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THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

NOVEMBER 2023

MICHAEL L. BROWN

HOW DO WE KEEP GOD'S
REVIVAL FIRES BURNING?

BENNY TATE

THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S
POWER IN YOUR LIFE

JOHN ECKHARDT

UNLOCKING FAVOR,
RELEASING INCREASE,
ACCELERATING DESTINY

Are YOU
desperate
YET?

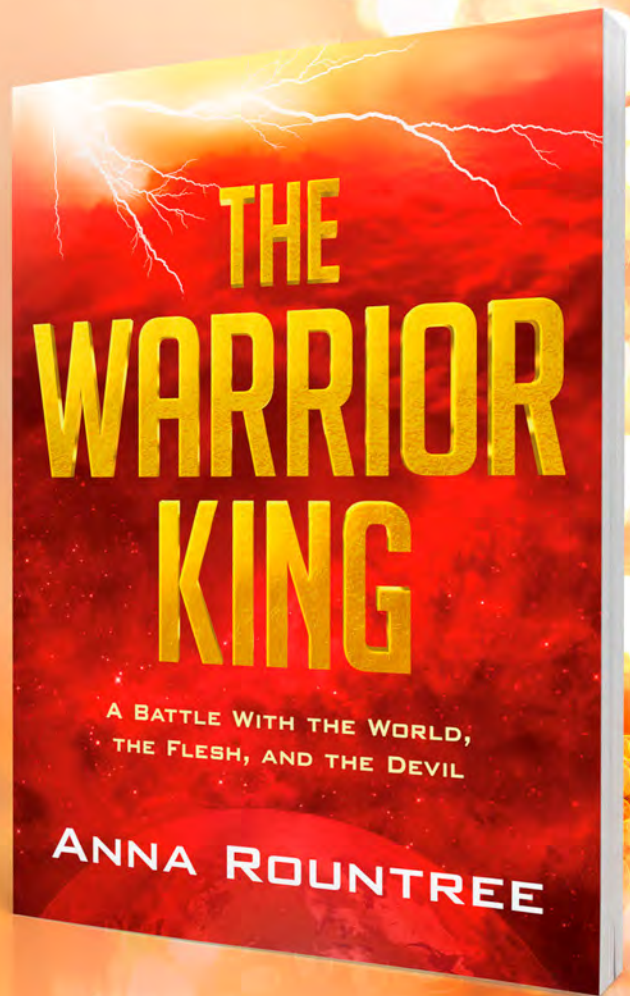
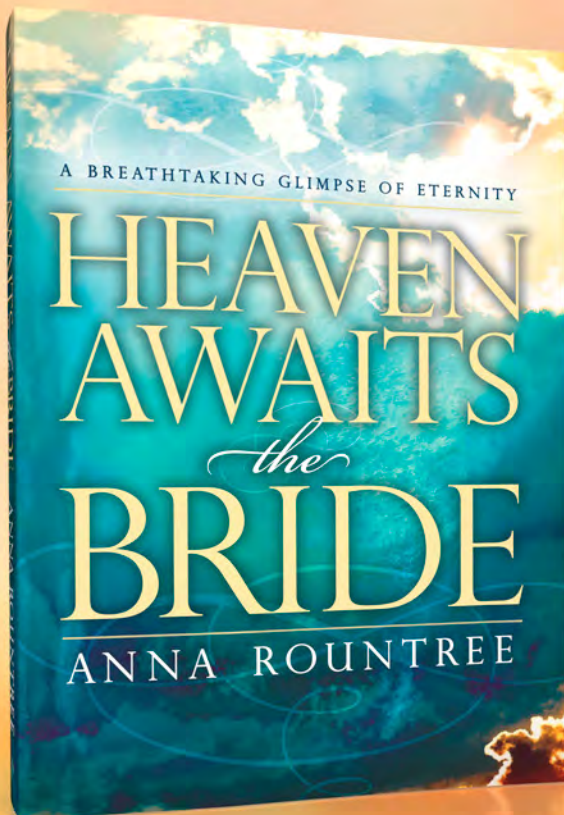
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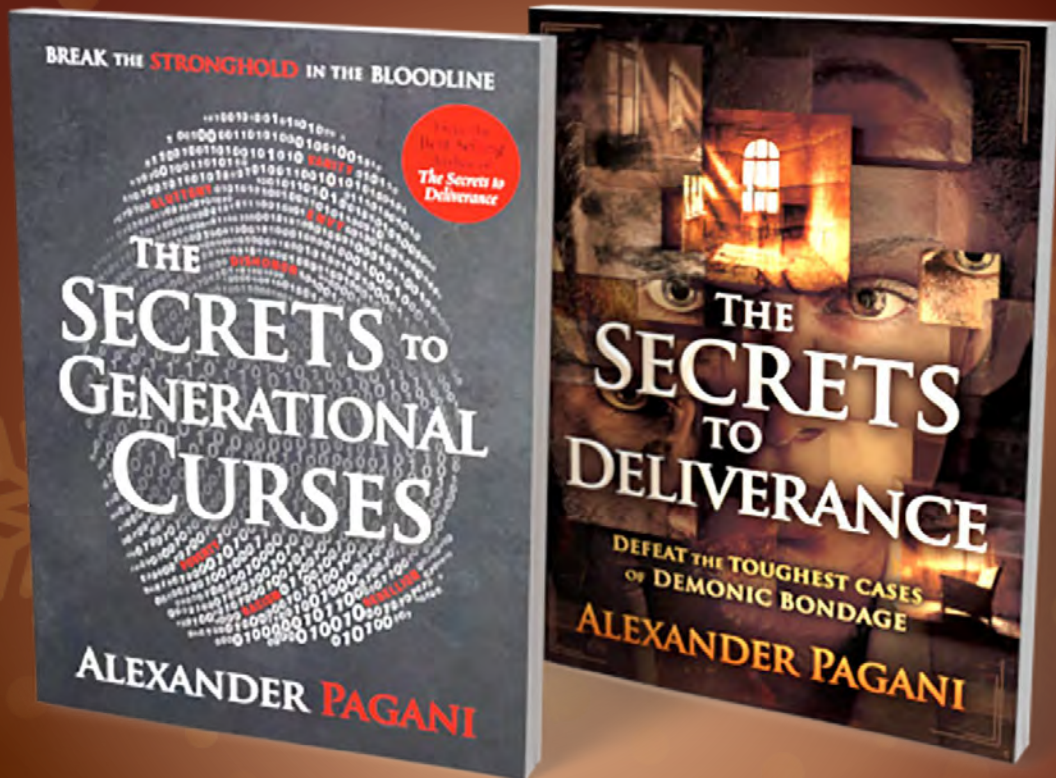
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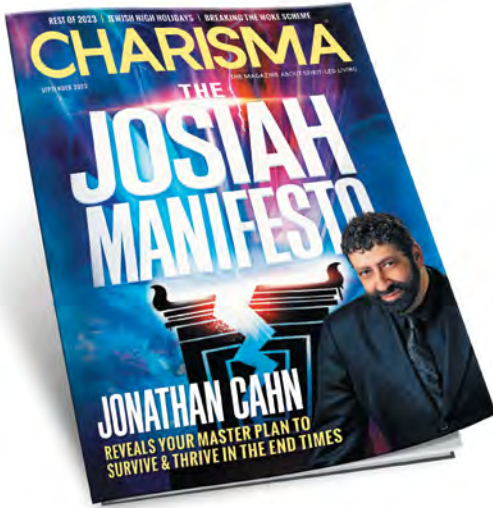
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DEAR CHARISMA



“Cahn’s wisdom in connecting puzzle pieces is as profound as it is an amazing blessing.”

—Louise O’Neal,
 Bentonville, AR

ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO NEW CAHN BOOK

The cover story about Cahn’s new book *The Josiah Manifesto* (“The Josiah Manifesto,” *Charisma Magazine Online*, September 2023) was like a nice prize after a long and hot summer with headlines filled with bad news, bad weather and people doing bad things. Cahn’s wisdom in connecting puzzle pieces is as profound as it is an amazing blessing. Can’t wait to read his next!

Louise O’Neal, Bentonville, AR

HOLY SPIRIT POWER & GIFTS ARE FOR TODAY!

Ryan Johnson hit the ball out of the park with his article about how Holy Spirit gifts are indeed for right-now today (“The Holy Spirit’s Gifts Never Stopped,” *Charisma Magazine Online*, September 2023). I still can’t understand how some people think the spiritual gifts stopped 20 centuries ago. Nothing stopped, the Holy Spirit’s power is for times like today more than ever.

Don Hall, Osteen, FL

THE ARTIFICIAL FUTURE OF INTELLIGENCE?

Alan DiDio’s report about AI was scary and it was excellent and appreciated, too

(“AI and the Great Deception,” *Charisma Magazine Online*, September 2023). It’s easy to think it’s just another software tool for people to figure out how to use, but we’ve been down this road before and stories like this one help keep perspective.

Marion Aaronson, Brookfield, WI

HOLY HOLIDAYS WITH JESUS

I’m not Jewish but I have loved hearing about the main holidays since I was a small child and seeing how much they meant to my Jewish classmates (“God’s 7 Holy Days and How Jesus Fulfills Them,” *Charisma Magazine Online*, September 2023), Rabbi Kirt Schneider seems like a very nice man.

Clemford Wentworth, Aspinwall, PA

DEFENDING OUR CHILDREN

John Amanchukwu is a sharp man (“The Spirit-Led Battle for Our Children’s Souls,” *Charisma Magazine Online*, September 2023). He’s brave, too, but the perspective he is tactfully bringing to school boards reminds them of the consequences of their actions when it’s needed most.

Caroline Crosby, Jamesville, OH

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Don't Bow to the Idols of the Transgender Cult

I love my country. But many of my foreign friends now ask me regularly, “What’s going on with the United States?” They are baffled. They are also losing respect for America because a growing number of our leaders have made drastic shifts when it comes to moral values—particularly in the area of sexuality and gender.

Consider New York’s governor Kathy Hochul, who signed a bill last June that guarantees minors access to hormone therapy and transgender surgery. While some states have passed laws to label such treatments as child abuse, Hochul says the new law makes New York “a safe haven for trans youth and their families.”

That means the state encourages 14-year-old girls to get full hysterectomies and double mastectomies without a parent’s permission; it also means New York is a “haven” for 9-year-old boys whose schoolteachers have convinced them to get their genitals removed.

In Michigan, representatives voted on June 20 to approve HB 4474, a law that would make “misgendering” a person a criminal offense. If the law is ratified, anyone who calls a transgender person by the wrong gender identity would be guilty of “intimidation,” and the punishment would be up to five years in prison or a \$10,000 fine.

Do these laws sound crazy? Don’t you dare question them. We are expected to accept this madness because it’s “inclusive.” And if you challenge the transgender movement, or dare to label gender confusion as a psychological disorder, you will be demonized as a cruel hater. In New York, California and Michigan, Nebuchadnezzar expects you to bow down to his idol ... or else.

It’s time for rational people to cry foul before this lunacy gains any more traction. This is not just an attack on family values; it’s an attack on basic intelligence. Here are three simple reasons the “logic” of transgender activists is faulty:

1) Gender is a biological reality, not just an emotional feeling. In 2015 an Oregon woman named Rachel Dolezal was exposed as a fraud because she claimed she was African-American even though she was born to white parents. Dolezal even became a local leader of the NAACP until her elaborate scam unraveled. She told NBC: “I identify as black.” But she was laughed off the national stage because everybody knows DNA determines race. You can’t “become” black.

So why don’t we apply the same scientific standard to gender? Today’s code of political correctness says if you were born a man but you now “feel” you are a woman, you can use the women’s restroom, change your gender identity and even participate in women’s sports. Defenders of this charade claim that gender is a psychological “construct” that was invented by imperialist Christians.

2) Gender must be affirmed. I don’t know what people are smoking these days, but something has clouded the judgment of educators who think children should be encouraged to “explore” their gender “possibilities.” While gender is genetically inborn, a boy must be trained to be a man, and a girl must be trained to be a woman. Parents play a huge role in developing gender identity in their children.

We live in a fallen world. People are susceptible to gender confusion, sexual abuse, bullying, shaming, fatherlessness, lack of parental nurture; many other factors can cause a child or a teenager to question their maleness or femaleness. Yet if a person with gender confusion gets counseling and encouragement, they can overcome their emotional scars.

3) “Gender fluidity” is a hoax. Secularists view the Bible as archaic and irrelevant, so they reject the first chapter of Genesis, which says God created mankind as “male and female” (Gen. 1:27). In the past, even non-Christians believed in what America’s Founding Fathers called “the laws of nature and of nature’s God.” We’ve operated fine on this earth for thousands of years with two genders. Why is it that all of a sudden people can choose from an ever-growing list of 64+ gender options?

When people rage against God and rebel against His laws, they become ignorant. Educators today have adopted the wacky idea that gender is fluid and changeable—even though science doesn’t support this.

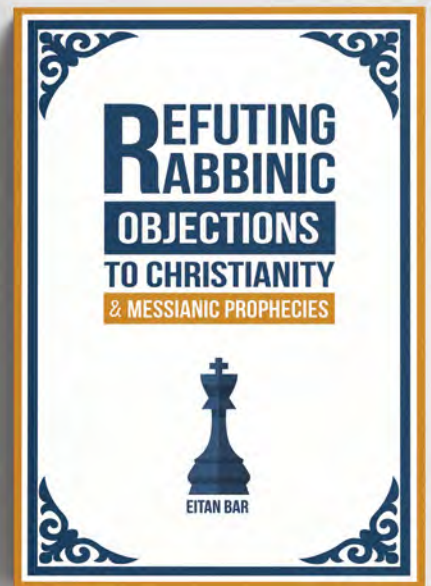
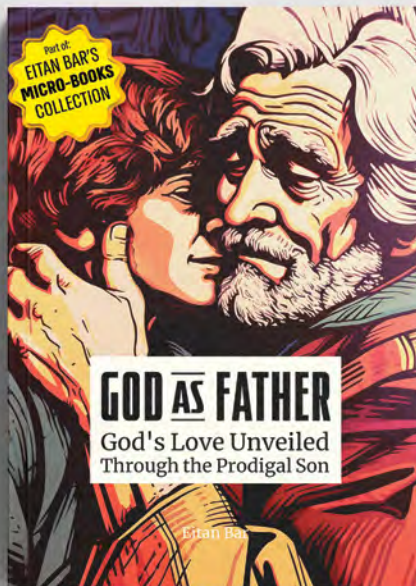
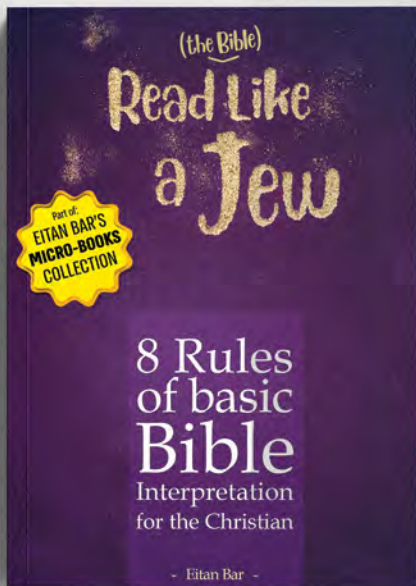
If a man decides he is really a woman “inside,” he is urged to take hormones, get breast implants, start wearing makeup and dresses, and become a celebrity spokesmodel like Dylan Mulvaney—the transgender activist who almost bankrupted Bud Light beer earlier this year after customers reacted negatively to his advertisements.

