

# CHARISMA<sup>®</sup>

DECEMBER 2023

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

THE ANOINTING  
AND FERVOR OF  
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**MICHELLE**  
MCCLAIN-WALTERS

SETTING  
CHANGE  
IN MOTION  
**TAMMY**  
HOTSENPILLER

WHAT IS THE  
CHRISTMAS  
SPIRIT?  
**ABBY**  
TRIVETT

# JENTEZEN FRANKLIN

Private Discipline,  
Public Reward  
Through **FASTING**



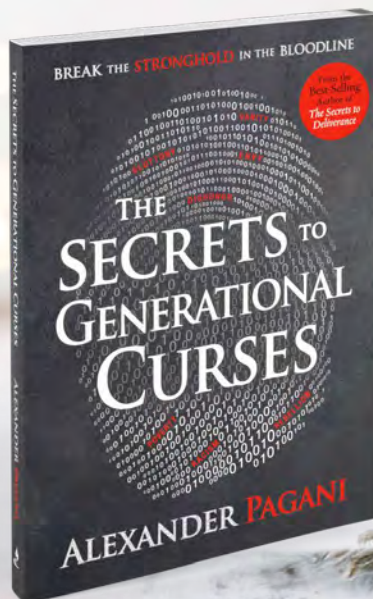
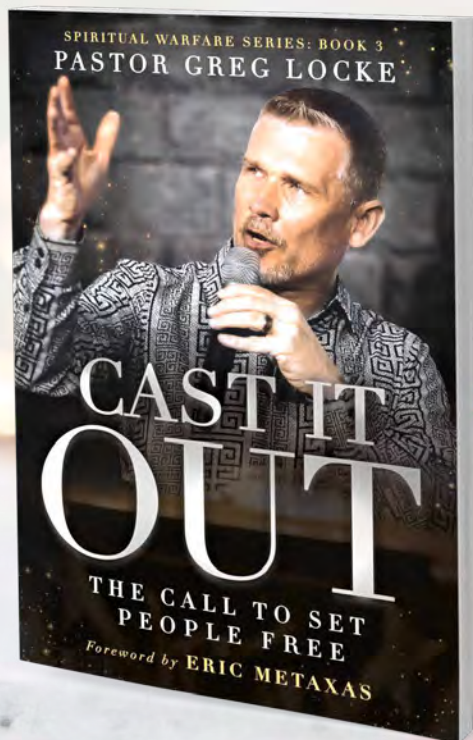


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## DEAR CHARISMA



*"I wish I had known about this sooner, but am now equipped to study deeper on this topic."*

—Marvin Jenkins,  
*Oshkosh, WI*

### FREEDOM FROM GENERATIONAL CURSES

Alexander Pagan's message on generational curses really hit close to home for me ("Attacking & Defeating Generational Curses," *Charisma Magazine Online*, October 2023). I never heard these things growing up in the church, going to Sunday school as a child. This is a powerful area of teaching that I may never have learned about but for this *Charisma* article.

*Jane Jackson, Aberdeen, NJ*

### THE 6 SIGNS OF WITCHCRAFT

Thank you Jennifer LeClaire for your report on witchcraft and the tell-tale signs to be able to look for ("6 Signs You Need Deliverance from Prophetic Witchcraft," *Charisma Magazine Online*, October 2023). I wish I had known about this sooner, but am now equipped to study deeper on this topic.

*Marvin Jenkins, Oshkosh, WI*

### DOMINO REVIVAL

I was able to see Mike Signorelli's new movie *The Domino Revival* when it premiered in theaters, and I am so glad I heard about it first in the article about

the movie and Signorelli's New York City ministry ("The Domino Revival," *Charisma Magazine Online*, October 2023). It is hugely inspiring to see and hear what is happening on the frontlines of deliverance and revival spiritual warfare today.

*Betty-Marie Perkins, Yazoo City, MS*

### JAMIE BUCKINGHAM'S TIMELESS WISDOM

I am a long-time *Charisma* subscriber since the early 1980s. I remember being blown away by Buckingham's amazing clarity in his message on worldliness when that issue arrived in my mailbox 35 years ago ("The Spirit of the World (May 1988)," *Charisma Magazine Online*, October 2023). He was a fantastic writer, able to boil down complicated ideas into practical, applicable points.

*Neal Hall, Pittsburgh, PA*

### WARFARE IN THE SUPERNATURAL

I've loved Bill Wiese's *23 Minutes In Hell* since the day I bought it. His report on glorifying God could be his next book ("How to Glorify God in Spiritual Warfare," *Charisma Magazine Online*, October 2023).

*Pam Cleghorn, Nederland, CO*

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## Don't Cancel the Church Because a Christian Hurt You

**C**hurch hurt is real. I have friends who've been in counseling for years because they were spiritually abused by pastors. I also know pastors who were treated horribly by deacons, elders or church members. I know a pastor's wife who battles clinical depression because of the way her husband was mistreated by their former church. But I also know a woman who was so hurt by a pastor that she left the faith.

Church hurt happens in all kinds of denominations and church networks. Baptists hurt each other, and so do Pentecostals; Calvinists can be cruel to each other, and so can charismatics. No flavor of church has a corner on cruelty. Regardless of our doctrinal preferences, we are all capable of wounding each other in the name of the Lord.

The devil is certainly the ultimate hater, and he loves it when Christians hurt each other. But let's not blame Satan for all the church hurt out there. The devil could go on a long vacation, and Christians would gladly do his work for him—because our sinful human nature is the root of betrayal, gossip, accusation, character assassination, angry outbursts, control, manipulation, domination and every other form of abuse.

Why is church hurt so destructive? Because it leads to bitterness, resentment and offense. If our enemy can convince us to be offended, he knows our souls will ultimately be poisoned with hate—and that we will spread that poison to others. The author of Hebrews warned us: "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled," (Heb. 12:15).

There are 1,001 ways Christians can offend you at church. But your job is not to count the offenses; you must forgive every time. We are called to love each other "fervently," (1 Peter 1:22), and fervent love requires forgiveness. Yet we have become the generation of outrage; we are experts at being offended, and our loveless attitude squelches what God wants us to demonstrate.

Most Christians overlook the last chapter of Romans because it's basically a long list of ancient names that are difficult to

pronounce. Paul refers to many of these people affectionately as "my beloved," "my kinsman" or "a choice man." They were not casual acquaintances. Paul carried these people in his heart. He had been in prison with some of them. He missed them so much that he wept when he thought of them.

And after mentioning these people, Paul reminds everyone to "greet one another with a holy kiss," (16:16). Paul's love for people wasn't just affectionate in a verbal sense. It was downright slobbery.

Paul began the book of Romans by telling his friends: "I long to see you..." (1:11a). Toward the end of the letter he says he looks forward to visiting them so that he can "find refreshing rest in your company," (15:32, NASB 1995). This miracle-working apostle reveals another side of himself; he's gushy, mushy and huggable. He's the quintessential people person.

This fervent love Paul showed his friends in Romans 16 is the essence of biblical Christianity. But this passionate love wasn't limited to the Romans. He told the Philippians: "I long for you with all the affection of Christ Jesus," (Phil. 1:8). And Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you ... our own

lives," (1 Thess. 2:8).

Was there church hurt in the days of the early church? Of course! People are people. We are all deeply flawed and capable of abusing each other.

There's plenty of evidence that some Christians dishonored Paul, mistrusted him and even slandered him. But Paul's response was to love, forgive and hold fast to his faith. He didn't allow church hurt to infect his heart.

If you want to be spiritually mature, you must love people no matter how they have hurt you. Canceling the church isn't an option. Closing your heart and living in isolation is immature and selfish. If your love has grown cold, forgive the people who hurt you.

Ask God to remove the offense—and take the risk to love His people again.

*"If you want to be spiritually mature, you must love people no matter how they have hurt you."*

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* (Charisma House).

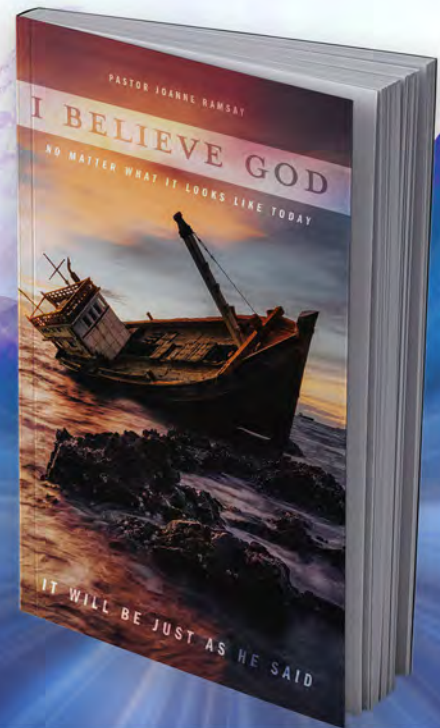
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## Growing in Christ—Little by Little

I often teach on a variety of subjects, but I believe my primary calling is to help Christians grow up and mature in Christ and really begin to enjoy the great life He has in store for them.

