Abraham was selfish, fearful and insecure, and he didn't know where he was going. He was all of those things, but Sarah still called him lord. She had vision for their union, so she was able to see what God was doing in her husband.

Abraham was given a vision too, but it seems as if Sarah had an awakening about it before Abraham did. So when Abraham was getting off track, Sarah had to keep reminding him. And even though both Abraham and Sarah had the vision, I think they both had an incorrect interpretation of it at one point. You can have the heavenly vision, but an incorrect interpretation means you may apply it incorrectly, which could lead to an incorrect manifestation. That is what was happening when Abraham and Sarah decided to use a surrogate.

Another important aspect of the renewal process as you are walking together with your Abraham is to break demonic covenants. When Abraham got Sarah to agree to say she was his sister instead of his wife, it was a demonic covenant that opened them up to all types of unnecessary attacks. They made an unholy, ungodly alliance, and God had to intervene to get them out of it. While it is true that God worked it all out for their good, they never should have made a vow that was potentially detrimental to their marriage in the first place. Sarah could have had to sleep with another man. She could have been killed. They should have trusted God.

Later on, when Sarah and Abraham decided to use Hagar as a surrogate, it was another example of a time they should have trusted God instead of agreeing to do things their own way. Yes, they were supposed to have a son. They were right about that. But Hagar was the wrong woman. They were trying to fulfill the promise outside of the covenant.

If you and your Abraham have made any kind of demonic vows or covenants, you need to identify them and renounce them, even

if they were made in ignorance. It is part of the renewal and growth process. You need to acknowledge that you were wrong, you made a mistake and you can't operate like that anymore. As believers, you have been called to righteousness. You have been called to walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh. God wants you to be fully representing kingdom principles. As a couple, you need to fall out of agreement and renounce anything that has hindered you from going the right way and from walking in the purpose of God for your marriage.

God wants you to walk in the fullness of what He has for you. Sometimes you can get fooled into thinking you have the anointing of God or God's favor because you are flourishing, but that may not necessarily be the case. If you don't have the peace of God, you are not where God wants you to be. God is very strategic. He knows the end from the beginning. So don't be deceived—you need to do it His way. You need to walk in righteousness with your Abraham.

Praying for Your Abraham

Praying for your Abraham is part of the Sarah anointing. Your prayers are powerful, and when women pray for their husbands it has a tremendous effect on both their husbands and the women themselves. When you find the one you are supposed to be walking with, you see things that God will never allow other people to see. That allows you to pray all the more effectively for your husband.

Pray for his deliverance. Pray that he will be delivered from his fears. I believe Abraham was fearful more than anything else. Pray for him to be delivered from anything that will stop him from fulfilling his destiny.

Pray for his healing, his self-image, his finances, his vision, his work, his mind, his protection, his integrity and his faith. Pray for every part of him. And pray for his marriage and his wife. The two of you together make a power

couple, but you need to be walking together in faith, love, hope, unity and humility.

Pray over him, "Give my husband fresh vision and insight into Your plans for his life. Fill him with the knowledge of Your will in wisdom and spiritual understanding. Let him be a man of righteousness and truth. Give him dreams and visions that would lead him by Your Spirit. Redeem his time, and restore the years the locusts have eaten. Give Him vision and a plan for the future. Give him health and strength to finish the work You've assigned to his hand."

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How to Enter the Portals of Heaven

Scripture reveals the start of the ascension life. We are told that after the Resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days ministering on the earth, meeting with family and friends before He ascended to the Father. During this time, He spoke certain things to His disciples before He ascended, letting them know there was more to this life than the fact that He had resurrected, and sin, death and the grave were defeated. He gave a promise of the Holy Spirit to come, and a knowledge and understanding that would now open up to them and to the world as a result of His Resurrection.

In the ascension life, we see God doing work on the earth in His glory, even when we may not be actively involved in it. We

may witness a miracle but also have a Sabbath rest as God gets all the glory. He moves in the earth because we have chosen to believe we are ascended with Him, and by this power we take dominion.

Luke says in Acts 1:1-3 (NIV), "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, He presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."