Don’t bow to the idols of our culture. And please pray that we won’t allow our communities to be hijacked by people who deny God, science and common sense.

“And if you challenge the transgender movement ... you will be demonized.”

J. Lee Grady was editor of *Charisma* for 11 years and now serves as senior contributing editor. He directs [The Mordecai Project](#) an international ministry that protects women and girls from gender-based violence. His latest books are *Follow Me* and *Let’s Go Deeper*

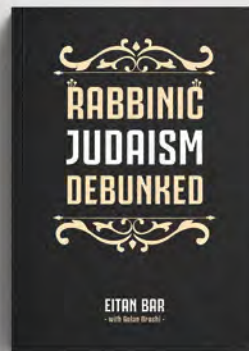
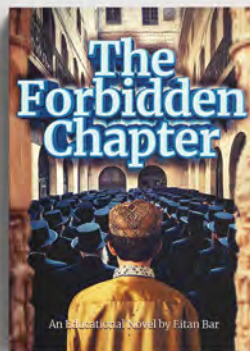
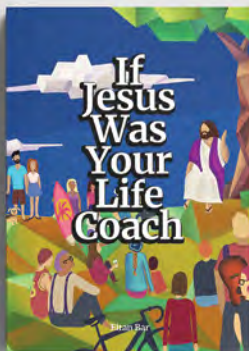
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Dr. Eitan Bar is a Jewish-Christian Israeli who holds several degrees in Bible and theology and speaks Hebrew as a native. Dr. Bar has authored several books, including a few best-sellers.

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How to Find Joy in Every Part of Your Life

John 10:10 has been one of my favorite Scriptures for many years. It says: “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (AMPC). This verse clearly shows us that God wants us to enjoy our lives—in abundance, to the full, until we’re overflowing with joy!

I remember when God gave me the revelation that it’s His will for me to enjoy my life. It was life-changing because I used to be a miserable person who was emotionally unstable and couldn’t be happy unless I got my way in most circumstances.

Because of the abuse I had experienced throughout childhood, I was insecure, angry and didn’t trust anyone. But once I started seriously studying the Word of God, I came to realize that He didn’t want me to live this way. I could be healed and whole in my mind and emotions, and I could learn how to really enjoy my everyday life. Now, when I say God wanted me to enjoy my everyday life, I’m talking about doing ordinary life with calm delight and a smile on my face (John 15:11).

It seems today that most people believe they have to wait for their circumstances to change before they can enjoy life. But the truth is you can make the decision to enjoy your ordinary life and make it extraordinary, regardless of your circumstances.

One of the ways you can take ordinary life and make it extraordinary is to learn to do every single thing you do with and for God. We can be just as close to God in the grocery store as we are at church. It actually adds an edge of excitement when we let God be involved in everything we do.

He’s everywhere, all the time, and He’s just as interested in the routine, mundane tasks of our lives as He is in the more “spiritual” things we do.

The abundant life Christ offers goes deeper in our hearts than the way we feel about things. It’s an amazing thing when we learn how to have the peace and joy only God can give in every area of our lives, instead of the type of enjoyment that’s just based on emotional excitement.

The joy of the Lord is much greater than simply feeling happy.

It brings peace and contentment to your soul, even when your circumstances are difficult and don’t make any sense. Nehemiah 8:10 says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

This kind of joy makes the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday routine enjoyable. And since most of life is Monday through Friday, we need to enjoy it!

In John 15:11, Jesus says, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete,” (NIV). The AMPC translation says “that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.” In the 10 verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about abiding in Him, because that’s the key to living with His joy.

Abiding means “to live, dwell and remain in.” It’s having a personal relationship with Christ, getting to know Him through His Word, and talking to Him about anything and everything. It’s doing life together!

The truth is, apart from Jesus we can do nothing of real value, but with Him, we can bear much good fruit (John 15:5). Begin with filling your mind with God’s Word and learning to think like He thinks, and then choosing to allow those faith-filled thoughts to flow

through your words and attitudes to the people around you.

We are taught in God’s Word that we reap what we sow (Gal. 6:7-8). The enemy—the devil—wants to steal our joy and destroy our lives. But Jesus came and died on the cross to give us abundant life, “to the full, till it overflows”! It’s a tragedy when born-again Christians don’t enjoy their lives because they have a “barely getting by, hanging on till Jesus comes to get me” mentality

Determine to have a thankful attitude in your day-to-day life. Thank God for the good things you can think of right now, and actively look for more things to add to the list each day. This will help you stay focused on God’s goodness.

God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn’t just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you’re desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That’s when your everyday life is really enjoyable!

“God wants to abide with you every day...so you can experience His presence in everything you do.”

Joyce Meyer is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries Inc. She has authored 130 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and her newest devotional, *Quiet Times With God* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit joycemeyer.org.

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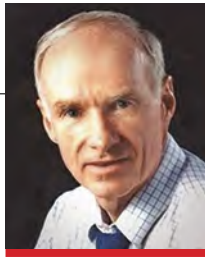
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Grace, Giving, Gratitude & Becoming Christlike (November 1989)

Tithing and fasting, Jesus said, should be a part of the Christian life. If it becomes a prideful thing, all meaning is gone. We are to give our obedience unto God, not for man to notice. Jesus did not condemn public prayer, tithing one's income or disciplined fasting. He said those were good things. But He reminded us that prayer is a condition of the heart—not mere choices done out of compulsion or convenience, not just a bunch of words.

My father died at the age of 87. On his 81st birthday I drove down the Florida coast to his home to spend part of the day with him.

"If you had to list the ten most significant things that have happened to you during your 80th year, what would they be?" I asked.

He smiled and said, "I'd have to think about the last nine. But I can show you number one."

He got up from his chair at his desk and walked over to his filing cabinet. Sorting through the top drawer, he pulled out a letter and returned to his desk. It was from the chairman of the department of English literature in a large Midwestern university.

He read it to me as if he were reading from the Bible.

"Sixty years ago," the professor said, "I sat in your high school English class at Delph, Indiana. Rudyard Kipling, John Greenleaf Whittier, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—they all came alive to me through your teaching. I went on to get my doctorate and eventually became chairman of the department of English literature at this university. Now I am retiring. I've thought of you many times but have never written. Today I write to say 'thank you.'"

My daddy lowered the letter. Tears glistened in his eyes and ran down his cheeks.

"This," he said, smiling through his tears, "is the finest thing to happen to me this last year."

Thankful people smile. Self-righteous people sneer. Selfish people scowl. Recently, while walking through the supermarket, I passed a

man wheeling a big cart of groceries. He looked at me and smiled. Even though I was scowling at the time (I always scowl in grocery stores), I found myself smiling back. Suddenly I felt good—and I smiled at the next person who passed. She, startled, smiled back. If we keep this up, I thought, the whole store will be smiling.

I appeared at a conference at the Christian Broadcasting Network a few years ago. I was to be Pat Robertson's guest on *The 700 Club* that Friday morning. I checked in at the lodge and went to my room... which did not have a bed.

Strange. I opened doors. Closet. Bathroom. No bed. A double door led to another room, but was locked. I stepped into the hall and asked one of the housekeepers about the room's absent bed.

"It's our best room, we reserve it especially for visiting speakers," she smiled.

"It doesn't have a bed."

"Don't worry, we'll come this evening and fold down the sofa," she said.

That night, trying to get comfortable on a four-inch-thick mattress with an iron bar running across my back, I thought I heard God say, "Sleeping on the sofa is good for you."

"It's not good for my back," I grumped.

"No, it's good for your soul. People who think they are important need to sleep on sofas once in a while. Just be thankful you're not sleeping on the ground," He told me.

The next morning, I recounted the tale over breakfast. A staff coordinator heard, and that afternoon when I returned to my room, the door to the adjoining room had been opened—a suite, with a beautiful king-sized bed, sheets folded down and little candies greeting me from the pillows. It had waited for me all night, only I couldn't get to it.

The housekeeper happened by, beaming at me from the doorway. "I can't thank you enough," I said, and we laughed together.

That's the way it is with saying, "thank you." It's not enough to feel it. You need to express it. With a letter, a phone call or in person. And in the process, we can become a little more like Jesus.

"Even though I was scowling at the time, I found myself smiling back. Suddenly I felt good...if we keep this up, the whole store will be smiling."

Jamie Buckingham wrote 153 columns for *Charisma* over 13 years, first known as "Dry Bones" but later as its most recognized "Last Word." His writing brought his singular voice that was animated by a heart for Jesus that was baptized in the power of the Holy Spirit in 1967 at a Full Gospel Businessmen's convention. Buckingham provided a steadying force during the scandals of the 1980s, penning the seminal article on the PTL scandal, "God Is Shaking His Church" in May 1986.

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The Great Sifting and Shifting Season Is Underway

From the earthquakes in Morocco and Afghanistan to the flooding in Libya, and the state of war that Israel is in, we are clearly observing that something beyond us is happening! My spirit can't help but sense a deep tremor from within and I'm certain that you too feel the same.

What is happening in our world? Many feel discouraged with all the darkness and a spirit of fear seems to wear down the saints but I believe more than ever we are on the brink of something so powerful and a shifting for the body of Christ.

Isaiah 60:1–2 (NKJV) says, "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." We in the body of Christ have holy light to bring forth to the corners of the world where darkness spreads more each year, and seems to spread even faster every month.

As things begin to unfold, some view the bleakness of the natural and respond with feelings of hopelessness. Some perceive that the brightness of God's glory is but a distant glimmer fading into the dismal future, but nothing can be further from reality.

Will we fold into fear and the cares of this life?

Or will we be beacons of shining light, cities on a hill?

Will we see the world around us and yield to the responses of our flesh?

Or will we rise up in spirit and respond with truth?

Will Jesus find faith on the earth when He returns?

Or will we become a spiritual casualty struck with the blows of complacency and lukewarmness in the war for souls?

As we approach these shakings, we are commanded by Jesus to look up because our redemption is drawing nearer than we first believed (Luke 21:28).

"Look up!" our Lord implores us. But what does He mean when He says that? We are commanded to lift our eyes above what we see to the unseen. What are you looking at? Do you see crises or Christ? We must look beyond our understanding and what is around us and look to Him! In doing so we become

transformed to that which we behold.

This glorious reality conveys to us that as we look to behold God's glory in the face of Christ through the mirror of His Word and the power of His Spirit, we become changed into His very nature and image. It's His oneness in us. Christ in you is the hope of glory.

In this hour, more than ever before, we are to rise up to be what God has called His body to be.

Romans 8:18–21 (NKJV) says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because

the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

The earth is in full expectation and the creation is in deep travail for the revelation of Christ and His children.

You and I are part of that revealing but many in the body of Christ do not see themselves as Christ sees them.

Therein lies the problem. The earth is flooded with fear, torment and pain. Where is the church who will stand and be the hands and feet of Christ, to extend His healing and delivering virtue to those who desperately cry out in agony?

The Scriptures tell us in Hebrews 12:28, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." I believe these contractions we are seeing erupting all over the earth are but the earliest of rumblings which reveal a shaking that is coming soon. There will be a worldwide shift inside the body of Christ leading the church forward into a greater state of glory, purity and dependency for her long-awaited Bridegroom.

A season is underway, sifting wheat from chaff, shifting believers out of their doldrums and into their callings. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken until what remains is His unshakeable kingdom in us.

"In this hour, more than ever before, we are to rise up to be what God has called His body to be."

Chris Garcia is the founder of Father's Glory International, and is Senior Pastor at Victory Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Garcia and his wife, Zuly, currently reside in Fort Smith with their three children.

Unlock the Power of Prayer

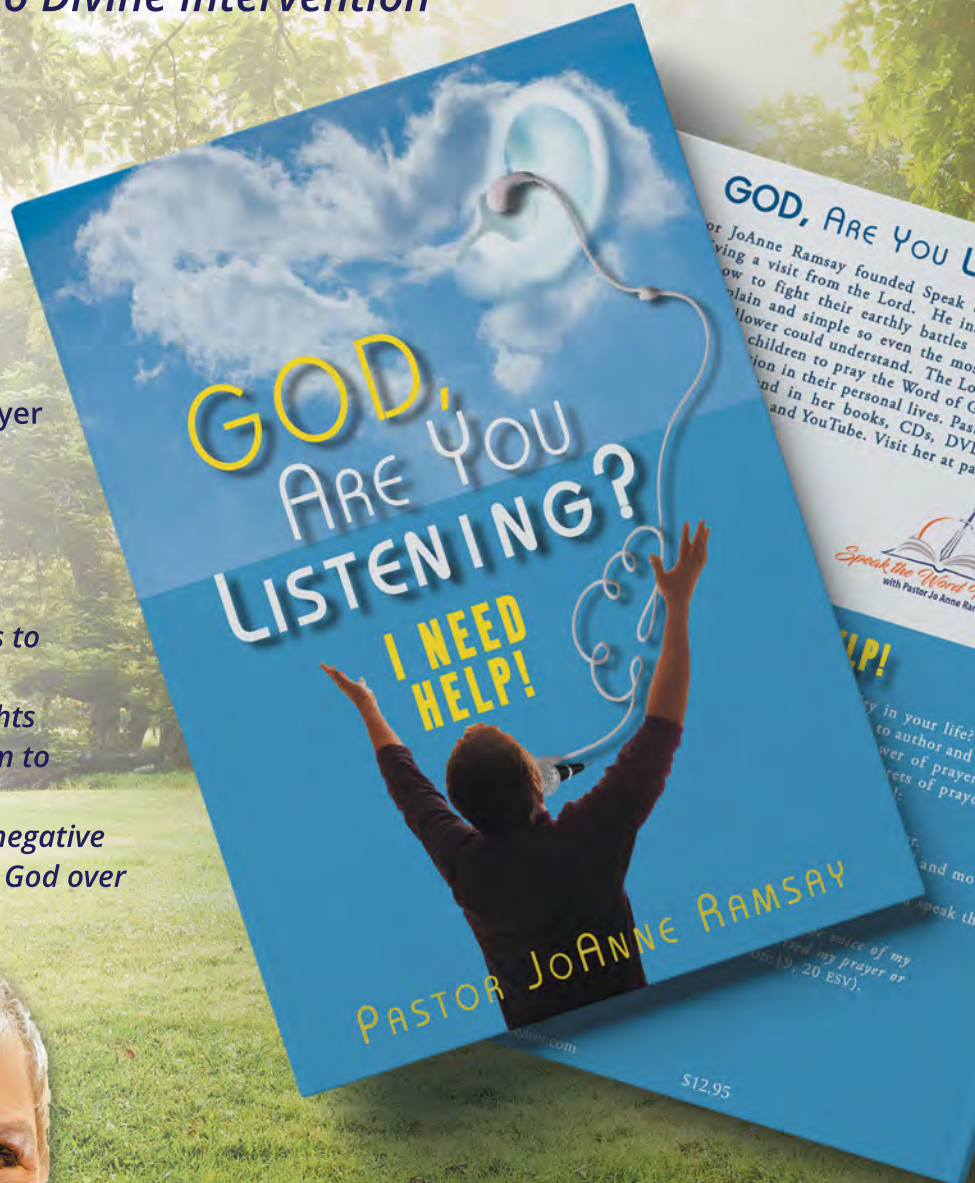
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Fresh Waters from the Ancient Wells

With each new surge of spiritual revival within the body of Christ, it is crucial to recognize that the Holy Spirit remains unchanging. The power and presence of God never can wane or diminish. Regardless of the spiritual condition of the church, whether ablaze or tepid, the Holy Spirit, as the eternal God, perpetually dwells in omnipotence and eagerly pours out upon all who are willing to receive. Revival is not a matter of God conforming to our desires, but rather it entails our alignment with the unalterable nature of God. Since change is the only constant within our lives, seeking alignment with the everlasting and unchangeable God becomes a formidable task.