As a young woman, I went to church for years, but I really didn't know much about spiritual maturity. I loved God with all of my heart, but I wasn't changing—I was still as critical, judgmental and rebellious as ever. And even though I knew my life should be getting better, I was still miserable from dealing with all of the same problems.

I believe this is one of Satan's greatest strategies. If he can't keep people from hearing the gospel and accepting Christ, he will do everything he can to make sure they never grow spiritually and experience the peace and joy that's promised to them in the Bible.

You see, when we're born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our heart—God plants a seed of *everything He is* in our spirit. He instantaneously deposits inside of us everything we need to live a great life.

For instance, Galatians 5:22-23 (AMPC) says, "The fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control...."

Did you know all of these things already exist on the inside of you? You may wonder, *Well, if that's the case, then why aren't I experiencing any of it in my life?*

When it comes to the maturity process, we have a part to play. *Our part* is to cooperate with God to cultivate and develop His character in our lives so we can grow and become more like Him. How do we do that?

It all begins by spending regular time in God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 (AMPC) says, "The Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]...."

When we spend time in God's Word, we are spending time *with God*. His Word changes us—it changes how we think and how we act. It changes how we see God, ourselves and the world around us.

Romans 12:2 is a great Scripture that shows us how we grow spiritually: "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs],

but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God..." (AMPC).

God has a "good and acceptable and perfect" plan for our lives, but we must renew our minds with His Word before we can experience it.

It's important to remember that growing spiritually is a process.

When I first began to read and study God's Word, I immediately saw things I needed to change. For a while, I felt guilty and condemned that I wasn't "measuring up."

However, God helped me to understand that He never shows us these things to condemn us and make us feel guilty. He convicts us of our behavior in order to help us grow and come up higher in that area.

For example, I was extremely rebellious in the early years of my marriage. Because my father sexually abused me when I was growing up, I had developed a distrust of men. I vowed that no man would ever again push me around.

But as I learned God's Word, I saw that my behavior toward my husband, Dave, was wrong. The Lord was asking me to walk in love with Dave in my speech, attitudes and actions.

This was easier said than done! But God always gives us the grace to do what He is asking us to do. He doesn't expect us to do it all on our own.

So, little by little, by God's grace, I began to change. The Lord transformed me from being rude, critical, harsh and rebellious into someone who has real peace, love and joy.

But it was a process—it didn't happen overnight.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMPC). It says we "are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another...."

The Lord changes us a little at a time. None of us will ever be perfect until we get to heaven, *and that's OK*. But as long as we're here on this earth, God desires for us to continually cooperate with Him to learn and grow.

As we do—as we continue to grow spiritually and change "from glory to glory"—we will experience the incredible peace, joy and fulfillment that only God can give us.

*And we will show the world around us what God is really like.*

*"We have a part to play...to cooperate with God to cultivate and develop His character so we can grow and become more like Him."*

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,

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*Peter Aiello*

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## Movin' In a Slow Hurry (December 1986)

I grew up under the tutelage of a wonderful old Southern lady named Willie Mae McGriff. She was an intimate part of our family for over 30 years. It was she who taught me the art of being in what she called a slow hurry.

There were mornings when she arrived at our house moving slow. My mother, who was hyper and sometimes demanding, would push her a little. I remember Will Mae's delightful response: "Don't worry 'bout that, Miss B. I'll get it done. Today I'm just moving in a *slow hurry*."

What a great way to accomplish the important things!

It was this lesson King David learned so painfully when it came time to return the Ark of the Covenant after it had been released from captivity by the Philistines. Eager to have the ark placed in its new home atop Mt. Zion, David commandeered the first vehicle he could find. It turned out to be an ox cart pulled by a couple of milk cows. That didn't matter to David as long as he got the job done.

While God is a God of enthusiasm (the word "enthusiasm," you may know, comes from two Greek words, *entheos*, meaning "in God"), man's problem is confusing genuine spiritual excitement with impetuosity. Too many of us act like old steam locomotives—blowing off all the power in the whistle, saving little to turn the wheels.

David was not interested in means. His job, as commander, was to secure the ark on Mt. Zion as quickly as possible.

The story of what happened when David got ahead of God—and tried to do God's work using man's method—is classic. Depending on organization rather than charisma, he assigned men to hurry the process. To David, the completion of the task was far more important than the method used. The results were tragic. When the ark tilted on the cart and one of the men reached up to steady it, he was struck dead. That's heavy stuff. It was God's way of saying He is more interested in the way a thing is done than whether it is completed.

After losing one of his top men because of his haste, David slowed down. He left the ark at the house of a fellow named Obed-Edom. He returned to Jerusalem to do a little Bible study. When all else fails, read the instruction manual.

Three months later he returned for the ark. But his attitude had changed, as well as his methods. No longer was he impetuous. This time he was willing to move in a *slow hurry*.

How had he changed?

He had studied the Bible.

He had sought counsel from wise men.

He was determined to follow God's plan—no matter how foolish it seemed.

He communicated with his people.

He organized his men.

Finally, he moved ahead, but only six steps at a time. After each stage he stopped the procession. They took time to build an altar, offer sacrifices and celebrate before moving on another six steps and repeating the entire process. He was in a *slow hurry*—right on God's schedule.

I shudder when I consider all the projects going on in the kingdom. God has a perfect way for His people to evangelize the world, to spread the gospel through the media, to raise money for building projects. Yet every place I go, following the ark up the road, I hear the sounds of the ox cart.

I wonder: Could it be that God is more interested in how we raise money than the

amount we raise?

Paul Garlington, a pastor in Rochester, New York, says folks sometimes ask what he is doing on a certain day. When he says, "Nothing," they try to move in. "You don't understand," Paul tells them, "I'm occupied that day, I'm doing Nothing."

I know a lot of people who have only two speeds—full power and off. They keep passing me in life at full speed. I envy them for their ability to get a lot done in a short period. Yet as I plod down the road like the proverbial tortoise racing the hare, I often see their burned-out ruins.

No engine, especially the human engine, is designed to run at full power constantly.

Throttle back occasionally. Stop and study. Happiness and health come when you learn to move in *slow hurry*.

Believe it or not, God is not depending on you—He wants you to depend on Him.

*“God’s...saying He is more interested in the way a thing is done than whether it is completed.”*

Jamie Buckingham wrote 153 columns for *Charisma* over 13 years, first known as "Dry Bones" but later as it's most recognized "Last Word." His singular voice was animated by a heart for Jesus 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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## Jesus Is My Rock and He Rolls My Blues Away

*Godspell* turns 50 within Jesus Movement anniversary

The delightfully oddball “Jesus rock” opera *Godspell* turned 50 this past summer. Although few may recall this quirky artifact of the early 1970s Jesus Movement today, most people would recognize at least one of its wonderful songs.

Written as a master’s thesis project at Carnegie Melon University, this cultural relic gained a lot of traction among those who weren’t necessarily open to some of the more “in-your-face” lyrics of the emerging Jesus Rock music genre. But, as the contemporary Christian rock pioneer Larry Norman would sing, “Why should the devil have all the good music?”

I was not a theologian at that time in my life. I was a 17-year-old kid in Los Angeles County right in the middle of the Jesus Movement. But, I was also a decent guitar player with my 1964 Fender Jazzmaster electric guitar and I somehow was offered a gig to play in the orchestra of a production at a large mainline church in Los Angeles.

I fell in love with several of the songs, especially the wonderful “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord,” and also “Day by Day” which became a radio hit in the summer of 1972, the year before the movie version of *Godspell* brought this unique version of the story of Christ to mainstream audiences.

The production itself was comical and irreverent, one very old review I found online describing it as, “the Gospel according to Matthew featuring a comedic troupe of eccentric players who team up with Jesus to teach His lessons through parables, games and tomfoolery.”