The word "ascension" in the Greek is the word *anabaino*, which means "to arise, ascend up, climb, go, grow, rise, spring up and come up." In the ascension life, we move into next levels of living, seated with Christ. We are rising above all things. We are rising into a place of faith where we trust God because of His love for us and all He has already done in the Resurrection.

In the ascension life, we grow up. Yes, we have a foundation in the Resurrection, but now we are learning to rise above all things into the ascension. We are now learning to make a difference on the earth because of where we have risen with Jesus by faith.

In Ephesians 1:18-23 (NIV), the apostle Paul encourages the church toward the ascension life, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and

appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

Not only have we overcome sin, death and the grave, which is resurrection power, but we have an eternal seat in ascension power in which we operate by the Holy Spirit in the earth. This ascension power is a place of rest and peace as we subdue nations.

New-Position Blessing

We first read of the ascension when Mary Magdalene and Jesus have a conversation at the tomb after His resurrection. She is crying at the tomb, and He has resurrected and is standing next to her. She doesn't recognize Him, partly because she is overcome with fear. Jesus snaps her out of it by calling her name. Then she comes to her senses. When God calls our name, we finally pay attention, even in the midst of our crisis. We come to our senses and are able to discern truth.

What Jesus says to Mary reveals the difference between the power of the Resurrection and the power of the ascension: “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’” (John 20:17, NKJV).

Jesus is saying to her, “Don't hold onto Me, as there is more to the story for Me and for you; *I must rise so you can rise. I must go up so you can grow up.* I must take My position in the heavenlies so you can take your position with Me.” These are powerful truths for us to understand if we want to see our lives and culture change.

Your ascension power begins with your initial belief in Jesus, which is the beginning of your resurrection life. The apostle Paul shares this phenomenon in Romans 6:3-5: “Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were

baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Your spirit man who was dead is now alive, and Holy Spirit power now lives within you. That has happened inside you, but spiritually you have also been given new position in the heavenlies where every spiritual blessing is yours (Eph. 1:3).

To understand our power in the ascension, we must learn about realms of the earth as well as soulish and spirit realms. Jesus told Mary, “Don’t hold onto Me” because she had to know the “more” to the story. It would not have been good for her to know only the resurrected Jesus because she would have been fighting fear throughout the rest of her life—fear He had already conquered. She had to know the ascended Jesus so she would enter His rest and stop trying to overcome in every situation.

Next-Level Living

God is getting ready to take His church to the next level in these last days. While many believers know about the resurrected life, few know about the biblical concept of the ascension life. Jesus completed the Resurrection, and then He ascended to the Father. Each of these miracles—the one of Resurrection and the one of ascension—represent different revelations of our position and power in Christ. Believers must learn to move beyond the resurrected life and start living the ascension life.

The resurrection life is the overcoming and victorious life that Jesus bought with His shed blood on the cross for His followers. He died, was buried and resurrected so we might live it. The resurrection life should be the normal Christian life.

When Jesus resurrected, He defeated sin, death and the grave.

He enabled us to be saved so we could live here on earth as overcomers of evil. The power of the Resurrection means the enemy has been defeated, and God now calls us to live grace-filled lives.

This resurrected life is amazing, but there is more to the story. We are not just overcomers and victorious over evil, but we are called to be seated with Christ in heavenly places.

This level of position enables us to have the power to be change agents on the earth. God calls us to live, move and breathe from a new position that reflects the truth that Jesus ascended to heaven, remains there now and says we are with Him as well when we believe. For this faith to take action, we must see ourselves and our world through the eyes of the power of the ascension of Jesus.

Spirit-Powered Understanding

Are you ever tired of merely overcoming fear, anxiety, depression and loss? Do you want instead to find a place of rest in the midst of your trials? That is the ascension life.

Mary had to discover Jesus as “My Father ... and My God” (John 20:17b) for the personal relationship to become so deep that fear, anxiety and depression would forever be gone—and evil, demonic forebodings with it. She would then ascend to the place where she could confidently rule with Jesus on the mountain, and He would minister what was needed on the earth to her and through her.

She could have all this even while her body, spirit and soul were on the earth, and her mind remained in a place of daily rest and peace with Him. Holy Spirit power, faith and an understanding of ascension make all this possible for us.