The Scripture in Malachi 3:6 states, “For I am the Lord, I do not change.” If a New Testament reference is preferred, Hebrews 13:8 affirms, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” This unchanging God stands as a solid foundation for our lives, anchoring us in a world of shifting sands.

Regardless of the fluctuation of time or the cultural advancements of the Postmodern era, the principle for engaging with and abiding in the glorious realm of God’s fire and revival remains unwavering. The key lies in nurturing a deep hunger and thirst for the tangible presence of God, which compels us beyond the superficial facade of our everyday existence and propels us into the inner sanctum of His holy dwelling. Often, our self-reliant human nature hinders us from recognizing our desperate need for God’s presence and power, preventing us from pursuing Him at this profound level. As the psalmist poetically expressed in Psalm 42:1, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.”

In Matthew 5:6, Jesus bestows a special blessing upon those who truly long for Him with fervent hunger and thirst. As a witness to numerous revival movements worldwide, I have observed that outbreaks of spiritual awakening often stem from a passionate cry for God’s glory, fueled by an insatiable hunger and thirst for more of Him. A mere craving for instantaneous outcomes will not yield

breakthrough; true revival goes beyond superficial desires.

While large gatherings may serve as indicators of a revival taking place in a particular region, the genuine move of the Holy Spirit transcends physical locations and dwells within the hearts of multitudes encountering God in the depths of their souls. The heart acts as the altar where God ignites His consuming fire, and it is within these inner spaces that we must earnestly seek Him through authentic worship and heartfelt thanksgiving.

When the human heart yields itself in reverential adoration and uninhibited surrender to God, a personal and enduring awakening becomes imminent. The expression of thanksgiving plays a pivotal role in ushering forth a fresh outpouring of the Spirit of God in our lives. The prophet Isaiah admonishes us in Isaiah 12:3-6, “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

“As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving... let each believer consciously employ the power of joyful thanksgiving to draw forth the living water from the well of salvation.”

The wells of salvation symbolize the place of intimate encounters with the Father, where we can immerse ourselves and draw forth the refreshing waters of His Spirit. As Jesus proclaimed in John 7:38, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Notice how the joy of the Lord becomes the conduit through which the living water flows from the wells of salvation. A heart filled with gratitude exudes joy. This posture of reverential worship and genuine thankfulness opens the door for fresh encounters with the Lord within the depths of our souls.

As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving, and as our nation gives thanks for the manifold blessings we have received and shared, let each believer consciously employ the power of joyful thanksgiving to draw forth the living water from the well of salvation.

Let the revelation of these truths illuminate within your spirit and stir your heart to seek the unchanging God amidst the ever-changing world around you. Embrace the fullness of His presence, hunger for His glory and overflow with gratitude as you navigate through this season of revival and awakening.

Apostle **Bible Davids** is the president of Bible Davids Ministries and founding apostolic overseer of Supernatural Life Center with campuses in the United States, Canada and Africa. He has authored several books including *Switch Your Season* and *Destiny Is Calling You*. He resides in North Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Rebecca, and their three children.

LUZ HERNANDEZ MINISTRIES

LUZ HERNANDEZ MINISTRIES is a prophetic and apostolic ministry. Her life struggles and low valley seasons have given her a heart for the lost, a discerning eye for the hidden treasure within people, and a clarion voice to call dead bones to life and into a greater awakening that will connect them to their life assignment. She travels to cities and nations preaching Jesus, as it is her yearning to see revival globally. She has joined hands with the Holy Spirit to be a facilitator to the body of Christ. Daily, people are being transformed, activated, and equipped for the glory of God.

POSITIONED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

“For who knows if you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.” - Esther 4:14

Spiritual relevance has nothing to do with what is trending, here on earth. “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

There is a heavenly frequency and our heart alignment is the prerequisite to tune in to what God is saying.

Things are being shaken in order to awaken the bride. Heaven’s clock is about to strike 12. Can you hear the cry ringing out? There is a trumpet call for the remnant to arise in this hour, to sound the alarm of a spiritual climate trending in heaven! ARISE AND PROPHESEY!

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Loren and Darlene
Cunningham

YWAM Founder Loren Cunningham Dies at 88

Founded the organization in 1960 to involve young people in Christian missions, built it into a global movement

Loren Cunningham, 88, founder of interdenominational, multicultural Christian training organization Youth With a Mission, died Oct. 6 at his home in Hawaii after a battle with cancer. He was the first person in history to travel for the sake of Christ and the Great Commission to every sovereign nation on earth, all dependent countries and more than 100 territories.

Born June 30, 1935, in Taft, California, Cunningham founded YWAM in 1960 as a way to get young people

involved in Christian missions, building the organization into a global movement touching every continent and influencing every generation over its 63-year history. He was often called the “deregulator of missions” because he broke the 1960s missionary paradigm by creating a way for youth to serve short-term, interdenominationally and without salary.

He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Darlene, who co-led YWAM; their daughter, Karen; son, David; and three grandchildren.



Christ For The Nations Celebrates 75 Years of Global Impact

Ministry has trained more than 40,000 Christian workers

Christ For The Nations marked 75 years of global impact via its Envision Gala 2023 on Oct. 7 at the Arts District Mansion in Dallas, Texas, with keynote speaker Eric Metaxas. Founded by charismatic revivalist Gordon Lindsay and his wife, Freda, the ministry has trained thousands of world changers through its CFN Institute in Dallas to “do exploits for God.” Alumni include Colorado prayer leader Dutch Sheets; worship artists Russ Taff and Nicole C. Mullen; and the late pastor Benson Idahosa, father of Nigerian Pentecostalism.



2023 Envision Gala

Originally called The Voice of Healing, the ministry changed its name in 1971 to more accurately reflect its missionary focus. After Gordon Lindsay’s sudden death in 1973, the CFN board unanimously elected Freda to succeed her husband as president, a role she held until her retirement in 2008 at age 94. Today, led by President Dennis Lindsay and his son, Vice President Golan Lindsay, its ministries consist of orphanage support, a missionary assistance program, a literature program, an association of Bible schools, ministry in Israel and a native church program.

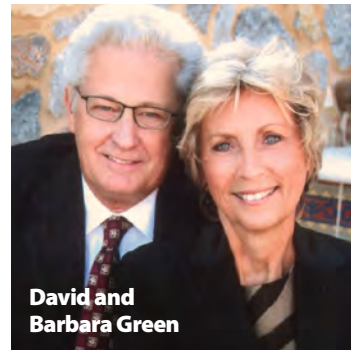
“This ministry ... is one of the most celebrated and honorable ministries I know of on the entire planet,” Bill Johnson, senior leader of Bethel Church in Redding, California, says in a video celebrating the anniversary. “And I am so thankful—thankful that we can call ourselves friends and that I have seen the great work that God has done.”

‘God Has Blessed Us’

Hobby Lobby founder’s biblical choices have led to God’s favor, he says

Hobby Lobby founder and CEO David Green doesn’t hesitate to speak the truth about his family-owned business: It’s not a business at all. Instead, says the CEO of the chain of arts and crafts stores with annual revenue of \$5 billion, “It’s a ministry to bring on and let people know about the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

In leading their ministry, Green orders his priorities according to Scripture. He tells host Kirk Cameron of “Takeaways” on TBN, “As Christians, we should know that our family is more important than



David and Barbara Green

our business. In fact, when I get our leaders together, I let them know ... the easiest thing for us to do is be successful in our business. But the most important thing is our marriage and our family.”

Those priorities also include finances, Green says. The debt-free company gives away half its profits, a decision that has led to God’s blessing, he says. “I believe that God has blessed us because we know it’s not ours, and we want to do as much as we can in ministry.”

Thanksgiving Wisdom from President Abraham Lincoln

He wasn’t afraid to invoke the name of the Most High God

In an era when government tries to separate our nation from its Judeo-Christian roots, let’s remember with gratitude President Abraham Lincoln’s words of July and October 1865. They are just as true today as when he set aside a national Day of Thanksgiving:

“No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God who hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit

and proper that these blessings should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people.

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.”



'You Are the Ultimate Healer'

Thomas Rhett stops show, leads crowd in prayer for audience member

Country superstar Thomas Rhett does not hesitate to talk about his faith. But in a Sept. 30 concert, the singer-songwriter went one step further, living out his relationship with Christ before an entire arena of fans. Performing at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on the final night of his Home Team Tour 23, he was in the middle of a song when an audience member suffered a medical emergency. Pausing his set, Rhett turned his attention to the ailing fan, Terry, sitting down on the stage near where the man had been carried by medical personnel. And then he turned Terry over to God.

"God, we just ask for Your healing over Terry," he prayed. "We know You are the ultimate physician. We know You are the ultimate healer. ... God, we know that You are a miracle worker, and we pray over Terry and his family right now." Rhett continued his prayer, closing in the name of Jesus before pausing again and then continuing his show.

The following evening, Rhett posted on Twitter that his fan was "home and doing well. He and his family appreciate all the prayers."



Thomas Rhett performing at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena



Ancient inscription

Prayer to Jesus Found in Inscription at Fort in Judean Desert

A team of Hebrew University archaeologists has unearthed a rare inscription paraphrasing part of Psalm 86 in New Testament Greek and including a prayer to Jesus Christ. The team that made the discovery was working at the Hyrcania Fortress, a second-temple era structure built by Hasmonean ruler John Hyrcanus or his son Alexander Jannaeus in the first or second century B.C.

Painted in red under a cross on the side of a large building stone, the inscription reads, "Jesus Christ, guard me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you." The original Hebrew psalm opens with the words, "Hear me, Lord, and answer me."

The fortress, built on a hilltop about 17 kilometers southeast of Jerusalem in the Judean Desert, became a monastery in the fifth century A.D., and the community of Byzantine Christian monks who lived there is likely responsible for the inscription.

FACEBOOK


A vibrant rainbow arches across a dramatic, cloudy sky, casting a soft glow over a lush green field. The scene is captured in a cinematic style, with the rainbow's colors appearing sharp and bright against the dark, moody clouds. The field below is a mix of green grass and small trees, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

God's *Promise* to Us *All*

Born of sorrow it is a sign from God to us. HE has NOT left you no matter what. HE promises **HOPE, RESTORATION, HEALING OF SOUL AND BODY, LOVE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING.** What the Rainbow meant to Noah and his family it means to us today.

Behold the *Rainbow!*

[Click here to listen!](#)



Are You Desperate for the Holy Spirit Yet?

Join this bold journey toward supernatural deliverance

BY GREG LOCKE

When I say the church in America is in a mess, that's not an oversimplification, and it's certainly not some allegorical statement. We are literally in a mess. From false prophets to woke agendas, the church has fallen prey to all manner of unbiblical foolishness. We've jumped on every church growth bandwagon imaginable, and with each passing decade, the body of Christ in this nation has drifted further and further from biblical truth.

Sound doctrine and true Holy Spirit power have become so foreign to this generation that we have blatantly humanized God, deified man and willingly glorified sin. We have to stop screaming *love and acceptance* while God Himself is screaming, *abomination and unholiness*.

The church is being called into a season of deep repentance and humility. The glory of God is rising among a righteous remnant of people who are tired of status-quo Christianity—men and women who long for true integrity of heart, boldness of speech and the unction to break free from religious bondage.

What has gotten us to where we are, will not get us to where God wants us to go.

After Deliverance

It is important to recognize the power of desperation. Desperation for deliverance and for the Word of God. For that, I want to take a look at the book of Jeremiah, which is one of the strangest theological books in the entire Bible.

continued »



“
Recognize
the power of
desperation.

”

Jeremiah was called by the Lord at age 15 to preach for 40+ years to a nation that did not give one flip of a wooden nickel about anything he said. Only a handful of people were true-blue converts of the message Jeremiah had to preach, and that message was not a casual “just come to the Lord and all your dreams will be fulfilled” kind of message. He preached a message of deep repentance and thundered out the truth of the Word to a rebellious group of people that sat there bug-eyed and hard-hearted and refused to listen.

For more than four decades Jeremiah smashed strongholds, fought devils and called the people away from the bondage of iniquity and idolatry. In Jeremiah 8, he’s still in the introduction of his lifelong sermon of repentance. Here’s a man who was thrown into a miry pit—not just a prison with “three hots and a cot,” but a literal pit of mud and stench—on two occasions for preaching the Word. Later in the narrative we see Jeremiah become so discouraged that he said, “O Lord, you have deceived me,” (Jer. 20:7, ESV). Have you ever felt deceived by God? Have you ever felt like God gave you a promise and it didn’t come to pass when you thought it should?

Jeremiah eventually got so discouraged that he was tempted to walk away

No matter how rebellious the people were, no matter how discouraged he became, he couldn’t quit because the Word of God was boiling and stirring in him. And it wouldn’t let him go.

Jeremiah was one of the few true prophets left in the southern kingdom of Judah after the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. The king was a fleshly puppet. The priests had corrupted themselves. The prophets had polluted themselves because they were all about the money. Their ministry was no longer about the manifested glory of God or the truth. It was about being seen by men instead of being exalted by God and used for the glory of His message. They cared about the manifestation of their own lives, not the manifestation of the power of God.

In Jeremiah 8, something happened that I’ve read more than a hundred times, but for some reason I never caught it until we got a glimpse of what God was teaching us on this journey of deliverance. We see that the wise men began to be ashamed of the Word of the Lord. In response, God said, “I’m going to kill all of you.” That’s what He means when He says, “I’m going to give your wives to others and your land to those that shall inherit it.” (See verse 10.) He said, “I’m going to judge you and wipe you off the face of the earth. You’ve been rebellious far too long, and you’ve been preaching something that is not true. And because of that, My people have no healing.”

Healed Slightly

This seems like such a strange place to talk about deliverance; but watch closely. Those who knew the truth—the prophets and the priests—were responsible to share the truth, but they did not. Thus, they were under the judgment of God, as are so many of the false prophets of our day. Why? Verse 11

gives us the answer (KJV): “For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.” Notice that word

slightly. The phrase “the daughter of my people” is generational terminology. God is saying that Jeremiah’s generation had been healed somewhat by the message, and it mirrors exactly what we are living right now in the American church. When the manifested power of God begins to explode in our midst, we try to explain it away because it doesn’t fit the denominational narrative of how we were raised. It doesn’t go through the lens of how we were taught to read the Bible.

This is the most disparaging remark that could be said of these people: “They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly.” The priests gave the people just enough to keep them coming. They cranked up the music just enough to get the people bopping and jamming. They prayed just enough prayers not to make the people too uncomfortable. They preached just long enough to make the people feel like they had been to a motivational pop psychology meeting—so they could walk in the doors feeling one way and walk out feeling better about themselves, never learning anything about the glory of God.