Jesus was a white guy whose costume included a huge afro-style hairdo, and dressed in clown garb and shoes, yet in its obvious comedic appearance the Jesus character is both thoughtful and reflective. The actor portraying Jesus captured some of His infinite longsuffering, patience, love and peace.

Some of my fellow “Jesus freaks” at the time thought it was heretical. The rival Broadway production that season, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, was in many ways just that. But *Godspell* rang true. Jesus reached out to the marginalized, just as Matthew’s Gospel shows us, and we see in this ridiculously 70’s-era absurdity a

Messiah who came to do His Father’s work.

*Contextualization* is the term we missiologists use often. To contextualize *Godspell*’s message, it is what Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 when he says, “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.” Whether it is musical style, dress or other culturally defined distinctions, the apostle seems quite adamant to say those things are minor; do what you need to do in order to reach others with the good news of the gospel. Which, by the way, is what the title of this musical, cast soundtrack and later the movie version, meant, *Godspell*, i.e., “Gospel” with a little twist on the words, seeming to note the message of how Jesus’ words and actions had an effect on people touching hearts and souls in the deepest ways imaginable.

**“Was *Godspell* just an outlier? It reminded many of a genuine move of the Spirit of God among an entire generation.”**

So, was *Godspell* just an outlier, something to smile about as we consider other obsolete expressions of that era’s culture (polyester floral shirts, bell bottoms)? The remarkable reception to this year’s *Jesus Revolution* movie struck a powerful resonating chord in the lives of so many people. Some, like those my age, were reminded of a genuine move of the Spirit of God among an entire generation—younger followers of Christ, longing for a similar move

of God’s Spirit, inspired by the movie to pray for a new and genuine revival that would reach another generation today.

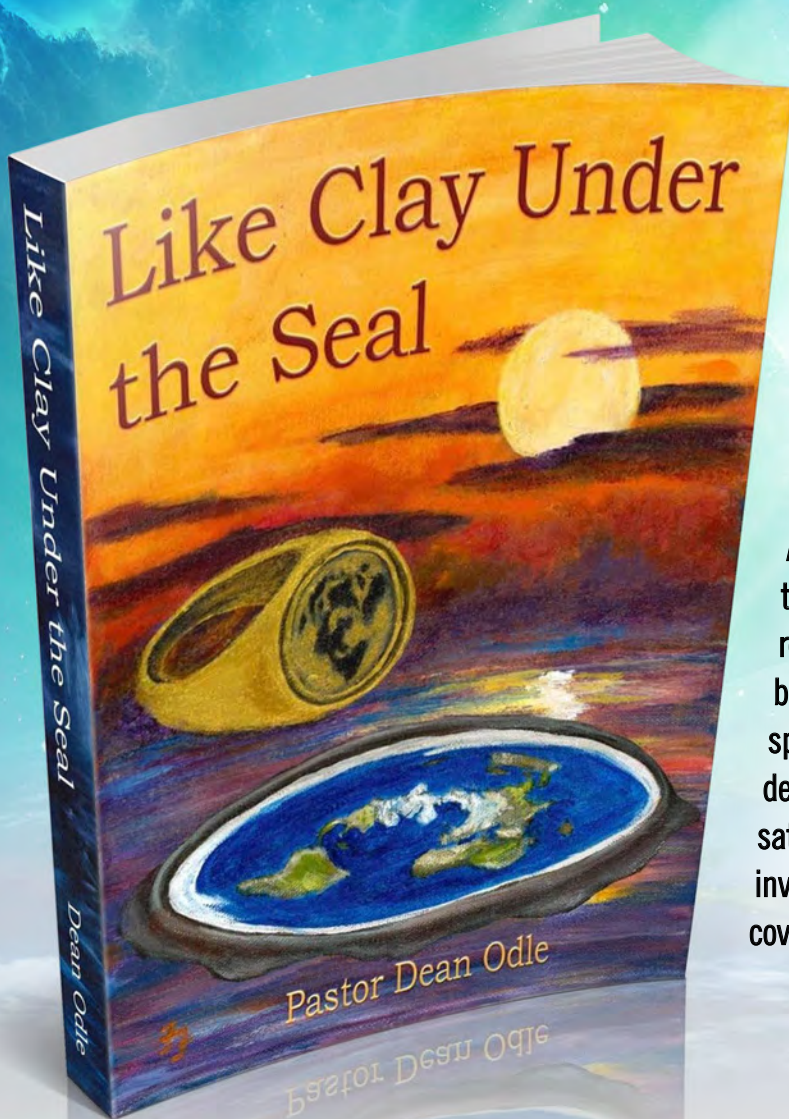
Perhaps there is an inspiring takeaway possible from this goofy production that was, quite honestly, just a blip on the screen in terms of its historic importance within the turmoil of that decade. Artists and musicians often are left out of serious discussion about revival, even though frequently it will be the arts and music communities who are contributing to the wider staying power to a revival. Think of the Brownsville Revival songs that we still hum in our minds today. King Solomon ordered that the musicians and the artists would have a central role in establishing God’s temple.

We probably don’t need an updated version of *Godspell*, but we do need the younger generation to use their God-given gifts and talents for His glory!

Dr. Steven Todd has served the Lord as a pastor, mission leader and seminary professor. Along with his wife, Linda, he continues to live in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.

# Unveiling Biblical Truths about Creation

A Pastor's Revelations About One of Satan's Greatest Deceptions




*Like Clay Under the Seal* chronicles the journey and research of a pastor who had his eyes opened to the foretold end-time conspiracies and Satan's greatest deception. In this book, Pastor Dean Odle examines evidence from true scientific experiments, declassified government documents from Freedom of Information Act requests, and what the Bible ACTUALLY teaches about the nature of creation. Are you ready for the truth? Does the Bible teach a big bang, heliocentric, spinning, orbiting spherical earth? Have "space" agencies been deceiving all of us? What is space? What are satellites? Are we in danger of an "alien" invasion? Was Einstein's theory of relativity a cover up? What is the firmament?

Answers to these questions and more in *Like Clay Under the Seal*.

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A portrait of Tom Horn, a middle-aged man with a goatee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**Tom Horn, founder, host  
and CEO of SkyWatch TV**

## Tom Horn, Christian Media Giant, Dies at 66

He was the founder, host and CEO of SkyWatch TV

**C**hristian media giant Thomas Ray Horn died on Oct. 20 at age 66. Born on Feb. 28, 1957, in El Mirage, Arizona, Horn, the founder, host and CEO of SkyWatch TV and founder of Whispering Ponies Ranch and Defender Publishing, was a former pastor and longtime radio and television personality, bestselling author of dozens of books and publisher of many others.

Per a statement from SkyWatch, Horn “launched two news services where coverage of latest-breaking news and information on

cutting-edge stories covering religion, prophecy, discovery and the supernatural through in-depth investigative reports led to his network of writers being referenced and interviewed by the biggest names in broadcasting.” He appeared on *The Jim Bakker Show*, Sid Roth’s *It’s Supernatural!*, Daystar TV’s *Celebration*, *The 700 Club* and many more.

Horn is survived by his wife, Juanita F. “Nita” Horn; three children and their families, including eight grandchildren.

TOM HORN



## Giving to Support Israel

Christian Life Missions offers unique opportunity

**O**n Oct. 7, terrorist organization Hamas launched more than 5,000 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, beginning a conflict that continues today. Charisma partner Christian Life Missions offers believers the unique opportunity to show their support for Israel while providing tangible help in this critical time.

CLM is working with the following ministries:

- **Jews for Jesus:** This organization is putting together care packages for displaced persons and soldiers. “We are doing this in the name of Yeshua,” says ministry co-founder and Communications Director Sue Perlman.
- **Messianic Jewish Alliance of America:** “We must rush aid to the hardest-hit areas,” says MJAA General Secretary and CEO Joel Chernoff. Without quick action, the poorest of the poor will miss out on essentials amid a war-torn environment.
- **Vision for Israel:** This organization has been diligently working to install bomb shelters and provide emergency medical supplies for the people of Israel.

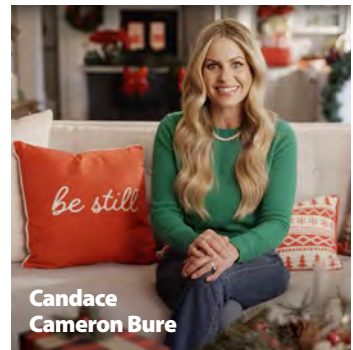
Those who feel led to stand with God’s chosen people by supporting these ministries can donate to CLM’s Stand With Israel Fund.