Mary was looking to cling to Jesus too soon and He said no. He knew the best was yet to come, and it involved the Spirit of the Lord being released in the earth and also into her. She

could then reach the next level of knowing Him, far beyond fighting the good fight with resurrection power alone. She would enter a place of rest, as the author of Hebrews 4:8-11 (NIV) says, “For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.”

The power of the ascension is the next level of rest and peace. It doesn’t mean you won’t have to fight the good fight of faith or undertake a battle; it just means your weapons of warfare are not carnal, but they pull down strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4). It means you fight in the heavenlies from a seat of rest by faith and peace, knowing God as “my Father and my God,” certain of His love, unafraid to trust Him.

This is a place of knowing He can and will release what we need in the time we need it, and here we must rest. If you are hungry and thirsty for this type of understanding, just ask Him to give you revelation. He will give to His beloved child.

READ MORE: Learn more about next-level living at .

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Shocking Documentary Exposes Toxic Disease Spreading Exponentially Within the Church

Filmmaker Judd Saul has worked on a number of vital documentary projects. But his latest, *Enemies Within the Church*, investigates something he discovered almost by accident: Leftists have purposefully invaded the church to promote communist and Marxist views via propaganda.

In 2017, Saul had just finished directorial work on a documentary called *The Enemies Within*, a film based on a book by Trevor Loudon profiling 20 U.S. senators and more than 100 representatives and their ties to the Communist Party USA, the Democratic Socialists of America and the Workers' World Party. The filmmaker had also just completed two other short documentaries about antifa, a far left-wing organization that teamed up with Islam and the far-left political agenda in America.

Exhausted and longing for a break from work, Saul returned to his hometown of Cedar Falls, Iowa, for some rest and relaxation. But what he discovered there shocked him to the core of his soul.

It also led to his next big film project, one he admits he would have preferred there had been no need for.

When Saul walked into the Southern Baptist church he had previously attended, the pastor preached what the filmmaker calls a "pro-Black Lives Matter social justice sermon."

"Naturally, being experienced in how the left operates, their talking points and how they work, all of these red flags

started going up with me,” Saul says.

“I thought, You’ve got to be kidding me,” he says. “Where is this guy getting this garbage? Where is he getting his information? That is what really spawned my digging. I said, ‘If my Southern Baptist church that everyone once thought was conservative is now teaching this garbage, wow.’ I couldn’t understand where it was coming from.”

Targeting the Church

From his work on *The Enemies Within*, Saul says he quickly picked up on how to discern the catch phrases and the lingo of the socialist, Marxist, left-leaning agenda and its methods of indoctrination. And what he saw in his little Southern Baptist church stunned him.

“I’m looking around the room, and everyone is nodding their heads, and they were applauding,” Saul says. “They’re agreeing with everything that the pastor said just because the pastor was saying it. That just didn’t sit right with me.

“I went through a long process of talking to the leadership, saying, ‘Hey, this is my experience,’” he explains. “‘I just got off the road documenting this.’ We had interviewed KGB agents, we had interviewed former CIA agents, and I gave them a long list of explanations and things of the roots of Black Lives Matter, where the organization comes from and the roots of socialism.

“So essentially, this young pastor told me to my face that Marxism isn’t all bad; [Karl] Marx had some really good ideas,” Saul says. “I knew right then that this was much deeper than just one pastor who’s just misunderstanding things and wants to try to address a relevant cultural situation. This guy had been indoctrinated from the beginning. It was very shocking. It was very disheartening.

“After you hear that, you ask yourself, ‘Who is this guy

reading? Where is he getting his information from?' That's when we started doing our digging."

Shortly after, Saul prompted Loudon, who had done vast amounts of research into leftist, communist organizations and activity, to investigate "known leftists who had infiltrated the church" to promote their Marxist, communist agenda.

As they continued to dig, Saul, Loudon and a team of others noticed a "blending of far left-wing activists into conservative Christian institutions"—actual leftist activists preaching and teaching in conservative Christian institutions.

As the trailer for *Enemies Within the Church* proclaims, the mission of the Marxist and socialist advocates, especially in the United States, is to "completely demolish Western civilization and rebuild it in a 'just' society."

And what better place to target than the church, which helped spark the foundation of America in its early years and build it into a free democratic society?