As we’ve pressed into this journey of deliverance at Global Vision and everywhere we preach, I’ve discovered that my eyes had been purposely closed to things I refused to take notice of because of the discomfort they brought. And like the people of Jeremiah’s day, most believers today have experienced a degree of deliverance—slightly. They have a degree of sanctification—slightly. People have walked the aisle, signed a card and prayed a prayer, but they’ve only been set free slightly because they’re still in bondage to their past. You will never be delivered from what is attacking you and oppressing you until you get desperate for the deliverance you need from God.

Not Supposed to Be Natural

We’ve raised a generation of fortune-cookie Christians who are looking for a Jesus that gives them whatever they want. If the Bible says we can be filled with joy and filled with peace and filled with power, then why do we come to church and feel so distracted? It’s because we’re filled with things we want in the flesh. It’s because we’ve been healed slightly.

“
If we can stand so boldly in life
and death in the face of this
buck-wild culture, shouldn’t
we be equally as bold with the
truth of the Word of God?”

from the things of God, “but his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay,” (20:9).

People say, “Oh, we’re saved by the grace of God,” but some of you are addicted to pornography because you’ve only been healed slightly. “I’ve got victory in Jesus”—but you can’t get away from the bottle because you’ve been healed slightly. The Bible says, in effect, “The priests and prophets gave them just enough truth to get out of some trouble, but they were only healed slightly.” And that’s where we are in the church today. We have

just enough truth to feel a little better—at times—but we’re still in bondage and we still have strongholds. The church has only been healed slightly because most aren’t desperate for the things of God and dead religion has taken His place at the altar. That’s why people can come to church, hear a good message, make a glorious decision and—though they might feel better in the moment—still go home unchanged. Without desperation, they’re only healed slightly.

Even though the Holy Spirit indwells the holy of holies in our body, there are still demonizing spirits that try to destroy the work of the Spirit within us. The church in America is in a floundering mess: Sicknesses that could be healed. Children that could be set free. Marriages that could be restored. Strongholds like addictions and bondages that could be demolished. Religion that could be shattered—all with a proper understanding of what the Bible truly says about each. It’s a supernatural work of a supernatural God through a supernatural book. It’s not supposed to be natural, and that’s why it bothers us.

So we cry “peace, peace,” but there is no peace. We say “everything’s good” while the Father’s house is burning to the ground. We as the church just stay in our sin. We stay in our rebellion. We stay in our lust. We stay in our addiction. We stay bound up in the strongholds of the enemy’s making. The devil has a foothold in your life, and the things you’re

struggling with need to be renounced in the name of Jesus. You need to get desperate for deliverance!

Pentecost Continued

The fulfillment of Joel 2 began on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, and it is still being fulfilled to this day. This degree of outpouring will not go away until the sun is darkened and the moon is turned into blood on that great and terrible day of the Lord (v. 31). We know that Pentecost is still flowing today in the church because this “great and terrible day” has yet to arrive. This outpouring out of God’s Spirit on “all flesh” will continue all the way to the end of days when the greatest harvesting revival on the planet is going to take place. These are those days.

In Joel 2, the prophet tells us that from Pentecost to the end times—now—whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered. The parallel reference to this prophecy in Acts 2 reads, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (v. 21, emphasis added), so salvation is deliverance. The promise of this great revival is not one of bigger crowds but of greater deliverance of God’s people—the remnant who are desperate enough to call on Jesus’ name with purpose, no longer seeking deliverance slightly but in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

This passage in Joel has been in the Bible all along—through all my days in

seminary and all my days of preaching—but I just didn’t have the spiritual capacity to accept its deepest meaning until now. As Joel reveals, this last-days deliverance shall be in Zion and Jerusalem, “and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.” For this we know the remnant church will be marked by deliverance.

I’ve been known as a preacher who is baptized in boldness, and as our people at Global Vision have proven, this sort of courage is contagious. We are a remnant church. There is no doubt about that. If we can stand so boldly in life and in death in the face of this buck-wild culture, shouldn’t we be equally as bold if not bolder with the truth of the Word of God when it comes across our eyes and gets planted in our hearts and minds? The answer is yes. We are submitting to the Word of God. We’re desperate for it. When the Word of God and a supernatural experience meet and God confirms His Word to the hearts of His children, they simply obey. These are the markers of the remnant people who are called by God in these last of the last days. ◀

Pastor GREG LOCKE is the founder of Locke Media and Global Vision Press. He is also the founding and lead pastor of Global Vision Bible Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. He is the author of four #1 best-selling books, including the three-book Spiritual Warfare series, and his newest book which released before Labor Day, Cast It Out. Pastor Locke and his wife, Taisha, share six kids and one very blessed grandchild.

HERE ARE YOUR KEYS TO
UNLOCKING ABUNDANT

LIFE



BY JOHN ECKHARDT

God's faithfulness can lead you to His supernatural increase

A blessed and favored Christian is vibrant, fruitful and able to give and sustain life. But if all you do is receive, receive, receive, you will end up like the Dead Sea—becoming too salty and too toxic to support any kind of life. So, if you want to receive the blessing and favor of God, you have to be ready to give.

What Is the Key?

Giving is one of the ways you show favor to others and tap into the favor of God. The Bible teaches a simple message about being blessed to be a blessing. It is a cyclical law much like sowing and reaping. In Christian circles it has been called the law of the harvest; in the world, karma; and in science, cause and effect: “What goes around comes around.” “You get what you pay for.” “You get out what you put in.” “Whatever you sow, you will reap.”

Regardless of what man has tried to label it, this law of giving and receiving originated with God at the foundation of the world. It is not a hypothesis or theory. It is an ingrained law that applies to life on this earth and in heaven whether we are aware of it or not. What you release will be given back to you; and even more, you will receive in proportion to how you give. If you give (or sow) sparingly, you will receive (or reap) sparingly (2 Cor. 9:6).

Favor and Abundance

There is one type of giving I want to emphasize that will cause favor to be multiplied to you in ways you may have never experienced. This type of giving will bring you into a realm of favor that no other type of giving will: “And God is able to make all grace [favor] abound toward you [superabound]; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath *dispersed abroad*; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever),” (2 Cor. 9:8–9, KJV).

I have emphasized “dispersed abroad.” Years ago the Lord challenged our ministry to sow into other nations. He wanted us to disperse abroad. An abundance of favor is released to a ministry that disperses abroad. God will make favor “superabound” toward you. This is the literal meaning of the word *abound* in the Greek language. There will come a superabundance of favor.

Most believers have never walked in this level of favor, but it is available to those who will disperse abroad. Showing mercy and giving to poor nations is the way to tap into this realm of favor.

An abundance of financial favor will be released to them who disperse abroad. God will multiply your sown seed. This is how you can enter into the realm of multiplication. Multiplication always brings abundance.

Stinginess will choke the flow of favor out of your life. You cannot be stingy and have an abundance of favor. Givers receive favor. “Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over [overflowing], shall men give into your bosom,” (Luke 6:38, KJV). People will favor you by giving into your bosom. There will be so much favor that your finances will overflow. This is an abundance of favor, and it is the level we want to walk and live in.

What Is Supernatural Mega-Favor?

The Greek word *meGas* means “great,” and from it we get the English word mega. In other words, the apostles had mega-grace. Mega means great or large; it also means “million.” There are megabucks, megabytes, mega doses

and megahertz. The implication is always something huge. We want to enter the realm of mega-favor.

The apostles' anointing releases great favor. This is a part of the apostolic church. There is no lack when this level of favor is present: "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace [favor] of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Cor. 1:4-7, KJV).

This is great favor. When you walk in this realm of favor, you will "come behind in no gift," (1 Cor. 1:7, KJV), meaning you will lack no spiritual gift. You will be enriched in everything. To enrich means "to make rich." To be rich means to have an abundant supply. This is a level of favor that releases abundance.

Notice that the apostles would release grace when writing to the churches. There is an anointing upon apostles and other ministry gifts to release favor to the body of Christ. Favor (grace) and apostleship are linked together (Rom. 1:5).

This is the hour in which God is restoring apostolic ministry to the church. The church is again receiving the ministry of the apostles. Apostles are once again being recognized. As we embrace true apostolic ministers, we will see a great release of God's favor to the church. This is already happening. It is

the time of God's: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come," (Ps. 102:13, KJV).

We are living in an apostolic time. This is a season of favor. God is doing some awesome things in this season. He is doing a work so great that it will not be believed (Hab. 1:5). It is a set time. This means that it has been ordained by the Father. No devil can stop it. You must believe it and receive God's favor.

Confessing the Word of God is an important part of every believer's spiritual life. Christianity is called the "great confession." Salvation comes from confessing with the mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). The mouth is connected to the heart, and the Word of God released from your mouth will be planted in your heart. Faith is also released from the mouth. The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," (Matt. 12:34). The mouth can only release what is in the heart. But faith in the heart that is released through the mouth can move mountains (Matt. 17:20).

God's Word is powerful. When you pray the Word of God, it becomes "like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces," (Jer. 23:29), bringing victory and the abundant life Jesus died for us to experience. May the following prayers and confessions activate your faith and expectancy for God's best and release His favor and goodness as you walk faithfully before Him. ◀

KEY PRAYERS FOR THE BLESSING OF GIVING KEY

I give, and it is given to me; "pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will men give unto" me (Luke 6:38).

I sow bountifully, and I reap bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6).

Lord, remember all my offerings (Ps. 20:3).

I honor You with the first fruits of my increase; therefore, let my barns be filled with plenty (Prov. 3:9-10).

Let wealth and riches be in my house, for I am a giver (Ps. 112:3).

I bring the tithe and offerings to the storehouse. Let the windows of heaven be opened over my life (Mal. 3:10).

I bring the tithe and offerings to the storehouse. Rebuke the devourer for my sake (Mal. 3:10-11).

I sow into good ground, and I reap an abundant harvest (Gal. 6:7).

I believe in seedtime and harvest as long as the earth remains (Gen. 8:22).

I give, so release Your heaps into my life (2 Chron. 31:8, KJV).

I have a bountiful eye, and I give; therefore, I receive Your blessing (Prov. 22:9).

I give; therefore, give me richly all things to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17).

I will bring an offering and come into Your courts (Ps. 96:8).

Let my prayers and giving come up as a memorial before You (Acts 10:4).

I will support anointed ministers, and my needs are met according to Your riches in glory (Phil. 4:18-19).

I will minister to You, Lord, with my substance (Luke 8:2-3, KJV).

I am a doer of the Word, and I obey Your Word by giving (Jas. 1:22; Luke 6:38).

Let my giving and tithes increase (Deut. 14:22, KJV).

Let my latter end greatly increase (Job 8:7).

I will flourish like a palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon (Ps. 92:12).

ABUNDANCE AND PROSPERITY CONFESSIONS

I will prosper and be in health as my soul prospers (3 John 2, NKJV).

I will not lack, for You are my shepherd, and I will not want (Ps. 23:1).

Lord, prosper me and let me have abundance.

Lord, You are El Shaddai, the God of more than enough; give me everything I need to fulfill my destiny, and let me have more than I need (Gen. 17, NLT).

Lord, You became poor that through Your poverty I might be rich (2 Cor. 8:9).

Lord, let me not lack any good thing, for I delight myself in You (Ps. 119:16, 47, NKJV).

Lord, give me the desires of my heart, for I seek You (Ps. 37:4).

Lord, I put first Your kingdom and Your righteousness, and all things are added to me (Matt. 6:33).

Lord, bless my coming in and my going out (Ps. 121:8).

Lord, let me be blessed in the city and blessed in the field (Deut. 28:3).

Lord, let me be blessed to be above and not beneath (Deut. 28:13).

Lord, let me be blessed to be the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13).

Lord, let me be blessed with dominion and victory over the enemy (Ps. 119:133).

Lord, multiply Your grace in my life, and let me abound to every good work (2 Cor. 9:8).

Lord, let me have abundance and not scarceness.

Lord, let there be no holes in my bag (Hag. 1:6).

Let the windows of heaven be opened over my life and pour me out a blessing I don't have room enough to receive. Lord, rebuke the devourer for my sake (Mal. 3:10–11).

Lord, I seek You; cause me to prosper (2 Chron. 26:5, KJV).

Lord, speak over my life and let me prosper (Gen. 24:40).

Let me have wisdom and prosperity (1 Kings 10:7).

Lord God of heaven, prosper me (Neh. 2:20).

Lord, take pleasure in my prosperity (Ps. 35:27, KJV).

Lord, send prosperity to my life (Ps. 118:25, KJV).

Let peace and prosperity be within my house (Ps. 122:7).

Let the gifts You have given me bring prosperity (Prov. 17:8).

Lord, You have called me; make my way prosperous (Isa. 48:15).

Lord, rule and reign over my life with prosperity (Jer. 23:5).

Lord, procure Your goodness and prosperity in my life (Jer. 33:9).

Lord, bless me, and let me not forget prosperity (Lam. 3:17).

Lord, let me prosper like Abraham (Gen. 24:35).

Lord, bless me and increase me like Abraham my father (Isa. 51:2).

Lord, let me prosper like Joseph (Gen. 39:2).

Lord, bless me like Asher, and let me dip my feet in oil (Deut. 33:24).

Lord, bless my house like the house of Obed-Edom (2 Sam. 6:12).

Lord, bless me and bring me into a wealthy place (Ps. 66:12, KJV).

Lord, give me power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18, KJV).

Lord, Your blessing makes rich, and You add no sorrow (Prov. 10:22).

Lord, bless me with enough to eat, with plenty left (2 Chron. 31:10).

Lord, let me prosper like Daniel (Dan. 6:28).

Let every journey I take be prosperous (Rom. 1:10, KJV).

Let every good seed I plant prosper (Zech. 8:12).

Apostle JOHN ECKHARDT is overseer of Crusaders Ministries. He is a sought-after international conference speaker and has authored over 40 books, including Prayers That Rout Demons, Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare Manual and his newest book, Prayers That Unlock Favor. Eckhardt lives in Chicago with his wife, Wanda.

| FAITHFULNESS IN TRIALS

THANKING GOOD



While Navigating Life's
STORM SEASONS



BY JAMES LASHER

The truth in the old saying, “life comes at you fast,” is undeniable, but it can also take on what feels like various forms as it is moving fast.

There are seasons we endure that feel like life is a fast-moving and massive wave in the ocean. It beats us down repeatedly and once we get our head above water, we are hit by the next wave, and the next wave, and this pattern continues for what feels like an eternity.

Other times life can come at us like an out of control freight train that smashes into our vehicle and completely upends us. Perhaps the death of a loved one or losing job security or any number of events that can turn our world upside down as we flip from the collision that we never saw coming.

In these inevitable moments in life, just ask any Christian leader or mature believer in your life about turbulent seasons and they will confirm they have not just endured one but several. It is imperative to not just turn to the Lord during our times of sorrow, hurt, confusion and stretching, but to praise Him and thank Him in the storm.

New Seasons of Growth and Testing

Like many aspects of the Christian walk, this is always easier said than put into action in our lives. When a life moment or season hits it can cause a mental or emotional reaction that takes our eyes off the greatest life preserver of all: God. Allow me to share with you a recent “wilderness” season I went through to encourage you to turn to the Lord who comforts us during our own turbulent times of life.