## Great American Pure Flix Holiday Lineup Streams ‘The Heart and Faith of Christmas’

Candace Cameron Bure and others headline family-friendly films

**G**reat American Pure Flix invites viewers to “stream the heart and faith of Christmas” this December, the platform announced. Its slate of Christmas entertainment pledges to “celebrate the impact of great stories and themes” surrounding



Candace Cameron Bure

Christmas, focusing each week on a different aspect of the holiday. Stars such as Candace Cameron Bure, Lori Loughlin, Jen Lilley, Karen Abercrombie, Lucas Black, Trevor Donovan and others fill its holiday lineup.

“This really is the most wonderful time of the year, and an extra-special time for families and friends,” Great American Media President and CEO Bill Abbott says.

## ‘The Chosen’ Convention Brings Thousands to Dallas, Announces Season 4 Theater Rollout

**I**n celebration of the popular series, over 3,500 fans attended “ChosenCon,” The Chosen Insiders Conference, held Oct. 14-15 in Dallas and capped with an announcement by creator Dallas Jenkins that the show’s fourth season will be released exclusively in theaters in February 2024. “The Chosen,” which has more than 10 million followers across social media platforms, previously released its episodes on a free streaming app.

“It was overwhelming and

beautiful to see people cheering and laughing and celebrating our show,” Jenkins tells Religion News Service. “But even better were the countless stories of impact viewers were able to tell us personally.”

Jenkins also describes the spiritual warfare involved in the show’s production. “I think we’ve noticed that as the show has grown, so has the difficulty in the challenging attacks from the enemy,” he says. “And so during Season 4 it seemed like we just couldn’t ever escape.”





## Dominic Yeo of Singapore Elected to Lead World AG Fellowship

**R**ev. Dominic Yeo, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Singapore, was elected as the fifth chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship at its General Assembly Oct. 12-14 in Madrid, Spain. The first Singaporean and second Asian to take the role, Yeo now leads the world's largest Pentecostal fellowship, consisting of 370,000 AG churches and 85 million believers, including affiliated churches in 173 nations. The WAGF was founded in 1989 to serve as a cooperative body of national AG fellowships on equal standing.

Doug Clay, who has served as general superintendent of the U.S. AG since 2017, was elected as vice chairman, and Juan Carlos Escobar, general superintendent of the AG of Spain, was elected as secretary.

Yeo served as the lead pastor of Trinity Christian Centre for 18 years, handing over its leadership to Rev. Gerald Tan on March 12 in order to "serve the global church."



Rev. Dominic Yeo



Apollo 8 Crew

## Christmas in History

NASA astronauts broadcast from first-ever lunar orbit

**L**ong before the days of cancel culture, three NASA astronauts spent Dec. 24, 1968, in a miraculous way, carrying out the first-ever orbit of the moon by humans and acknowledging the Creator of all in a special broadcast from space.

The Apollo 8 mission was originally intended as only a test run for a future lunar landing, but when progress on the lunar module took longer than expected, NASA adjusted its plan. The resulting moon mission was a huge success as astronauts Frank Borman, who passed Nov. 7, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders became the first to escape Earth's gravitational pull, see their home planet from space and orbit the moon—all on Christmas Eve.

From that incredible vantage point, the astronauts broadcast their report back to Earth, ending in "Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth," a moment that remains one of the most-watched in all of television history.

FACEBOOK / NASA





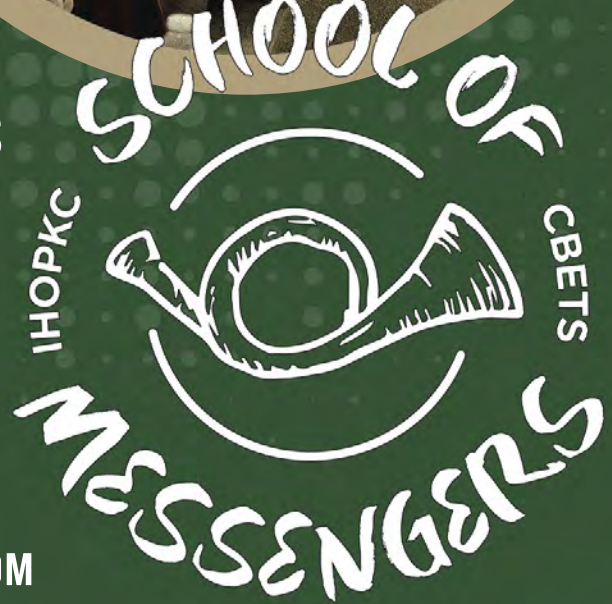
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# ACCESSING THE POWER OF FASTING & TRANSFORMATION

Private discipline and public  
reward through fasting

**BY JENTEZEN FRANKLIN**

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**W**hen I first wrote a book about fasting 20 years ago, I was just trying to get the word out to as many people as possible about the power, favor and breakthroughs that fasting brings. I wanted people to know that when you fast, you can experience a level of intimacy with the Lord unlike any you have ever experienced. I had no idea that this book would reach so many people around the world. I just knew in my heart and from personal experience that fasting was God's secret weapon that many in the body of Christ had yet to discover. Today, I am thrilled to see millions of Christians worldwide placing such a great emphasis on prayer and fasting and, for many, that book was just the jump start

they needed to take that next step of faith. Looking back over our ministry and seeing all God has done through the years only deepens my resolve to challenge even more believers to use the old weapon of fasting to win the new battles. We decided to implement fasting into the yearly calendar of our church long before fasting became popular. Today, the internet is filled with doctors and specialists touting the powerful medical benefits of fasting. This generation is fighting enemies that didn't even exist 20 years ago when the original *Fasting* book was released. Praise God that these biblical principles are timeless and not dependent on the events that grip a generation or even a nation. Fasting works. Fasting sustains. Fasting opens doors of

revelation and acceleration in every generation, in every nation under the sun.

## **A Supernatural God**

I believe in a supernatural God. No wall can defy or deter the God that I serve. When you fast, you will see walls of shame, walls of regret, confusion and depression begin to fall. Walls of hurt, offense and unforgiveness—they're all going to fall. In Matthew 17:20, after the disciples had tried everything they knew and still experienced no results casting out a demon, Jesus explained this critical piece of God's plan. He shared a spiritual truth: there are some kinds of issues, addictions, rejections and even demons that can only be overcome by prayer and fasting. continued »



“

Fasting is not for the strong. Fasting is for the weak. Fasting is for the common. Fasting is for the frail and for the ordinary.



Whether you are just trying to feed your family in a third-world country or serving as an executive on the New York Stock Exchange, there is more—more hope, greater purpose and breakthroughs that can only come through prayer and fasting. God loves co-laboring with His own creation. He loves using you and me to accomplish His purpose in the earth. When you fast, you partner with God. He desires to have a divine partnership with you in the area of prayer and fasting for your family, your life and His purpose for you. There are times when God requires us to take private, physical action to receive a spiritual blessing. There's a connection between private, physical sacrifice and what God releases spiritually in the Bible.

Exodus 17 tells the story of Moses holding up his hands with a staff and, as long as his hands were extended, the battle was won against the enemies of Israel. But when Moses' arms started getting weary, the battle would begin to turn as his arms would lower and Israel's enemies would start to prevail. The story tells us that there are times when what we do physically affects our circumstances. Fasting is perhaps the most powerful physical action a Christian can take to show God how sincere you are about wanting to see change. In reality, there is no war between God and Satan. Satan is not co-equal with our God.

But there is a war between angelic forces and demonic forces. And you and I get to vote on who wins! We have a vote in the battle in the heavenlies. We can affect the forces of darkness when we fast and pray.

“  
Where there  
is little private  
discipline, there  
will be little  
public reward.”

We can have influence in the unseen world by fasting.

### God Reveals Assignments When We Fast

I encounter so many young believers who are desperately seeking God for their calling, their assignment. If there is one recurring theme in my life and ministry it's that fasting is the birthplace of assignments. I was 19 years old when the Lord impressed upon me to fast for three

days. For a 19-year-old, this seemed so extreme. Nevertheless, the gravity of that moment was not lost on me and I went on a three-day fast. At the end of the three days, God called me to preach. It was undeniable what God was calling me to do and I knew this life-altering moment happened because I had fasted. That fast was the birthplace of my assignment. I found my mission. I found my calling. It's time to develop some of your own "extremes" when Satan is coming with such targeted opposition against you and your life. I've learned that I'm stronger with God when I am seeking Him more. When I feel weaker, I am seeking Him less.