The pro-choice abortion agenda, the LGBTQ agenda, critical race theory and racism to divide the country have become huge cogs in Satan's plan to destroy America from within. All of these messages, Saul says, are infecting the church and its ability to effectively do what it is supposed to do: preach Christ and the gospel.

"A theme in the film is when you go to put the puzzle together, you have to look at the box top, correct?" Saul asks. "But what if you're putting together a puzzle, and they switched the box top? What we're saying is that the far left—and I don't even call them 'brothers and sisters in Christ,' I call them 'subversives'—has gone in and have deliberately switched the box top of Christianity and what authentic Christianity needs to look like. Right now, it's not that. It's something else."

Exposing the Truth

Through overwhelming evidence, *Enemies Within the Church* exposes these shocking truths (as shared by the film's narrator):

- "Churches today have become where universities were 10 years ago—heavily Marxist. Many are not quite there yet, but they are well on their way. Many of the seminaries and Bible colleges are definitely already there."
- "Pastors are being brainwashed. The message they should be preaching about going out and taking the world and repenting of your sin and receiving Christ has been replaced by the weight of racism or sexism or homophobia."
- "The future damage of what we are doing right now will be enormous."
- "The entire fabric of family, personal wealth, private property, all of
- those things are out the door. Everything is the state, and the state is God."
- They [the left] don't define justice the same way as in the Scriptures. There is going to be equality all right, and it's going to be a totalitarian, Marxist justice."

What film principals Saul, Loudon and Cary Gordon, a charismatic pastor, discovered during the course of making *Enemies Within the Church* is that the themes of social justice and the LGBTQ agenda have taken over not only the secular classrooms of university-level education in America but also Christian institutions. Those ideas have now trickled into not only churches but entire denominations as well.

The documentary explains that Harry Hay, a Communist who founded the modern LGBTQ movement, was instrumental in the homosexual revolution that has taken place and is now not only accepted but glorified in American society today.

“How do you break down the American family and American Christianity?” the film asks. “One of the best ways to do it is to turn homosexuals into an accepted minority that must be atoned to; that must be both accepted into your society and also be made above normal. They must have more rights than anyone else.”

“The LGBTQ movement, as they call it, has made huge inroads in churches in this country,” Loudon says. “Many churches have gone from holding homosexuality as a sin to welcoming homosexuals into their church and apologizing for their past, unaccepting behavior.”

Sin, no matter how serious or menial it is perceived to be, is still sin, is it not? Not according to former Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear, who, in the following statement, claimed to know the mind of God: “It would appear that quite a few other sins are more egregious sins in God’s eyes than homosexuality,” Greear once said. “Jen Wilkins, one of our favorite Bible teachers ... said we ought to whisper what the Bible whispers about and we ought to shout about what the Bible shouts about. The Bible appears to whisper more when it comes to sexual sin compared to things like materialism and pride.”

Albert Mohler, the current president of Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, repented—yes, repented—for denouncing same-sex orientation and for having taken a biblical stance on homosexual behavior.

“One of the embarrassments that I have to reveal, and I have written about these things for 30 years, is that I have to say that I got it wrong,” Mohler said in an article he wrote in 2014 called “Sexual Orientation and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“I had previously denied the existence of sexual orientation,” Mohler wrote. “I, along with many other evangelicals, did so

because we did not want to accept the sexual identity structure that so often goes with sexual orientation. I still reject that notion of sexual identity. But I repented of denying the existence of sexual orientation because denying it was deeply confusing to people struggling with same-sex attraction. Biblical Christians properly resist any suggestion that our will can be totally separated from sexual desire, but we really do understand that the will is not a sufficient explanation for a pattern of sexual attraction. Put simply, most people experiencing a same-sex attraction tell of discovering it within themselves at a very early age, certainly within early puberty. As they experience it, a sexual attraction or interest simply 'happens,' and they come to know it."

Jon Harris, author and host of the *Conversations That Matter* podcast, says he is dumbfounded at how Mohler could flip-flop his stance on the subject.

"In 2005, he [Mohler] said the notion of sexual orientation was a key thing in promoting the homosexual agenda in America," he says. "The idea that people are born gay: Mohler said that if you accept this, you're giving up the farm. Now he charges the church with a form of homophobia, that the church lied about homosexuality. He completely changed his views on homosexuality.