For the past year and two months, I have been commuting from Orlando, Florida, to South Georgia where my wife and daughter were staying with my in-laws. A week after getting hired at Charisma Media, a God-event that we both knew I was

brought to by His will, my mother-in-law and niece survived an horrific car accident. My mother-in-law incurred a traumatic brain injury and was rushed into emergency brain surgery and by the grace of God survived a fractured skull from the crash. My niece, praise the Lord, walked away with minor injuries but suffered the mental hurts that come from such an ordeal.

For the next year, my wife and I felt she would be staying in Georgia to help her mother during this time of recovery. Let me tell you, aside from the obvious reasons this would be a difficult season for us, before getting this God-ordained job in Florida I had been a stay-at-home dad with my daughter for the first year of her life. Now, I was going to be seeing her and my wife for a day-and-a-half a week.

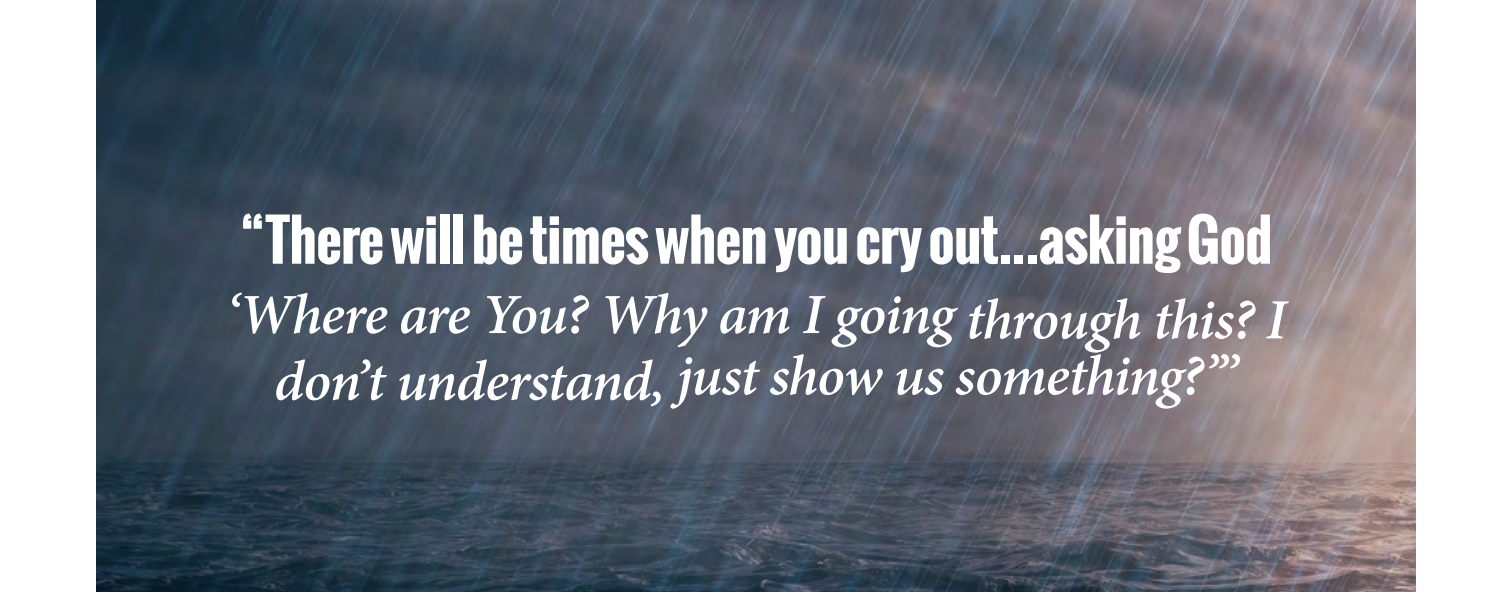
The Lord always provided me with a place to stay during the week in Florida. He also provided the finances to afford this lifestyle, for which I give Him the praise and glory, but I was not always praising Him over those difficult months.

I missed my wife, I longed to hold my daughter, I had countless moments of doubt if I was even on the right path God wanted me on. My wife and I prayed together, and we prayed apart. I wept bitterly in hotel rooms more times than I can recall, and tried on multiple occasions to convince God we had reached our point of breaking. That we just could not be stretched anymore.

The Testing of Endurance Produces Character

But God knows best, even when we are completely at a loss of what His plans are for us in a particular moment or season. He uses these seasons in the wilderness for His purposes, and it is imperative we do not give up on Him during the hardships.

There will be times when you cry out, much like I did alone in a hotel room, and ask God “Where are You? Why am I going



**“There will be times when you cry out...asking God
‘Where are You? Why am I going through this? I
don’t understand, just show us something?’”**

through this? I don’t understand, just show us something?” And it may feel like He is not listening, but rest assured He is.

The seasons always come to an end, but how they end is up to us.

Are we controlling our attitudes during these periods of difficulty, or are our attitudes controlling us? Are we going

***“It may feel like
He is not listening,
but rest assured
He is.”***

to complain, much like the children of Israel did on their way to the Promised Land, or are we going to show a bit of discipline and trust that the Lord knows better than we do?

Keep in mind that complaining exhibits a distrust in the Lord’s planning and reveals ungratefulness for what He has done in our own hearts. It was in mine and He had to work out that ungratefulness, often in ways that hurt (not physically of course), and I had to make the choice to get in line with His plans or go off on my own and force things to happen in my life that run contrary to what the Lord had planned. Recall the Lord’s wisdom in Romans 5:3-5 (MEV), “Not only so, but we also boast in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces patience, patience produces character, and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God is shed abroad

in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Just look at the Lord’s response to His chosen people, Israel, when they grumbled before entering the Promised Land in Numbers 14: “O that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or that we had died in this wilderness! And why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should become prey? Is it not better for us to return to Egypt? And they said one to another, ‘Let us select a leader, and let us return to Egypt.’” (v. 2-4). They said this after all they had witnessed and received from the Lord on their way to the Promised Land! After everything they had endured as a people they were willing to head back to where they had come from and renounce the future God had planned for them.

Needless to say, God did not care for this attitude that they displayed with His response to the complaining in verses 11 and 12: “The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will this people disgrace Me? And how long will they not believe Me, in spite of all the signs which I have done among them? I will strike them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make from you a nation greater and mightier than they.’” Had Moses not interceded on Israel’s behalf, the redemption story of Jesus Christ may have turned out quite differently, but of course, that is not the case.

Resist Temptations to Anxiety With Gratefulness

Complaining is an easy thing to do when life just is not going the way we

hoped that it would. Negative emotions and even demonic oppression are waiting for us in the shadows, itching to turn our negativity against the One who is on our side rooting for us.

My family and I also had intercessors praying to the Lord on our behalf. My mother and her intercession group at church, my work, friends and others whom I am probably unaware of were lifting us and our situation up to the Lord. He heard the prayers while protecting, providing for and comforting us throughout our most recent season in the storm.

When the time came, the Lord established us in our new land, Florida. He

***“The seasons
always come
to an end, but
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provided in ways we certainly did not anticipate, from places we did not expect. There were certainly times we would think “maybe this is Him, or this, or this, or that,” and each time He would shut the door on those routes being the path He wanted to take.

Now, we are in another new season that will certainly bring with it a fresh set of tests of faith, but it is always a relief to make it through one season to another. There is a passage in the Bible

for every situation we face, yes I said every, and during these seasons of testing Philippians 4:6-7 stands as a pillar of encouragement for those enduring difficult times: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with gratitude, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will protect your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

“Smooth Sailing?”

While the world brings anxiety, depression, anger and confusion to the forefront of our minds, the fruit of the Spirit instills love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control into our hearts. These events that take place in our lives can feel overwhelming, that there is no end to them. But recognize the opportunity behind them to grow and strengthen yourself in the Lord.

With a firm foundation established by time intentionally spent studying the Word of God, we edify ourselves to not just weather but power up during our seasons of struggle. This increase in our faith will prepare us for what the Lord has planned next in our lives. We do not just hit a place in life and go, “All done! We finished the journey of Christianity and have it all figured out. Smooth sailing from here on out!”

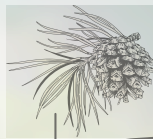
Not a chance.

Instead, the Lord moves us forward, like on a path of stepping stones going from one to the next on the way to our ultimate destination: paradise with Him.

As you navigate the storms of life, keep the Word of God in your heart to offer guidance and strength during these times while glorifying and thanking the Lord. I’ll leave you with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 as a guide on how to faithfully traverse the wilderness while pleasing the Lord on your journey: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” ◀

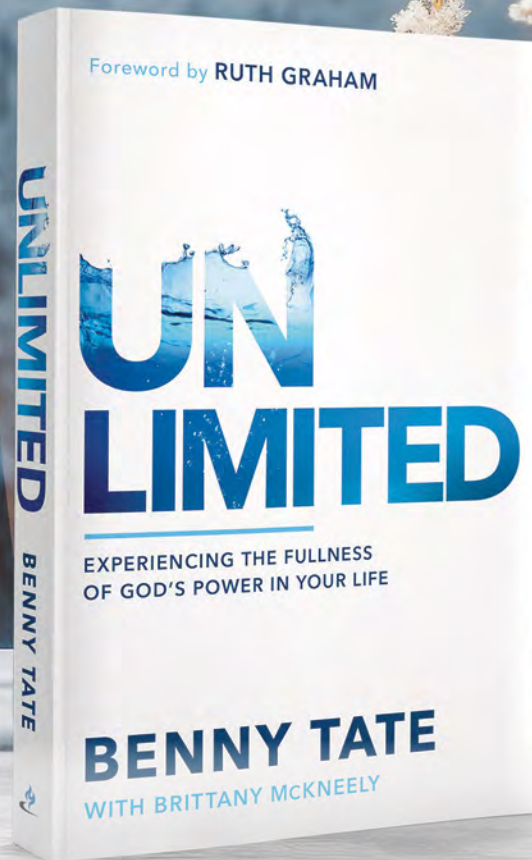
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Stewarding GOD's

HOLLY FLAMES OF REVIVAL

How will you guard **GOD'S FIRE** and never let it go out?

BY DR. MICHAEL BROWN

Shortly before the great revivalist Leonard Ravenhill fell into a life-ending coma in September 1994, he said to Evangelist Steve Hill, “The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized during the lifetime of the opportunity.” When God moves in true revival, we need to give ourselves to that sacred movement with all our heart and soul, knowing that this may be something that happens only once in a generation—or even a lifetime. The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized during the lifetime of the opportunity!

Hill lived by this quote during the Brownsville Revival in Pensacola (1995-2000), canceling all his preaching engagements around the world in order to give himself to this historic outpouring. And it was from the revival in Pensacola that Ravenhill's quote went around the world. When the Lord moves, you must seize the moment, whether that moment is short or long.

When God Moves with Divine Fire

When God breaks out in your midst in a special way—in a prayer meeting, in a Sunday

“Just as consistent, fervent prayer will birth revival, it is consistent, fervent prayer that will sustain revival.”

morning service, in a youth rally—go with God. Spread your sails high and wide, and let the wind of the Spirit carry you. And sail on, as long as the wind keeps blowing. It may not gust up again! And even if, in the early days of a fresh move, that unusual stirring “interrupts” your service for a matter of a few minutes, let the Spirit know that He is welcome, and put other things aside while He is stirring the waters. If we prove faithful in little, we will be entrusted with much.

My new book, *Seize the Moment: How to Fuel the Fires of Revival*, lays out 25 biblically based, proven principles to help us steward a move of God. There are things we must do and things we must not do if we want to move from visitation to habitation and to see fruit that will last for generations. And today, as we are in the early stages of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, it is absolutely essential that we learn how to seize this sacred moment.

One key principle is the importance of guarding the divine flame once it has been ignited. We learn this principle from Leviticus 6. Notice this key commandment that is repeated three times: “Give Aaron and his sons this command: ‘These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar. The priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar. Then he is to take off these clothes and put on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean. *The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out.* Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and

burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. *The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.*” (Lev. 6:9-13, emphasis added).

Now, when God says anything once, we know it’s important. When He says it twice, it really gets our attention. But when He speaks it three times—especially in the same chapter of the Bible—we had better take heed. We dare not ignore the message! “. . . *the fire must be kept burning on the altar The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. . . . The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.*”

Why was this so important? On the one hand, it was a matter of divine service, part of Israel’s sacrificial worship. God was saying to Israel, “Don’t be neg-

ligent here. The flame on My altar must keep burning 24 hours a day.”

But there’s something else about this commandment that we should not overlook, something we learn from Leviticus 9, the end of the consecration ceremony for Aaron and his sons: “Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering and the

fellowship offering, he stepped down. Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown,” (Lev. 9:22–24).

Did you catch that? The very first fire that burned on the altar was ignited by God Himself. It was divine fire! That’s why the priests were commanded to never let the fire go out. It was because the Lord lit that fire Himself. How sacred that flame must have been to them! From then on, if the fire ever went out and the priests had to rekindle the flame, it would have been a man-made fire, a human substitute, something from below rather than from above.

Stoke Revival’s Blaze

It is the same thing with revival. When it comes, you must guard the sacred flame, feeding it with prayer, with worship, with sacrificed lives, with obedience, with holiness, with loving care. You do not want to let it go out. And

just as consistent, fervent prayer will birth revival, it is consistent, fervent prayer that will sustain revival.

The great missionary Amy Carmichael once prayed, “Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.” Jim Elliot, best known as a missionary martyr, added his own words to this prayer, saying, “God makes His ministers a flame of fire. Am I ignitable? God, deliver me from the dread asbestos

of ‘other things.’ Saturate me with the oil of Thy Spirit that I may be a flame. Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.”

In that same spirit, we must avoid those “other things” that put out the Spirit’s fire, things like complacency, pride, carnality and prayerlessness. We must be careful not to merchandise the revival or turn it into a spiritual carnival or put our personal (or ministry) names on it as if we owned it. We must never trivialize what God is doing in revival or sensationalize it or try to use it for our own purposes. It does not take much to chase the holy Dove away.

Contrast this divinely ignited fire with all our carnal attempts to produce divine fires, fires which may have some of the outward appearance of revival but are as far from real revival as the flesh is from the Spirit. As I stated in my 1993 book, *It’s Time to Rock the Boat*, “Much of our ministry today is a concerted, sometimes frantic attempt to make up for the absence of the Spirit. We are trying instead of tarrying, working instead of waiting, doing instead of dying, sweating instead of seeking. Our ‘spiritual’ ministry reeks of the flesh. What the Lord does is holy, holy, holy; what we do is hollow, hollow, hollow.”

5 Ways to Guard God’s Divine Revival Fire

When it comes to the divine flame of revival, we must remember that a fire can be put out and a fire can go out. We must guard against either of these deadly possibilities.

First, we must recognize the sacred, supernatural origin of the fire, remembering the many years that we prayed or fasted or cried out for a season of holy visitation. When that sacred season comes, we must guard it with the utmost care.

Second, we must never forget that we can put out the fire with pride, traditional religion, carnal control or willful sin.

Third, we can let the fire go out with lack of vision, lack of burden, lack of direction, lack of prayer, lack of sensitivity to the Spirit or lack of outreach.