The Bible says this about King Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26:5: "And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." I have found that the most dangerous period for all of us, and especially leaders, is when God is blessing us. We get complacent and stop seeking Him with all our heart. When we are weak with God, temptation is strong. When we are strong in our relationship with God, temptation is weak. That's why Jesus didn't fall for the trap when Satan came to Him in the wilderness with extreme temptations. Jesus instead defeated Satan in the wilderness with His own extremes: extreme fasting,

extreme prayer and extreme focus on the Word of God.

## Discipline Is Required

Fasting breaks the monotony of the weekly schedule and your focus shifts to the things that matter most. Fasting requires the discipline of extra time and focus on Jesus, His Word and His presence. When you do that, you become a disciple, a disciplined one. When you discipline yourself like this, look out! God will raise you up because you have humbled yourself before the mighty hand of God and, in due season, He will raise you up. He will promote you and He will open doors that you once thought were walls. He will give solutions and answers where there was only confusion, silence and doubt because you will have the hand of God on your life in a dimension you've never experienced. Some will even see miracles.

In this culture of entertainment and instant gratification, it's almost unheard of to expect people to sacrifice. That word has been lost in the body of Christ. Biblical fasting has to do with being preoccupied with God and His will rather than the things of this world. When we begin to biblically fast, we increase our receptivity to the Lord's voice and to His Word. It's not easy to fast. It's not fun to fast. It requires sacrifice, but the powerful reward is worth the sacrifice because your faith will begin to explode as you fast.

## What Should I Fast?

As I travel, the number one question people have on the topic of fasting is, "What should we fast and how long?" My response is always the same: "That's up to you." It is up to you. At my church, for over 30 years we have started every year with a 21-day fast, and it is truly the most exciting time of the year. Over one million people worldwide fast with us for 21 days in the month of January every year. Some people will fast from sun up to sundown and others will fast one meal a day. The most common is the Daniel fast, which is no meat, no bread, no sugar. It's a very healthy and powerful fast. Some people are

doing a liquid fast for three days and then converting over to the Daniel fast. You figure out what works for you and stick with it. Have a made-up mind about fasting and purpose in your heart, "I'm going to fast and I'm going to do it for the glory of God."

Time and experience with fasting make me qualified to proclaim with boldness, that if you will seek the Lord through fasting and prayer, then He will release a freshness, a sensitivity, a new desire and a tender spirit upon your life. Seek Him. Seek His face with fasting and prayer and He will reward you. It's not about the food. It's not about the recipes and it's not about legalism. It's about fasting for more of Him. If I do nothing but abstain from certain foods, I have wasted my time. I must also focus on the Word, on worship and on prayer.

## Private Discipline Leads to Public Reward

Victories are not won in public, but in private. Where there is little private discipline, there will be little public reward. Whenever there is private fasting and prayer in the secret places of our life there will be public rewards! If you want a stronger relationship with God, you have to seek it. There is a secret source to our power, and it always accompanies the discipline of fasting and prayer.

Fasting is not for the strong. Fasting is

for the weak. Fasting is for the common. Fasting is for the frail and for the ordinary. Fasting is for people of all ages and all cultures who realize that they desperately need more of God in their life. Fasting is for you.

If you've never fasted before, I encourage you to begin this journey, maybe even this week. Start with one day or possibly three days. Or, if you've fasted many times, maybe go a little longer but always with this warning—consult your physician before taking on a longer fast.

I'm excited about what God will do for you on this journey if you will step up and say, "God, I want You, and I'm coming after You through prayer and fasting." You literally have nothing to lose but a few pounds if you fast and feel nothing. But you will have everything to gain when you experience the greatest breakthroughs of your life, moments that will mark you and change your trajectory forever. ◀

*Pastor JENTEZEN FRANKLIN is the pastor of Free Chapel in Gainesville, Georgia, a congregation with 10,000 in attendance each week that has recently grown in a new location in Orange County, California. Franklin is a popular conference speaker, and his nationally televised program, Kingdom Connection, is seen weekly on national and international networks. He has written several best-selling books, including Right People, Right Place, Right Plan, and his latest, the re-release of the best-selling Fasting. He and his wife, Cherise, have five wonderful children.*



In this culture of entertainment and instant gratification, it's almost unheard of to expect people to **sacrifice**. That word has been lost in the body of Christ.



| PROPHETIC



# Take Hold OF THE DRIVING FORCE OF YOUR Prophetic Anointing

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL DESTINY  
TO TURN HEARTS BACK TO GOD

**BY MICHELLE MCCLAIN-WALTERS**

**E**lijah had a unique quality: he moved by the unction of the Holy Spirit. This unction empowered him to step into the spirit and pull out a prophetic mandate for a nation. Unction is a driver for Elijah prophets, and they need to build it and stir it up as they carry out the mandates of God.

## What Is Unction?

The word *unction* is not a word we hear very often. *Merriam-Webster* defines unction as “the act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing...spiritual fervor or the expression of such fervor.” Unction appears only once in the King James Version of the Bible: “But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things,” (1 John 2:20, KJV). The Greek word translated “unction” is *chrisma*. It means an unguent or ointment, a smearing. It also means anointing. In fact, many Bible translations use the word *anointing* instead of unction.

*Chrisma* comes from the Greek word *chriō*, which means to smear or rub with oil, to consecrate, to anoint. It is used in the Greek translation of the Isaiah 61 prophecy that Jesus read aloud in the synagogue in Nazareth, which He then declared had been fulfilled. The comparable Hebrew word for unction or anointing is *māšḥâ*. It refers to the holy oil used to anoint Aaron and the other priests for service in the tabernacle or temple of the Lord.

continued »



Unction is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit abides in us, if we are in tune with His voice, He will teach us, direct us, guide us, give us words to speak, show us things to do. He causes us to walk in truth. His will be the voice when “your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left,” (Isa. 30:21).

### In the Driver’s Seat

Unction is the direction of the Holy Spirit. It will drive you to something or away from something. It will direct your paths. But to be led by the Holy Spirit and experience His unction at work in your life, you need to have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

That personal relationship fosters trust in the Lord. If you don’t have that trust, when the time comes to step out in faith and do something that seems crazy or defies what your logical mind is telling you to do, you will hesitate, question, delay, or even fail to carry out your assignment. Proverbs 3:5–6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on

your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Elijah prophets need to have the Holy Spirit in the driver’s seat, which is why trust is critical for them. It is hard to trust someone you don’t know. That is why your time in the wilderness is so vital. You must develop an intimate relationship with the Holy Ghost.

A close relationship with the Holy Spirit also develops your sensitivity to the Spirit and to things happening in the spiritual world. This is also vital for those walking in the spirit and power of Elijah.

As prophets called to preach repentance and call people to turn their hearts back to the Lord, it is all too easy for Elijah prophets to forget who the battle is really against. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Unction is about being led by the Holy One and letting Him steer you in

the Holy Spirit, many times we get the words He wants us to speak right on the spot. But again, for that to happen, you must have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. We need the boldness that comes from the Holy Spirit. The words we speak as Elijah prophets are not preconceived. They are not coming from our own personal agendas. They are coming straight from the heart of God.

That is why the experience in the wilderness is so critical. You need that time

hidden away with the Lord. You need the time of refreshing, of spiritual growth, of feasting on and being washed by the water of the Word, of learning to hear the Spirit’s voice—and developing your own voice. You need to be in that place of cutting away and dying to self to have the unction of the Holy Ghost.

### Stumbling Blocks

There are things that can get in the way of the unction of the Holy Spirit and hinder us from fulfilling our assignments. I call these stumbling blocks to the prophetic.

Mixing up your own opinions and views with the truth of what the Lord is saying is a big one for Elijah prophets. Remember, God’s thoughts are higher than

your thoughts, and His ways are higher than your ways (Isa. 55:8–9). Never become narrow-minded or dogmatic about the revelations the Lord is giving you. If God starts speaking something new to you, be open to it. Stay tuned in to His voice, not the thoughts and inclinations of your own heart and mind.

Fear of man is another potential stumbling block to walking in the spirit and power of Elijah. Elijah could have chosen to give in to fear of Ahab and Jezebel. John the Baptist could have chosen to give in to fear of Herod and Herodias

“UNCTION IS THE  
DIRECTION OF THE  
*Holy Spirit.*  
IT WILL DRIVE YOU TO  
SOMETHING OR AWAY  
FROM SOMETHING”

the right direction, accelerating you into the next season at the right time, or hitting the brakes if the situation warrants. It is also about listening to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. Jesus said, “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (John 16:13). The Holy Ghost is the One who will guide us, direct us and give us words of truth to speak.