"The old Al Mohler would fire the new Al Mohler," says E. Ray Moore, executive director of Exodus Mandate. "He was somebody I did look up to. It's shocking to a high degree that he had a real involvement in this."

Strengthening the Remnant

Saul says not only have professors at Christian institutions taught the victimization of members of the LGBTQ community but also the victimization of minorities in America through ideas such as critical race theory.

It has become a divisive issue in the U.S., and Saul says the division is getting worse in American churches because critical race theory has infected many churches, Bible colleges and seminaries. In fact, it's become an accepted and welcome part of theology taught at these institutions. Rachel Dozier, a student pastor at Central Christian Church in Arizona, has embraced the "woke" position that many in the church are worshipping a "white" Jesus, and she does so with passion.

"If you follow a white Jesus, man, I think God wants to do something in your heart today," Dozier says in a clip from *Enemies Within the Church*. "Let Jesus rob you of what you always thought to be true. Let Him rob you of your privilege. Let Him rob you so you can see clearly the kingdom of heaven and what it's supposed to look like as we embrace our Black brothers and sisters and those that are suffering from oppression every single day. Jesus is for everyone. Jesus is for justice."

But Micah Sample, a former student at Indiana Wesleyan University, says he would not have attended that school had he known what it stood for.

"This was not a place that was teaching Christian truth," Sample says in the film. "This was a place that was meant to deconstruct Christian truth. Those people want to see the Wesleyan Church changed into something it is not. They want it to be a place where the dogma of wokeness is supreme.

"My peers at Indiana Wesleyan University who were taught this Marxism are going to spread it throughout their churches, and they are going to have this widespread impact," Sample says. "But it's not going to be for the glory of Christ. It's not going to be as a witness to the truth. It's going to be as a detriment to the truth and they are going to lead people away from Christ. That is potentially the most heartbreaking thing in all of this. They are going to be the blind leading the

blind.”

“I don’t think it’s possible in a Christian context to talk about reconciliation without likewise talking about justice,” Jarvis Williams, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says in another clip from *Enemies Within the Church*. “We are working together, living together in love and Spirit-empowered love. That means we care about things like economic inequality. It doesn’t mean that you are justified by economic equality, but that does mean the gospel transforms holistically.”

Dr. Russell Fuller, a former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says Williams is contaminating biblical principles with his own ideas.

“Jarvis Williams basically teaches a critical race theory-infused gospel where he takes critical race theory principles, and he takes the Bible and finds parallels, and he creates his own racial reconciliation,” Fuller says. “That’s what he calls it. ‘It’s part of the gospel,’ he says, but it’s not. What he is actually saying is to take down white Jesus and platform minorities because they are not being platformed. If you are white, you have to shut up and listen to other perspectives because you are not able to ascertain the truth the same way. He incorporates all of this into his reconciliation doctrine.”

Saul says professors like Williams are overlooking a huge issue.

“The problem is that we are all wretched sinners, deserving of hell,” he explains. “But because Jesus Christ came down and died on the cross for our sins, we have an opportunity to go to heaven. The ultimate victim is Jesus, who bore all of our sins.

“But what the social justice gospel is teaching is that we are the victims. Everyone’s a victim. ... they’re teaching everybody to identify themselves according to their victimhood, their

victim status. It promotes a constant circular division, a constant endless circle of tension.”

More than that, the film states, “when you preach victimization, it always leads to vengeance and violence.” An attitude of “us against them” or “I want my pound of flesh” develops.

Those who enjoy a full and vital relationship with Jesus Christ have daunting circumstances to face. But with God’s help, Saul says, there’s nothing His remnant can’t overcome.

“Buckle up; it’s going to be a tough ride,” Saul says. “What I believe God said to me with this film is to put it out there, and the people who are going to listen will listen. Others simply won’t.

“This is a last call to either change things in the U.S., or it’s going to wake up the remnant to deal with the ensuing culture and the chaos that is happening in our country,” he says. “But it’s going to strengthen the remnant. I think we’re seeing the separating of the wheat from the chaff. And we are certainly seeing it right now in the church.”

WATCH: Visit to watch *Enemies Within the Church*.

Shawn A. Akers is the online editor for *Charisma Media*.

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