Fourth, we must give the fire something to burn. We must feed the fire! We can feed it with our daily devotions,

“Giving room to the Spirit was more important than appearing to be ‘respectable’ to others.”

with a heart of worship, with creating an atmosphere where the Spirit is free to move, with giving ourselves to spread the fire to others.

Fifth, we must remember whatever we throw into a fire becomes fire. As new souls get saved, they become firebrands themselves. As backsliders get right with

“Our reverence for the holy flame of revival was so great that we made every effort to never let the fire go out.”

God, they become holy torches. As cold believers get freshly ignited, they burn bright for the world to see.

At the end of my first week in Brownsville, the Lord spoke four words to me, all beginning with the letter E: Entrench (meaning, the revival needed to go even deeper); Equip (we needed

to train laborers for the harvest); Expand (we needed more buildings and more workers); Export (we needed to send the fire to the world through these laborers). Thankfully, other leaders already understood the principle that “stagnating saints soon stink,” and with

an evangelist front and center in the revival, that meant there would always be an emphasis on reaching the lost, on giving away the blessing that we had received. This helped keep the fire burning.

Are You Ready to Build a Fire Legacy?

All of us also had strong holiness upbringings in the Lord, making

us recognize how deadly (and fire-quenching) our own sin could be. And we recognized that the Lord would not stay where He was not welcome. That meant that giving room to the Spirit was more important than appearing to be “respectable” to others. What we wanted was God’s approval, not man’s. And we knew that as we ourselves lived in the fire, we could help ignite others and spread those holy flames.

Did we do all this perfectly? Far from it, and the Lord was very merciful. But our reverence for the holy flame of revival was so great that we made every effort to never let the fire go out. By God’s grace, it burned brightly for the better part of five straight years, and in many ways, almost 30 years from when the revival began, those holy fires continue to burn in many hearts.

Do not fail to guard the flame! ◀

MICHAEL L. BROWN, PhD, is the founder and president of AskDrBrown Ministries and the president of FIRE School of Ministry. The author of over 40 books, he is also the host of the nationally syndicated daily talk radio show The Line of Fire. His latest book, *Seize the Moment*, releases in January 2024.

**H O W
W E L L
DO YOU KNOW THE
H O L Y
S P I R I T ?**



**The fullness of God's power for your
life is ready and waiting for you**



BY BENNY TATE, PHD

What comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit? Is it really a spirit and how can it be holy? Is it magic? It seems a bit spooky. Does the Holy Spirit have anything to do with God? For many of us the topic of the Holy Spirit has been ignored or considered taboo. In my upcoming book, *Unlimited*, I have started a conversation we all can understand about this curious and exciting topic—the Holy Spirit.

Did you realize the Holy Spirit has been with us since creation? If we begin at the beginning, the Holy Spirit has always been involved in creation. Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” From the creation of the world, the Holy Spirit has been a part of it all!

Dynamis Power In a Person

The number one thing you must understand about the Holy Spirit is He is a person. He is the third person in the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is often explained through a comparison with water. Water has three different forms: solid, liquid and gas, but all three are still water. God is three people in One: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While the Holy Spirit is a person too great for us to fully comprehend; He’s a person nonetheless. The Holy Spirit will never violate or contradict the teaching of the Bible. Having a relationship with the Holy Spirit will change your life.

The Holy Spirit is not mystical or weird. The Holy Spirit is not an energy or a force. He is a person who feels. He’s a person who grieves. In Ephesians 4:30 the Bible says “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” Just as we sadden other people in relationships, we can sadden the Holy Spirit. *continued »*

The Holy Spirit is for everyone. He's not just for clergy. He's for laity. In Exodus 31, Bezaleel was the first person the Bible says was filled with the Holy Spirit. He designed stones for the Tabernacle and was a Master Craftsman. The first person filled was not a sacred priest, prophet or a Levite. He was secular. He was not in ministry, but in the marketplace.

bar, which was my childhood home, at all hours of the night, you are filling up on something. If it's not the Holy Spirit, you will find yourself returning to worldly sources again and again for things that will cost you so much but leave you unsatisfied. Being filled daily by the Holy Spirit is the only satisfying source in life. The hardships and disappointments will drain you, but I'm happy to report the Holy Spirit's power is avail-

they don't understand, and the Holy Spirit has been disregarded by Christians and non-believers alike. There are three groups of people in this world: those who don't know the Lord and have not received the Holy Spirit, those who know the Lord and have received the Holy Spirit, but have never completely surrendered to His Lordship, and those who know the Lord and are controlled by the Holy Spirit.



New Season Growing Toward Holy Spirit

During 2016, I felt led to preach a sermon series on the Holy Spirit. I studied, prayed and prepared more than ever before to preach for six weeks on the Holy Spirit. I didn't know exactly what to expect, but I believed the Holy Spirit would come and great change would happen. He came, indeed! And He changed everything in my personal life as well as the lives of our church staff and congregation.

God wants to do the same things in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. When you allow the Holy Spirit to fill and direct your life, everything will change: relationships will be healed, self-esteem will be lifted, purpose will be revealed, joy will overflow, peace will reign in your heart, and the goodness and faithfulness of God in your life will be undeniable! If you have tried for far too long to manage everything going on in your life, I encourage you to surrender your strength to the indwelling presence and unlimited power of the Holy Spirit.

While you may not be filling up on alcohol daily like the men and women who banged on the back door of the local

bar, which was my childhood home, at all hours of the night, you are filling up on something. If it's not the Holy Spirit, you will find yourself returning to worldly sources again and again for things that will cost you so much but leave you unsatisfied. Being filled daily by the Holy Spirit is the only satisfying source in life. The hardships and disappointments will drain you, but I'm happy to report the Holy Spirit's power is avail-

able to you each day, because His power and presence are unlimited!
Learning from your mistakes is good, but learning from the mistakes of others is better. I hope you will learn from my mistakes and seek to gain a deeper

“
I don't want people to seek Jesus because it's trending...I want people to have a true understanding of Him in order to choose for themselves.
”

understanding of the Holy Spirit through learning biblical facts to help you move beyond an attitude of ignorance to discover the truth about the Holy Spirit. I do not mean to offend anyone by using the word *ignorance*; it simply means to be uninformed.

Many people tend to disregard what

Relying on your strength, intelligence and solutions will only drain you more and more. Every person must set aside their desire to do it all through self and instead surrender to the Savior who can bring peace, healing and true fulfillment.

Many of you may have already asked Jesus into your heart but you've yet to surrender everything to Him. You continue to live life in your own strength and struggle to maintain peace. I've got good news: let the Creator of the universe carry the heavy load, because you were never meant to carry it and He's always wanted to relieve you from it!

Surrendering completely to the Holy Spirit means you no longer operate in your own strength. If you acknowledge everything in your life is from God and allow Him to determine your every step, you will develop greater patience because you know nothing is yours to control in the first place.

Divine Plumbers Fixing Spiritual Pipes

D.L. Moody (a great preacher from days gone by) used to pray on a regular basis, "God fill me with your Spirit." Someone asked him, Brother Moody, why do you always pray God fill me with your Spirit and he said "because I

leak!” What I’ve learned is, we’re not of this world, but we’re in this world and we battle the world, the flesh and the devil—so we leak. That’s why it’s paramount we are constantly surrendering to the Lord, and freshly surrendering, because I am convinced as we surrender more of ourselves to God we encounter more of His presence in our lives. We encounter more of the fullness of everything God wants us to be.

were in jail, God sent an earthquake and the jailhouse shook. The jailer was going to kill himself and basically, the inmate said don’t do yourself any harm. We’re all here. What happened? The presence of God caused them to want to be there! The presence of God is something I believe people are drawn to. There’s nothing like it in this world! I would encourage churches to design services to exalt Jesus, because when we exalt Jesus,

dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” I’m reminded if the power of the Holy Spirit can raise Jesus from the dead, His power can help me overcome anything I face in this life.

One day not long after I finished praying and going over my message, my wife Barbara and I got into a conversation that led to a bit of a disagreement. We weren’t fighting but we were having

Surrender often means weakness, right? The world teaches those who surrender are the ones too weak to conquer. However, the Bible teaches the exact opposite, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness,” (2 Cor. 12:9). When you surrender completely to God and admit you are in need of a power greater than your own, you receive divine strength from the Holy Spirit. Why wouldn’t you want to give full control to the One who loves you more than anyone, is all-wise and is able to accomplish what’s best for you?

Call In Your Abundance Today!

God is not a god of little or less but the God of abundance! Look to His Word and read of His promises to those who put their hope and trust in Him. This world will leave you hopeless and empty when you try to do it all on your own, but God will fill you with Holy Spirit power and will relieve you of the burdens you carry. He offers living water that will flow into your soul and provide nourishment for all that seems dead in your life!

We live in a world where most churches design their services to attract people. I’m not opposed to different ways of trying to attract people. I am convinced we should focus on designing our services to attract the Holy Spirit; I believe if you’ll focus your service on attracting the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will attract people. When Paul and Silas

it certainly attracts the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit said when I am come, I will glorify Jesus. So, He’s about glorifying Jesus. When we want to glorify and exalt Jesus, it attracts His presence to our lives and our services.

I don’t want people to seek Jesus because it’s trending or try to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit because it’s a hot topic. I want people to have a true understanding of Him in order to choose for themselves. It must be something a person willingly enters into if it’s going to be a lasting decision.

Maybe you need to start believing the Holy Spirit cares deeply for you and will speak to you daily. You may be someone who has heard from God in the past but must decide in your heart to be obedient to whatever He asks you to do now. If your life is full of distractions, you may need to silence the noise and revise your schedule to better hear the Holy Spirit speak. Instead of running to the phone run to the throne. Whatever your circumstances may be, I know the Holy Spirit wants to speak to you. He is faithful to direct you in every decision you face if you will trust Him above all else!

The Third Person of our Triune God Is There for a Reason

I can’t help but think how Romans 8:11 says, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the

Benny Tate



“The Holy Spirit is for everyone.”

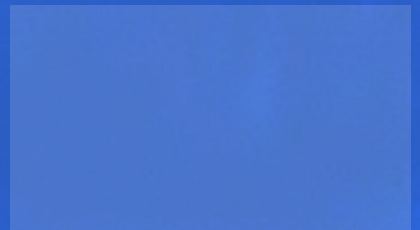
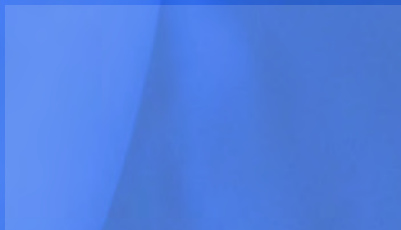
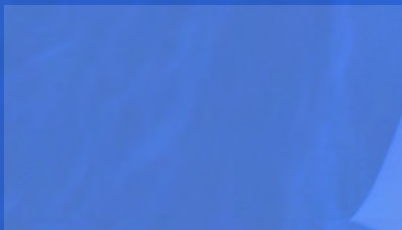
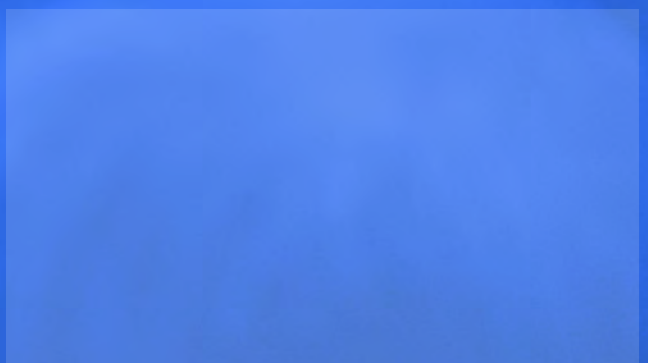
some intensive fellowship when I clearly heard God say to me, “You need the Holy Spirit right now, not just when you preach.” I realized at that moment I need a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit every day so I can be the pastor I need to be as well as the husband, father and friend I need to be. I need the power of the Holy Spirit for everything in life, and so do you! ◀

BENNY TATE, PhD, has served for over 30 years as senior pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. He also served as president of the Congregational Methodist denomination for 10 years and served as a guest chaplain for the US Senate and House of Representatives. Dr. Tate and his wife, Barbara, live in Forsyth, Georgia.

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THANKSGIVING IS NOT A ONE-DAY CELEBRATION

IT'S ABOUT A LIFE
OF SURRENDER
AND PRAISE



BY ABBY TRIVETT

We are called to be grateful at all times, regardless of the circumstances. While that may seem like an utter cliché said by people of faith, there's a deeper truth and a greater joy that is found when we truly trust God and believe that He not only can and will do something for us, but that He already is merciful and gracious simply because of who He is.

I'm the first to admit that I am not always filled with gratitude. When things don't go exactly as I planned or in the timeline I set up for myself, I can easily fall into an attitude of bitterness and resentment because God didn't do what I wanted. What's even worse, is when God gives exactly what we planned or prayed for, yet the complaint exists because He didn't do something in the way that was desired. Yet, isn't that exactly human nature to become upset and impatient simply because the world doesn't revolve around every single thing we'd like it to?

We can easily look back at the Israelites and see the same thing in this group of people. They experienced hundreds of years of struggle, yet God always vindicated them and brought them out of the darkness and into the light. What did God do

after the Israelites spent 400 years in slavery? Their Egyptian captors experienced torment through plagues of disaster, unnatural impossibilities and death to their firstborns. What happened when the Israelites were pursued by these same people? God miraculously parted the Red Sea so they could escape while their enemies drowned. And yet, even after experiencing such refuge, this same group of people God had saved time and time again had enough nerve to complain about the food they were miraculously fed by God day after day.

We might think that the Israelites were just extra picky and ungrateful. But how often do we experience God do the supernatural and yet we still complain about what He's bestowed upon us?

Often we find ourselves complaining about the job we asked for, the friends that we prayed for, or the vast food selection we have to pick from. Just as the Israelites were blessed by God in supernatural ways, God has done the same for us. The Israelites were fed manna, drank from streams out of the rocks and were led by the Spirit of God by cloud by day and by fire at night. He provided for their every need, and He's done the same in our nation, whether or not we see it. While many still



have vast needs, we have been placed in a spot where resources are abundant if only we used them to help our neighbors out the way God has commanded us to love one another.

It's not unusual though that we wouldn't necessarily pay attention to the gravity of thankfulness. After all, the very definition of being thankful is "conscious of benefit received." Gratitude is not an innate part of our fleshly, sinful nature. Gratitude requires a mindful decision to take in all that we have been given, how God is moving in our lives and what we believe He will still do.

What Is the Purpose of Gratitude?

Gratitude draws us closer to God. Thanking God for all He has done and for who He is keeps life in perspective. A few years ago, at a life group, my own perspective was completely shifted about thankfulness when we were asked one simple question. "If all you had was what you thanked God for today, what would you have?"

This simple, yet thought-provoking question hit me in an entirely new way. I realized how rarely I thanked God for the things He was providing for me. He had given me so much more than I ever considered: Family who loved me, friends who cared, top-notch educational opportunities, and yet, I hadn't even thought of those items as blessings. Instead, I only saw the issues that surrounded me, the complaints of what wasn't perfect in my life.

My mindset needed to shift, and during that time I began to take more time to thank God for what He had given me. I remember how this type of gratitude not only changed my attitude about life, but it increased my heart capacity to love God even more. While I am far from perfect and slip into moments of bitterness, I am constantly reminded of the beauty of gratitude because of this one short, profound question.