In fact, when we get the unction from

or fear of the Pharisees. And the Elijah prophets of today could choose to give in to the fear of whomever the enemy sends against them. But the Word of God says that “the fear of man brings a snare” (Prov. 29:25). Fear of man is a trap, so don’t fall for it. The fear of the Lord, on the other hand, is anything but a trap.

We overcome fear of man with the fear of the Lord. We overcome fear of man with faith. We overcome fear of man with love, for “perfect love casts out fear,” (1 John 4:18).

Another common stumbling block is being a respecter of persons. When the apostle Peter was preaching to Cornelius’ household, he said, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34). Other translations say that “God is no respecter of persons” (MEV). Respect of persons is often a religious spirit, causing people to try to limit their ministry to a certain denomination. Respect of persons can also be rooted in prejudice. But regardless of its source, it is a stumbling block for Elijah prophets. James 2:9 says, “But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” To walk in the spirit and power of Elijah, you must deliver the heart of God without partiality.

Human compassion—having compassion for something God is judging—is another potential stumbling block for Elijah prophets. You cannot allow human compassion to affect your prophetic flow. Ministering correction to people you love is difficult, but you are called to obey the Spirit. You are called to walk in the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is prompting you to speak, failing to speak out of misplaced compassion is actually unloving. Prophesying truth brings deliverance to the hearer. Don’t leave someone you care about chained up in bondage to sin out of what you think is compassion. Jesus wants them to walk in freedom. Proclaim liberty to the captives.

Your time in the wilderness with the Lord will help with overcoming whatever stumbling blocks you are facing. To come against the stumbling blocks, you must first desire truth in your inward parts.

You need to desire the real truth, the truth of the Lord that reaches down all the way into the depth of your being,

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This is the season to spread the good news of the gospel with the boldness of Elijah! As God is raising up a prophetic people who will prepare the way for His purposes in this generation, now is the time to discover how to pray earth-shaking prayers and see what a double portion life looks like. What better way to wrap up your year than with a bold and holy calling on your life?



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Don't be led astray by any kind of deception, especially self-deception. It takes the mercy and power of the Holy Spirit to break through deception.

### Holy Spirit Freedom

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He will give you the wisdom you need to root out any issues in your heart that may cause you to stumble. When the Holy Spirit reveals the flaws and failings in your heart, be humble and honest with yourself rather than trying to justify your actions and attitudes. Humility and honesty are needed for healing and deliverance to occur.

The next step is to repent immediately. Delaying your response to what the Holy Spirit has shown you will only hurt you since the delay can lead to hardness of heart and even to more deception. And remember that delayed obedience is disobedience.

The last step is to rend your heart. Rending one's garments is a sign of grief or desperation that was practiced often in the Bible and is still practiced by some Jewish people today. However, God doesn't want a grief that is only on the surface. He wants to see a change in your heart.

You need to tear your heart away from anything and everything in your life that will be a stumbling block to walking in the spirit and power of Elijah, anything and everything that will block the flow of the Holy Ghost. If you are stuck in patterns of sin, some tearing will be required for you to be set free. But Jesus wants you living and walking in freedom. Don't stay bound up in the shackles of your sin. Deal radically with your issues—all your hang-ups and hiccups and hardness of

heart—and be delivered and set free!

### Stir It Up!

Uncion comes from the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to get it. You can't manufacture it. You can't fake it. You can't buy it. You can't get it by pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. You can't get it by doing good deeds. You can't get it

spirit and power of Elijah.

If God gives you the unction to speak words of judgment, it is so that the people might repent, turn from their wicked ways, and be restored to right relationship with Him. It is an act of love, calling the prodigals to return to the Father who loves them. This demonstrates God's involvement in human affairs and His ability to awaken and inspire individuals for a specific purpose.

The Lord is the one who made you a prophet. He gave you a good and marvelous gift. He is the source of that gift, the source of all that you have—all your blessings, all your wisdom, all your power, all your peace, all your joy, all your everything.

Don't make the mistake of letting pride get in the way. Don't fall into the trap of thinking you earned your gifts or that you are better than others because of your gifts. Everything you have comes from the Lord, and He alone deserves the glory.

So walk in humility, no matter what position you are elevated to while still on this earth.

The Holy Spirit is the One who gives you the unction and also the One who stirs it up. He

will stir up your passion, your zeal.

You just need to do your part to be ready. ◀

“UNCTION IS ABOUT  
BEING LED BY  
THE *Holy One*  
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ACCELERATING  
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NEXT SEASON AT  
THE RIGHT TIME”


by reading about it or hearing about it or talking about it. You can't get it with might or power either.

Uncion only comes from being in a close, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. There is no substitute for it. It starts in your wilderness time, in your waiting time. After God has purified and refined our hearts is when He begins to give us the unction. When you are bound together with the Lord, He will become your source—for everything. And that closeness, that solid relationship, that connection with the Holy Ghost is the firm foundation you need to walk in the


**MICHELLE MCCLAIN-WALTERS** is the author of *Chosen*, *The Prophetic Advantage* and her newest book *The Spirit and Power of Elijah*, along with the *Women of Influence* series, including *The Esther Anointing* and *The Deborah Anointing*. She served as director of prayer ministry at *Crusaders Church* under the leadership of Apostle John Eckhardt. She and her husband, Floyd Walters Jr., live in Orlando, and serve as senior leaders of *Overflow International Life Center*.

# American Wake Up Call


## America in the Valley of Decision




On October 14, 2023 over a thousand prayer groups and Churches all over America joined the American Wake Up Call to pray for repentance, return to God, and restoration of America. It seems that things have only gotten worse in America since the October 14, 2023, Day of Prayer. But God is actually moving in answer to our prayers to shine the light on hidden sins so that they can be dealt with (see Ephesians 5:12-13). **Do not be afraid of the shaking, but boldly stand in the gap for America.** Judgement begins in the temple (See Ezekiel 9:6) as the secret sins of some Christian leaders have been exposed. There will be more shaking in the Church world as God cleanses His house. Will Americans leave the Church or remember that you can go to Church with some of the hypocrites or go to hell with all of them?




The October 7 Hamas attack shined a light on a hidden strain of antisemitism which has taken root in America. Years of radical indoctrination at our universities have produced a wave of young people siding with the American Nazis and Hamas murderers against Jews in Israel and America. Even some of our leaders are promoting the "Moral equivalence" canard, claiming the Israel's self-defense against a group of killers hiding behind their own people is the same as the targeting and mass murder of civilians by Hamas. Will America be numbered with the wicked nations in the valley of decision or stand with Israel?



On November 7 our elections brought to light the fact that many Americans, even in red states, want to continue to permit women to abort their babies. Can the Church and the nation be more **supportive of mothers and families, showing God's love to bring change,** or will we continue to sacrifice our children?



America is in the valley of decision, the day of judgement is near (Joel 2:14), and America must choose. "This day I call Heaven and Earth as witness against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings, and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him." Deuteronomy 30:19-20. **Pray that Americans choose life.**



Either way, there are souls to be saved and cities to be reached. We ask you to join the American Wake Up call as we answer God's call for America and prepare for an Isaiah 58 Fast and a Day of Action on April 8, 2024.

[Click Here For a Free Prayer Guide](#)



| FASTING

**DO  
YOU  
NEED**

**BREAK**

**CHANGE** DOES NOT  
HAPPEN UNTIL YOU  
SET IT IN **MOTION**





# THROUGH THE YEAR?

BY TAMMY HOTSENPILLER

**W**e are just a few weeks away from the new year and once again, everyone is talking about change. Things we will do differently or better. Things we will omit or increase in our routine. New Year's resolutions are being contemplated, discussed, and even planned.

We ponder the undisciplined things in our life and the changes we will need to make. And deep down in our hearts we hope for a better year.

But honestly, what are the chances we will truly follow through with our resolutions?

## Does Making New Year Resolutions Really Work?

Have you ever wondered where the idea of making New Year's resolution came from?

It seems that New Year's resolutions have existed for some time. In 1671 Anne Halkett, (also known as Lady Halkett, an English religious writer, and autobiographer) records a number of pledges, typically taken from biblical passages such as "I will not offend anymore" in her personal diary. She titled her entry "Resolutions" and wrote them each year on January 2.