For most of us, "Thank You, Jesus, for the roof over my head," does not occur as the first thought of the day, but it should. Thanking God for the clothes, the job, the food, the family, the friends, whatever it is that you have, is something that God deserves the glory for. He literally created an entire world for us purely for

the reason that He loves His children. Not only that, He has provided for our every need and given us the greatest gift we could ever have through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Psalms are the perfect reading spot to find the wide range of every possible human emotion expressed to God through song and prayer. It's one of the books of the Bible that allows us to have a glimpse into the raw, beautiful and ugly human emotions experienced and how they relate to our Creator. They also show what it means to praise the Lord in all circumstances, whether it's at the top of the mountain or in the bottom of the valley.

Psalm 138 shows what it means to praise the Lord wholeheartedly: "I will

“In this season of Thanksgiving when people acknowledge blessings, it's important not to forget that God has called us to be thankful each day.”

praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing Your praise. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth; for You have exalted Your word above all your name," (vv. 1-2). Psalm 100:4-5 demonstrates the pure, unadulterated purpose and affection of thanksgiving that the Lord deserves, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations."

A completely holy and faithful God who so willingly gave up Himself for us deserves every bit of praise with every ounce of our hearts. He deserves all the honor, glory and praise because only He could have seen us exactly as we were, torn and drenched in sin, and yet still

chose to die the most gruesome death of all history for our sake. We are called to praise God before every other thing, and to do so in a way that acknowledges He alone is the Lord. We are called to be grateful before God and men.

When we are filled with this type of genuine, heartfelt gratitude, God can and does answer our prayers according to His good and perfect plan. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with gratitude, make your requests known to God."

Just as the Lord is pure, He too is looking for pure hearts that are refined daily to be more like Christ. When we position our prayers with the grander understanding and belief that He is good, we can expectantly come to the throne of grace knowing that God will hear us and answer according to His perfect will and timing.

Thanksgiving Is for Every Day of the Year

In this season of Thanksgiving when people actively acknowledge blessings and what they have been given, it's important not to forget that God hasn't called us to be thankful one time a year, but each and every day. Thanksgiving can easily become a one-day event that has little to do with actual gratitude; a blink of an eye wedged in between a season of spiritual darkness as the world celebrates Halloween and the Christmas season that has evolved from being about Christ into a day about how many gifts we will give and receive. But the danger of skipping out on a true season of thanksgiving shows the actual condition of the human heart. We desire more to receive than to give. Yet, the Scriptures tell us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," (Acts 20:35).

If we allow thanksgiving to be just another holiday, we miss out on rest and peace rooted in Christ. The immediate rush of scouting out midnight specials of marked down TVs pales in comparison to the long-term glory that can only be experienced with a heart-posture of gratitude. Thankfulness isn't about the materialistic things that we will receive. It's about the One

who delights to give us far and above all that we could ever ask for or imagine.

What I've always loved about Thanksgiving isn't the turkey, football or the pumpkin pie. It's a time to celebrate those that we care most about. It's a reminder of the gift God has given each of us to love and be loved by others. Ephesians 5:20 advises that believers give thanks to God always for all things. What better gift to praise God for than the gift of the people you love?

It's a time to reflect on the faithfulness of the Lord and all that He's given to us. Deuteronomy 7:9 is a reminder of this faithfulness as it reads: "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy with them who love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations."

When you put God's faithfulness in perspective, it's amazing to see that He cares about our livelihood even more than we do, and He desires to bring blessing and favor to our families and that will extend into a legacy long after we are gone. Spending time with those we have been graced to know and love is what the Thanksgiving holiday should be all about. While the food may be delicious and the entertainment may be amusing, it is the faithfulness of the Lord that allows us to walk in this kind of fellowship with the ones we care about most.

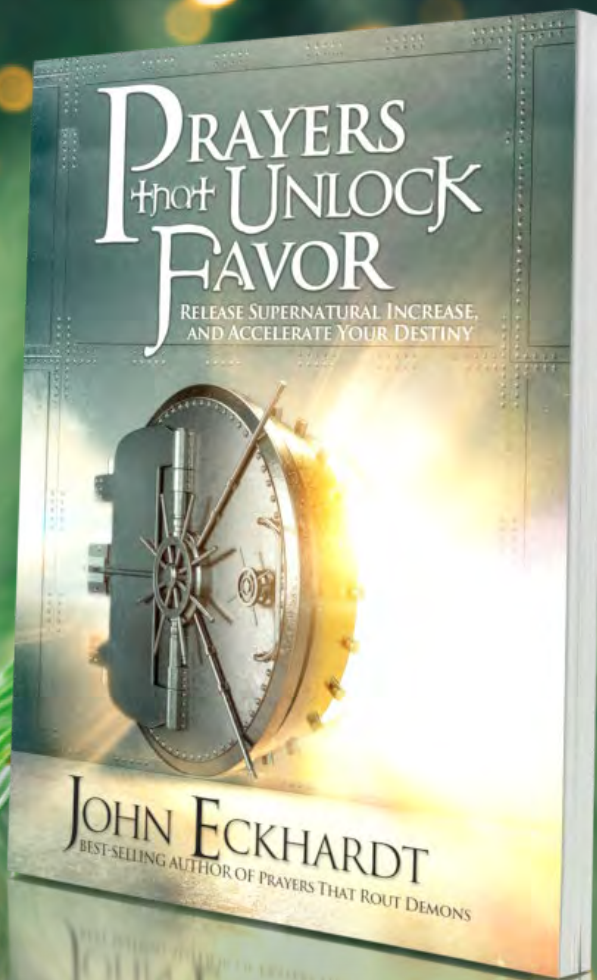
I encourage you as we approach this time when shopping becomes more frequent, cooking starts to increase and commotion grows, do not take your eyes off the One who has made all of it possible. It is a gift to celebrate with family and friends, and this gift is not one that we provided for ourselves. From the very breath in our lungs to the people and jobs in our lives, it is all a gift from God. Every good and perfect gift comes directly from Him.

Do not take for granted what has been freely given by God who so intimately loves you that He took your very place on a rugged cross all for the sake of love. ◀

ABBY TRIVETT is a marketing copywriter and coordinator at Charisma Media.

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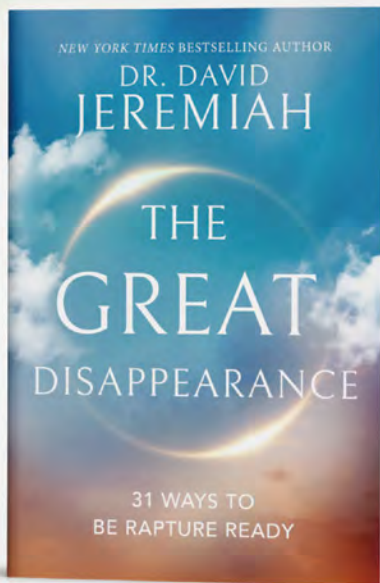


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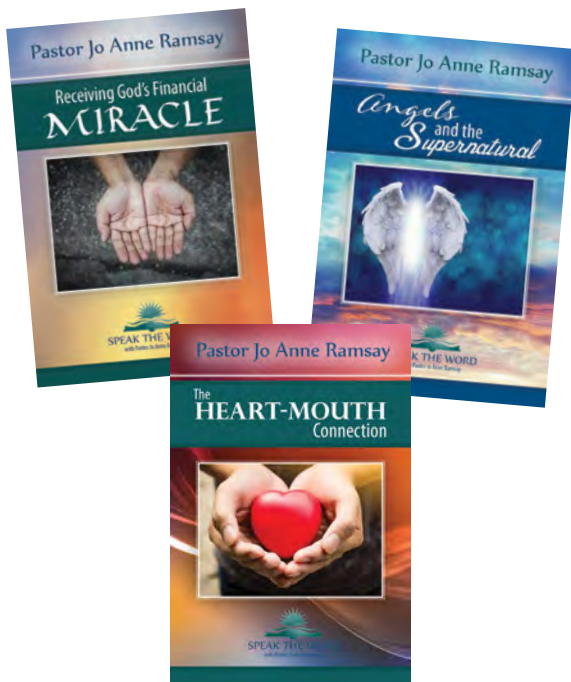
Key questions are explored:

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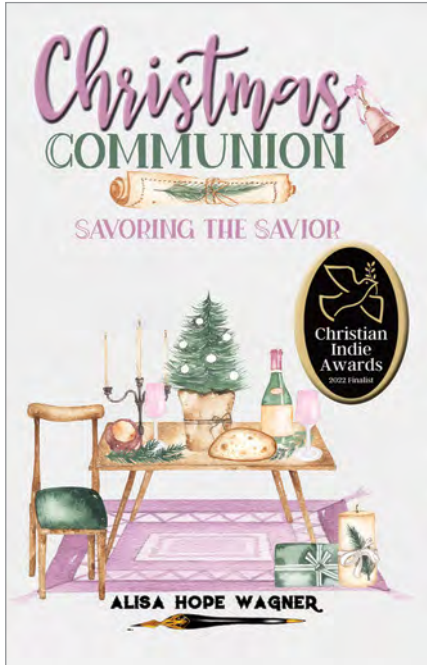


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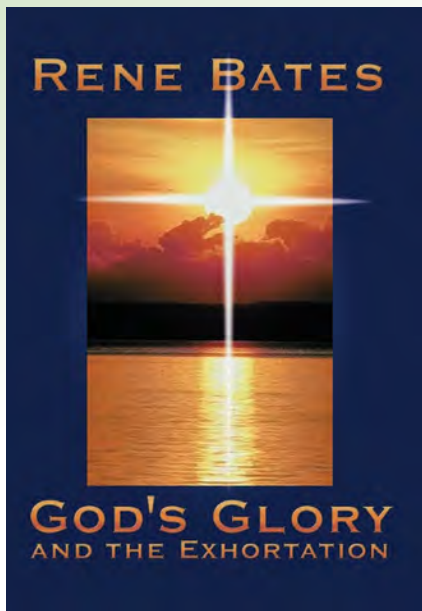
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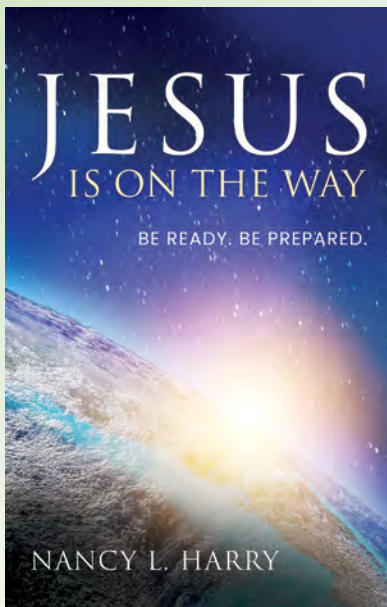




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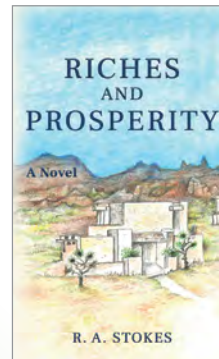
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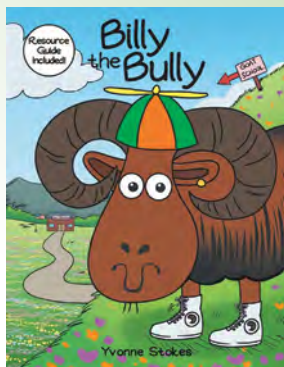
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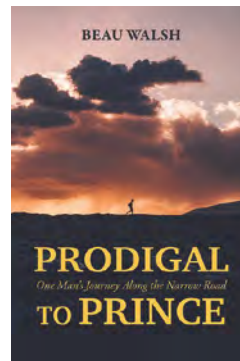
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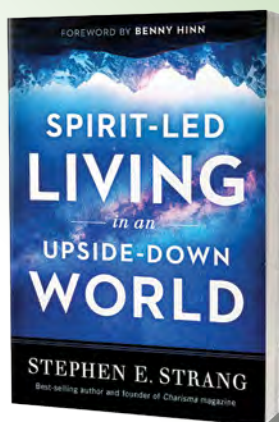
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BIBLE READING GUIDE

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“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” —Colossians 3:17

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1	Ps. 121; Mark 9-10
Nov. 2	Job 23-24; Mark 11-12
Nov. 3	Job 25; Mark 13-14
Nov. 4	Job 26-27; Mark 15-16
Nov. 5	Job 28-29; Gal. 1-2
Nov. 6	Job 30; Ps. 120; Gal. 3-4
Nov. 7	Job 31-32; Gal. 5-6
Nov. 8	Job 33; 1 Cor. 1-3
Nov. 9	Job 34; 1 Cor. 4-6
Nov. 10	Job 35-36; 1 Cor. 7-8
Nov. 11	Ps. 122; 1 Cor. 9-11
Nov. 12	Job 37-38; 1 Cor. 12
Nov. 13	Job 39-40; 1 Cor. 13-14
Nov. 14	Ps. 149; 1 Cor. 15-16
Nov. 15	Job 41-42; 2 Cor. 1-2
Nov. 16	2 Cor. 3-6
Nov. 17	2 Cor. 7-10
Nov. 18	Ps. 124; 2 Cor. 11-13
Nov. 19	Matt. 1-4
Nov. 20	Matt. 5-7
Nov. 21	Matt. 8-10
Nov. 22	Matt. 11-13
Nov. 23	Matt. 14-16
Nov. 24	Matt. 17-19
Nov. 25	Matt. 20-22
Nov. 26	Matt. 23-25
Nov. 27	Ps. 125; Matt. 26-27
Nov. 28	Matt. 28; 1 Thess. 1-3
Nov. 29	1 Thess. 4-5; 2 Thess. 1-3
Nov. 30	Rom. 1-4

Dive into AMAZING,
SPIRIT-LED STORIES of
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The Holy Spirit is *always* at work! As *Charisma Magazine Online* covers the powerful ways God is moving in our world, it is our sincerest heart to share with you stories that reflect His *grace and mercy*. Unlike other media outlets, you'll read testimonials and encouraging news that will *grow your faith*.



LEAVING BABYLON BEHIND

How an **angelic message** consecrates
the church to become the holy bride of Christ

BY TODD COCONATO

Two years ago this past August, I had a night I will never forget. I was sleeping soundly when, around 3 a.m., I felt something tap gently on my shoulder. I am still unsure whether it was a realistic dream or an event that occurred while I was awake, but nevertheless, it seemed as real as could be to me. That night, I was visited by a messenger angel.

My first reaction was fear. I was startled and unsure as to what I was even experiencing, yet only seconds afterward, I felt a peace come over me. I knew this visitation was holy and of the Lord. The angel spoke to me a simple

yet powerful word: “Consecrate yourself” and “Come out from among them.” That was it. Then he departed.

Little did I realize at the time that the angel’s word was a word not just for me but for the church overall, setting forth a blueprint and road map for us to return to our first love, Jesus Christ.

Still startled by what had just happened, I was wide awake. My wife and daughter were sleeping in the room next to me. I left the room so as not to startle them, went into my prayer room and started to weep and pray. What I had



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/FRANKROTON



just experienced was so impactful. I was undone. I knew this was from God. I was so moved by what had just taken place that I didn't go back to sleep for hours.