This possibly indicates that the practice was in use at the time, even if people did not refer to them as New Year's resolutions.

Then, by the beginning of the 19th century, it was a common practice for people to make New Year's promises and resolutions for personal change and healthy practices in their lives.

One thing is for sure, whatever your experience with New Year's Resolutions, one thing is for sure, the beginning of the year is a great time for re-evaluation and personal change.

So, what if you really could see personal growth and change in your life? Would you want it? Would you be willing to do something about it? What if I told you change had nothing to do with resolution, but everything to do with your faith?

As a Life Coach, I have worked with countless clients discussing the steps to personal change. From the beginning of time humanity has sought for a way to bring about change in their lives. What if I told you that even the disciples struggled to see change in their lives as well?

There is a unique story in the Bible where the disciples came to Jesus frustrated and were questioned their ability to see a miracle. They knew the results did not come from their hand but from the hand of Almighty God, but Jesus had given them power and authority over weakness and illness. They had seen firsthand the personal changes that took place in the lives of others. But now they were stuck.

Jesus took this moment to teach them a valuable lesson.

continued »



Some things in our life can only happen through prayer and fasting. Jesus was teaching these young disciples that true healing and life changes often come through the combination of our prayer and our fasting.

So, what if your change could also come with the same formula?

### Can Fasting Really Bring About Change in My Life?

I have become a student on the subject of fasting. I have just finished writing my third book on the topic, and it has led me to a deeper understanding that our personal walk and journey with God can truly see breakthrough and personal change by exercising our faith through fasting.

So, we must ask the question, “Can the spiritual discipline of fasting help me stay committed to my desire for true New Year’s resolutions?”

Or maybe we ask, “Can fasting really bring about change in my life?”

To answer that question, let’s look at the Word of God. In Matthew 17:21, Jesus said to his disciples, some things only happen by prayer and fasting. As we mentioned the disciples struggled to see a young boy healed from his torturous life. They were frustrated over their inability to see a miracle.

Jesus simply gave them the key. Prayer and Fasting.

If you’re struggling with bad habits, negative thoughts, a lack of discipline, or just feeling hopeless, fasting for personal change in your life could be the answer.

### Adding Fasting to Faith Foundation

My story may be like yours. Although I grew up in a faith-based environment, we did not practice the discipline of fasting. We prayed, and we sang, and we went to church, but we were never taught to fast.

**“My story may be like yours. Although I grew up in a faith-based environment, we did not practice the DISCIPLINE OF FASTING. We prayed, and we sang, and we went to church, but we were never taught to fast.”**

I believe this spiritual truth is the key to opening the door to victory and breakthrough in our lives.

In my new book, *Fasting for a Change*, I walk you through 21-days of personal life development and breakthrough. I cover topics like, courage and faith, leadership and loyalty, integrity, and

**“Jesus simply gave them the key. PRAYER AND FASTING.”**

patience. All these and many more, will empower you to be the person God created you to be.

I think you would agree that we are living in unprecedented times. From the covid pandemic to the current Middle East crisis, the enemy has brought a spirit

of fear, confusion, and deception. People are struggling to find hope and victory in their personal lives.

I believe fasting is woven throughout the Scriptures to teach us how to suppress our flesh and persevere through prayer. Throughout the Bible we read story after story how prayer and fasting were the key elements to bring clarity and victory.

Whether it was the 40 days in the wilderness, that Jesus taught us to battle the enemy, or the 40 days on the mountaintop where Moses communed with God, or the 40 days that Elijah journeyed with God trusting Him for protection and direction, fasting was the common denominator, in all three scenarios.

Fasting can bring about change. Change in your personal life, change in your family, change

in your health, and even change in our country.

Do you remember the story of Queen Esther when she asked her people to fast for a miracle? Here we have the story of a young queen, whose people were threatened to be murdered and annihilated.

Her fast gave her the strength, wisdom, and clarity to approach the King and present her argument.

God honored her fast and gave her much more than she even asked.

God has a way of doing that you know. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Throughout the Bible we read story after story of how prayer and fasting were the key elements to bring clarity and

# GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS *Christmas Season*

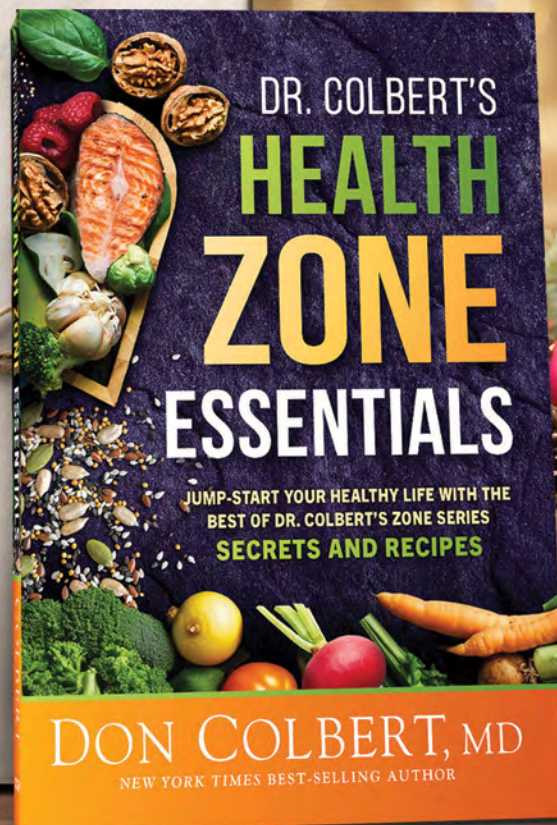
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**Use the power of fasting to  
reset your digestive system**

**Enjoy great-tasting foods from the best  
of the Mediterranean and keto diets**

**Experience peace of mind that comes from  
knowing you are protecting your body and brain**



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**“Fasting can bring  
STRATEGIES  
AND VICTORIES**

**that can only be  
found through the  
supernatural  
hand of God.”**

victory. In the book of Acts, the disciples were all gathered together when the Holy Spirit fell upon them and gave them the direction for sending out Barnabas and Saul for the ministry God had prepared for them. Fasting and prayer gave way to the supernatural encounter they all had.

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away,” (Acts 13:2-3). Fasting can bring strategies and victories that can only be found through the supernatural hand of God. As a Pastor and Life Coach, one of the greatest resources, I share with both our congregation and my clients is the discipline of fasting.

We have seen firsthand miracles and divine breakthroughs that can only be explained through our faith and our fasting. However, this does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

### **The Full Toolbox of Our Faith**

When my husband and I started Influence Church in Anaheim Hills, California, we knew we wanted to have

assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible

for you. However, this does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Fasting is not a suggestion for those who call themselves followers of Jesus, it is the answer to your breakthrough.

As we embark on 2024, would you join me in making a New Year’s resolution to Fast, Pray and ask God for miracles and breakthroughs in your life?

Remember, some things only happen by prayer and fasting. What is your “Some Thing”? ◀

**“Remember, some things only  
happen by prayer and fasting.**

**WHAT IS YOUR  
“SOME THING”?**

a place where people could pray and exercise their faith. We built a Prayer Wall inside our lobby similar to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. It is now currently filled with thousands of prayer requests.

I can tell you that as a congregation, we stand at that wall with our hands placed over our prayer requests, regularly fasting and believing God for miracles and breakthroughs.

Let me remind you once again of the passage in Matthew 17:20-21: “Jesus said to his disciples. ‘Because of your unbelief;

**TAMMY HOTSENPILLER** is an author, speaker, life coach and leader of a national women’s movement. She is president of Total Life Coach, LLC, and founder and executive director of Women of Influence. Hotsenpiller and her husband, Phil, are co-founders of Influence Church in Anaheim Hills, California. They live in Orange County and are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren.

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He Made Me and  
He Loves Me!”***

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# *THE GREAT PHYSICIAN'S DIVINE DESIGN FOR YOUR HEALTH*



# Understanding what healing really is, and how to steward your well-being

BY BEN RALL, DC

**Y**ou are divinely designed to heal.

The last few years have moved health and healing to the forefront of many Christian and secular conversations. The pandemic exposed many of our hearts and fears about life and death. When we examine the Scriptures through the Old and New Testaments along with the life and death and Resurrection of Jesus, we are challenged to view life and health much differently than today's world encourages.