In the days and months that followed, I couldn't help but think about this encounter often. The only other experience even remotely close to this was 22 years ago when I was stabbed nine times and almost died. My testimony shows that this first experience in God's presence was what led me to where I am today as a minister of the gospel, still very much on fire for the Lord. Since that time, I had never again had a supernatural visitation until this night.

Why had God sent one of His angelic host to visit me? The message was so simple, yet I couldn't stop thinking about what the angel said.

Seeking God in Fresh Ways

As a Christian and pastor, I wanted to believe I was already consecrated.

God had healed me of many past vices, and I lived a largely straight and narrow lifestyle. Yet as time went on, God gently showed me areas of my life that

still needed work.

I always admit that I am far from perfect, but sometimes when you have known the Lord for a long time, you start to feel as if you have truly matured into the person God wants you to be. This was my situation; I felt I was walking according to God's Word.

I began to seek His face into a season of true consecration and yearning to hear more clearly from the Holy Spirit. If God felt the need to send an angel to me for this reason, it must have been important to Him. As I went deeper, I saw the anointing increase. The anointing comes in a greater way when we truly press in and walk in a circumspect manner in accordance with His Word and promises.

God wanted me to have big faith and believe I am able to lay hands on the sick and see them healed. He wanted me to ask for anything in His name and believe He is willing and able to perform miracles, signs and wonders.

My whole ministry changed when I did this. Doors began to fly open, and I experienced supernatural favor, blessing and a tangible presence of His Holy Spirit in a way I hadn't before. I dug deeper into fasting, and my prayer life was renewed, unlike any other time in my faith journey. God allowed for almost daily divine appointments, and I often saw miraculous answers to my prayers.

The phrase "come out from among them" is

directly stated in God's Word, its message repeated in various ways throughout the Scriptures. It means we are to be set apart and holy. Although we are in the world, we are not of it; we are citizens of heaven. God wants us to operate in such a way.

This new outlook was a game-changer. The more I dug into these two instructions, the more I realized I had strayed from God's perfect will for my life. The Lord loved me so much that He sent an angel to awaken me to the error of my ways.

The two words from the messenger angel are essential, especially in the hour we are now entering. God wants to move in a mighty way. He is coming back for a bride without spot nor wrinkle. This angel's message was an instruction not just for me but for the body of Christ as a whole. God wants the church to understand the importance of consecration.

Separating Ourselves From the World

If we are to perform the types of miracles Christ did through His Holy Spirit, we will need a level of commitment and consecration in our walk so the demons know our name. We need to understand the anointing of the Holy Ghost and why we must break the yoke of bondage in this generation. If not us, who? If not now, when?

We must be the head, not the tail, and lead this nation to Jesus. This means we must separate ourselves from the wickedness of this hour and walk in the authority of the living God. Throughout history, the church has faced many challenges when it comes to maintaining its purity and staying true to the teachings of the Bible.

One of the most significant of these is the influence of the Babylon system of the world. We must come out of this system.

Babylon represents the world's system of values, beliefs and practices that are opposed to God's ways. Nowadays, this system is blatant. It has crept into the church over time, leading to com-

instead of remaining set apart as a holy and distinct people.

However, the Bible is clear that the church must come out from the Babylon system of the world and be set apart. In

Second Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV), God commands His people to "Come out from among them [the unbelievers] and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

The command calls for believers to be set apart from the world, not conforming to its values and practices but living lives that are holy and pleasing to God. This includes abstaining from worldly pleasures such as drunkenness and sexual immorality, and living in a way that glorifies God.

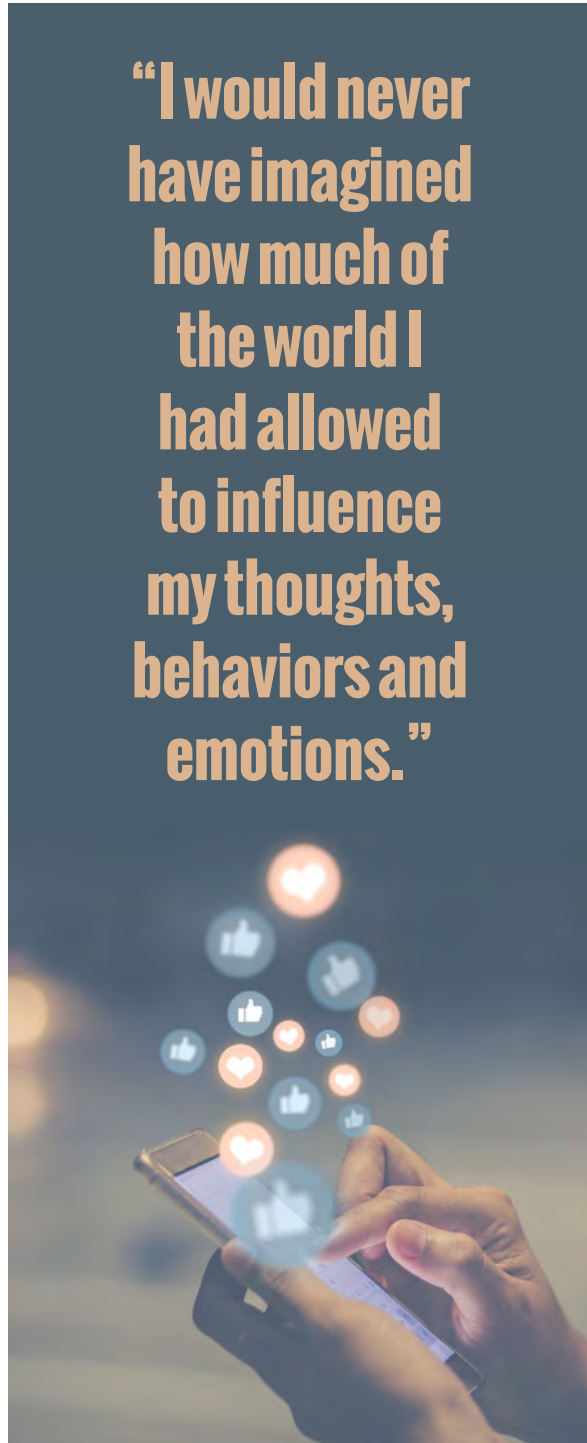
We must come out from the Babylon system of the world and be set apart according to the Bible. This means rejecting worldly values and practices and living a life that is pleasing to God. It also means guarding against false teachings that can lead the church astray. By doing so, the church can remain a holy and distinct people, shining the light of Christ in a dark world.

Guarding Against False Teachings

As Christians, it is essential that we guard ourselves against false teachings and doctrines that could lead us astray from the truth of Jesus Christ. False teachings and doctrines can be very subtle and can lead us down a dangerous path that ultimately leads to our spiritual destruction. Have you seen this issue with friends and people you know? As a Christian pastor, it is my duty to warn believers about the dangers of false

teachings and encourage them to stay true to the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

The Bible warns us about false teachings in several places. In



"I would never have imagined how much of the world I had allowed to influence my thoughts, behaviors and emotions."

promise and a dilution of our message. In many cases, the church has become indistinguishable from the world, adopting worldly values and practices

Matthew 7:15-16a, Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruit.” In 2 Peter 2:1, the apostle Peter warns, “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

One of the most dangerous things about false teachings is that they often come from within the church itself. False teachers may be wolves in sheep’s clothing, pretending to be Christian pastors or leaders. They may have a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Tim. 3:5). They may use Scripture to support their false teachings but twist it to fit their own agenda.

One of the best ways to guard ourselves against false teachings is to know the truth. It’s important to have a deep understanding of the Bible and its teachings. This requires study time. We must be familiar with the core doctrines of the Christian faith, such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ and salvation by faith alone. We must be able to recognize when something is not in line with Scripture.

We must guard ourselves against false teachings and doctrines that could lead us astray from the truth of Jesus Christ. False teachings can be very subtle and can take us down a dangerous path that ultimately leads to our spiritual destruction. We must be discerning, test everything against the Word of God; know the truth; stay connected to a solid, Bible-believing church and have a heart for righteousness.

Growing in Our Faith

Sound doctrine is of utmost importance in a believer’s life. The Bible exhorts us to hold “fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict,” (Titus 1:9, NKJV).

Sound doctrine is the body of beliefs that are in line with the teachings of the Bible. It is not a matter of personal opinion or preference, but rather what mycharisma.com

“In many cases, the church has become indistinguishable from the world, adopting worldly values and practices instead of remaining set apart as a holy and distinct people.”



God has revealed to us through His Word. Sound doctrine is crucial because it forms the foundation of our faith and guides our beliefs and actions.

This angelic encounter has impacted my life and walk in such a way that I can’t even fathom how I didn’t see some of these things before. God wants us to encounter Him, to not just survive, but thrive. Not just be present, but occupy. Not just be aware of the darkness, but instead take back the territory for the kingdom of God.

In a dire and critical hour in our nation and world, there is only one answer: Jesus Christ. It’s time to make the main thing the main thing again; we must be about the Great Commission. We must evangelize this country and bring back altar calls in our churches.

There can be no more dry-bones Christianity. It’s time we become the church of Philadelphia—the empowered church.

We have one more chance to get this right. The hour is late. The spotlight is on the church. It’s time we rise up! ◀

TODD COCONATO is an ordained minister and national evangelist. In addition to leading Todd Coconato Ministries, he is president of the Religious Liberties Coalition, a nonprofit coalition of pastors and ministry leaders; founder of Remnant News, a Christian News publication; and host of radio show The Todd Coconato Show—The Remnant. His latest book, *Come Out From Among Them* was published in July. Coconato lives in Nashville with his wife and child.



The Healing Power of Joy

I want to share this wisdom about the healing power of laughter and joy because Spirit-led living doesn't only bear spiritual fruit, it will improve every area of your life—health, family, sense of fulfillment—and deepen your relationship with God. In a sense, I've sought to do this over the years in the more than 1,000 issues of *Charisma* and over 2,000 books I've had the privilege to publish.

Best-selling author Dr. Don Colbert is a board-certified physician. And though it may be surprising to hear it from a medical doctor, he has some of the best teaching on joy you can find. He says embracing joy is in understanding how our brains work and how to control our thoughts and manage our feelings. That starts with remembering what the apostle Paul says in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say rejoice."

Our brains control everything we do. We worry using our brains. And when we feel joy, it's the brain giving us that joyful feeling. As Colbert says, the same brain with which you worry or are depressed can shift to joy. That's pretty exciting. No matter what's happening around us, instead of worrying, we can make the deliberate choice for joy!

To put this into perspective, think about the world in which Paul lived. He was telling these early Christians to rejoice in the Lord while Nero was tarring and burning them in the streets of Rome and their family members were being imprisoned.

The Spirit of God was instructing Paul to tell the church to rejoice at its darkest time in history. If Paul and those early Christians were able to rejoice, or have joy, how much more should we!

Even with the world being upside down in so many ways, as I described in my newest book, *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-Down World*, Colbert reminds us that no matter how bad things get, we can have joy, which is a state of being. Compare that to happiness, which is based on circumstances such as falling in love or getting a big raise.

Colbert is a physician, but he's also a Spirit-led believer who through his books and public appearances helps other believers

understand health matters that otherwise might confuse them. It's good to know that in addition to trusting God for good health, there are practical steps we can take to be healthy. For example, if you're sick and believing for a healing miracle, it's helpful to learn that losing weight by following a healthy diet and exercising can not only improve your health but also make you feel better emotionally.

Colbert has a way to activate joy and happiness, and he shared his formula on a recent podcast: "For years, I've been prescribing 10 belly laughs a day. Why? Because belly laughter activates joy. But you must activate your joy with happiness, and you activate it by smiling and laughing." He noticed that many of his patients seemed to have what he calls a spirit of heaviness. They weren't necessarily depressed, but they were down. There was no joy in their faces, no smiles or laughter.

"Even with the world being upside down, Colbert reminds us that no matter how bad things get, we can have joy."

The reason might surprise you. Colbert says this happens when our joy center wasn't filled when we were babies. This "joy center" begins to develop at three months of age and when it's developed, it regulates emotions, pain and even controls the immune system. That's why people full of joy and laughter have stronger immune systems.

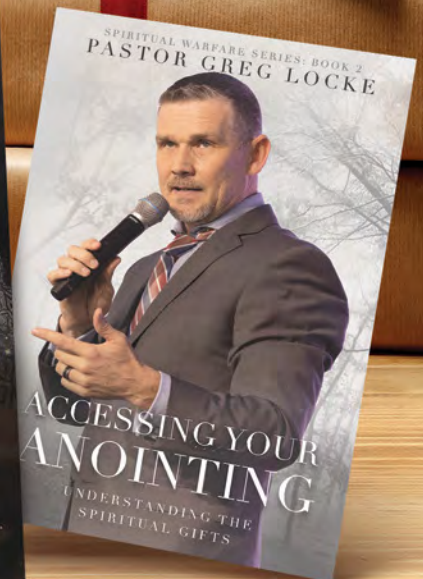
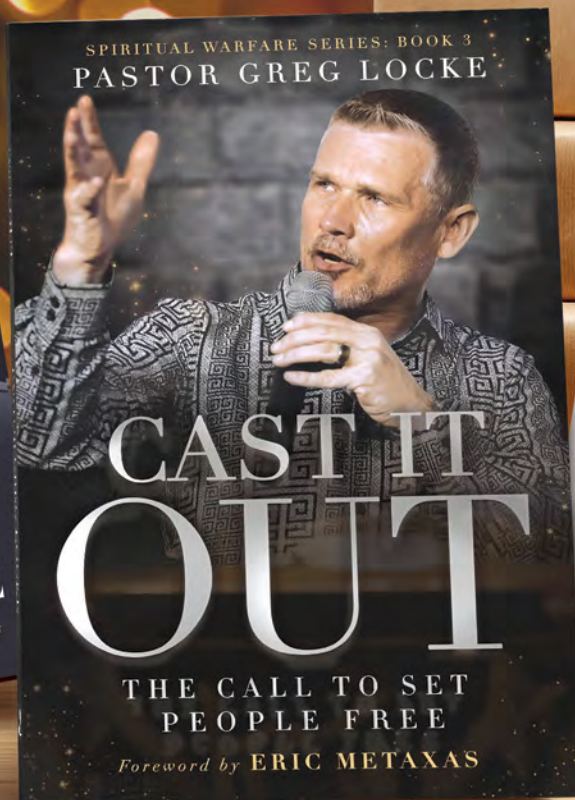
Babies begin to feel joy by being held close as they are breastfeeding or just by being held close to Mom or Dad. This is also when the visual areas of the brain start to develop, and the baby literally starts to look for eyes that are looking at them with joy.

When they find eyes that are smiling, the baby starts to smile back. Have you ever smiled at a baby, and the baby smiled back? That happens because the baby has started to look for joy in people's eyes.

Filling the joy center is kind of like filling a tank of gas; smiling, laughing and dancing activate joy and fill up that tank. There are other things we can do, such as gathering with other believers to worship and pray together. This is why Hebrews 10:25 says: "Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together." You won't believe the difference this will make and the refreshing it will bring to your spirit.

Share the gift of freedom with everyone this Christmas season!

Every single person deserves to know the truth about deliverance and the power of the Holy Spirit. This Christmas, give the gift of Pastor Greg Locke's Spiritual Warfare Series to help your family and friends combat the enemy's forces against them so they can live a life of freedom and joy rooted in the Holy Spirit.



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