The Scriptures speak deeply and specifically toward healing and wellness:

- » We are created in His likeness and image.
- » He knits us together in our mother's womb.
- » He knows the hairs on our heads.
- » He knows the number of our days.
- » We are called to be stewards.
- » We are told we are temples of the Holy Spirit.
- » We are called to finish our race well.

Yet, many times in the present-day American church, it seems healing and wellness health care are not embraced. My heart is to redirect our scattered focus of today back to the wisdom and guidance of our Great Physician.

## Shifting Focus Back to Jehovah Rapha

In many ways, today's "healthcare" model has become an idol much like the golden calves of Bible times. Today's fertility gods are ObGyn's. We use potions and spells in the forms of labels, diagnoses and drugs. We often look first to man, but only as a last resort do we then turn to God.

The divine design of our bodies has indirectly led some to risk tumbling down this slippery slope. The bodies that God gave us are so incredible at help us repair and sustain themselves that many often end up taking them for granted, abusing their physical, emotional and spiritual health due to stress, poor lifestyle choices, over use—even though our bodies then bounce back and heal. However, the Lord gives us free will and it can often lead us down a trail of destruction without respecting this blessing. And when it "breaks down" we often blame God and seek man. My prayer is we can correct this perspective.

## The Majesty of His Creation

My life was deeply changed while I was getting my doctorate and we performed work on human cadavers for our anatomy lab. When I saw firsthand the incredible and intricate design of



***“WHEN I SAW FIRSTHAND THE INCREDIBLE AND INTRICATE DESIGN OF THE HUMAN BODY, I WAS OVERWHELMED BY HIS MAJESTY, POWER AND PROVISION IN OUR LIVES.”***

the human body, I was overwhelmed by His majesty, power and provision in our lives, specifically as it relates to our bodies and health.

Let me share a few incredible facts about the human body and God’s creation...

» Your body is made up of 50-100 trillion cells, that are all performing trillions of interactions every second, of everyday, even while you sleep.

» Each kidney has over one million tiny filters to help clean and detox your body.

You can remove 75% of the liver and it will regrow within six weeks.

» In all of human history “man” has not been able to create one single cell from scratch, yet your body has made millions in the few minutes you have been reading this.

From these fundamental details, I hope you are reminded, inspired and empowered by how incredible the human body is that God has given each of us, created in His holy image. It is my prayer this knowledge leads to understanding that will overcome and remove fears we often have about our health, disease and symptoms while increasing our faith in Him as our Healer.

Of course, there a time and place for emergency medical intervention, but this is a small proportion of healthcare. The rest of healthcare falls into the category of lifestyle, wellness

and stewardship, yet many of us do not assume that responsibility and instead we hand it over to today’s modern idol of medicine.

Here are a few additional startling statistics that may surprise you:

» In the USA, the 3rd leading cause of death, after heart disease and cancer, is medical care itself.

» The USA is ranked 33rd in longevity in the world.

***“HIS DESIRES ARE FOR YOU TO DRINK OF HIS GOODNESS, TO BE SAVED.”***

» Americans are only 5% of the global population, yet we consume a majority of the prescription drugs.

» Americans have one of the worst infant and maternal mortality rates in the industrialized world.

» Research has shown that both heart disease and cancer are significantly related to our lifestyles and not genetics.

As believers in Christ, what are we to do with this information? What does being a good steward of our health look like? In many ways, our poor stewardship has been that slippery slope of cultural influence in over four hours a day on social media, we are more sedentary than ever, we are more stressed than ever, we often eat more processed and unhealthy food, many people are taking multiple prescription drugs daily. And yet we don’t even consider whether any of this is in alignment with God’s plans for our lives or not.

In most of today’s studies, people are just as sick and stressed inside the church as outside the church—something definitely is not adding up. We have been called to be a set apart people, our lives ought to bear that fruit.

### **Here’s How to Engage, Steward Your Health**

Just as we are called to know the Word of God so it is written on our hearts, and we need to spend time with the Word of God and the Lord Himself to know His heart and ways, the same is true with our health. Many of us simply have not invested the time learning how to properly care for the bodies God gave us.

We are often too caught up living like the rest of the world, burning the candle at both ends, living on coffee

***“TAKE TIME TO BE INTENTIONAL AND BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOODNESS AND MAJESTY OF THE DIVINE DESIGN OF OUR BODIES.”***

and energy drinks that burn out our bodies. We need to take a deep breath. Take time to be intentional and build a strong foundational understanding of the goodness and majesty of the divine design of our bodies, and build our faith and trust in God's ability and desire to heal us, while at the same time, being good stewards of what He has provided us.

In many ways, our health lives should be like the book of James. It's a balanced tension of faith and works. As our faith increases, the fruit of our lives should as well. As we appreciate the lives and bodies the Lord has given us, we express our gratitude to Him.

### Water of Life

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' Let him who hears say, 'Come.' Let him who is thirsty come. Let him who desires take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17, MEV). These are nearly the last words of the Holy Scriptures. They are Jesus' words to the world. A final call. An opportunity to drink the living water, to taste of His goodness forever.

While we have talked a lot about caring for the bodies God has given us, make no mistake, we will all face the throne of judgment.

Don't miss your chance.

Don't settle for the things of this world. Call on the Lord. He will answer.

### Take Heart

His desires are for you to drink of His goodness, to be saved. Seek Him. Yearn for Him.

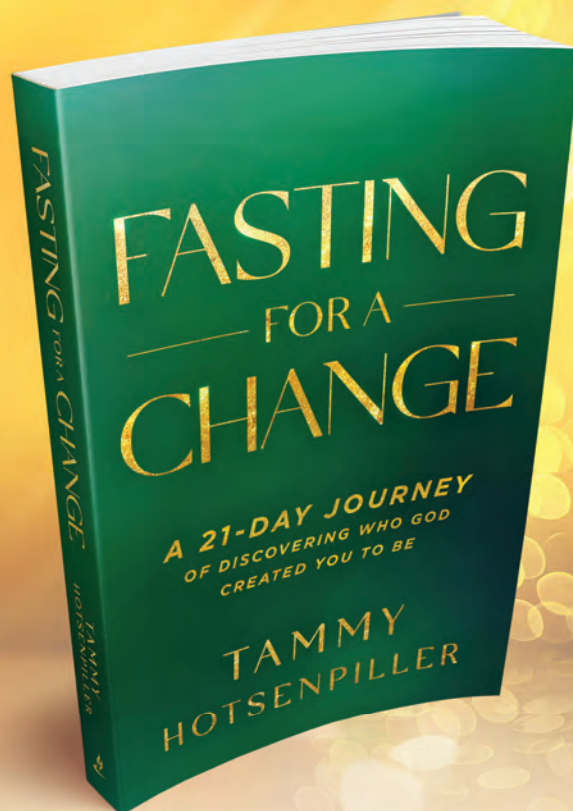
### Take Action

If you have any doubt about your salvation or relationship with the living Christ, pray to Him now. Ask Him to save you. Repent and be saved. Only He saves. Forever and ever. Amen. ◀

**BEN RALL, DC**, is a wellness-based chiropractor who has taught tens of thousands of people over the last 20 years about the healing power of Jesus Christ. His new book, *Designed to Heal*, was released earlier this year. He lives in Orlando, Florida, with his wife, Megan, and their two children.

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# Find the joy in the coming breakthrough!



**Whether you need** a breakthrough, a burden lifted, or a blessing, this is the season for the miraculous to take place! Discover how the discipline of fasting can bring about greater faith and move the mountains plaguing your life. With faith in God, all things are possible.



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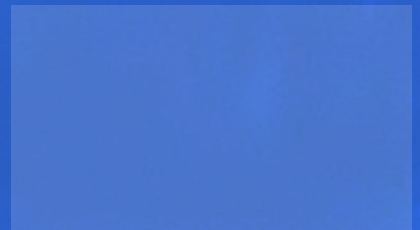
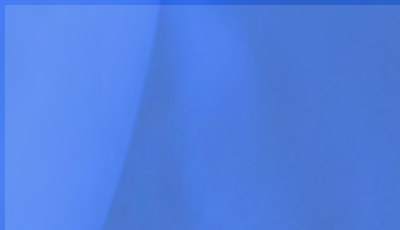
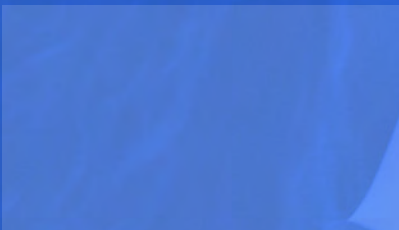
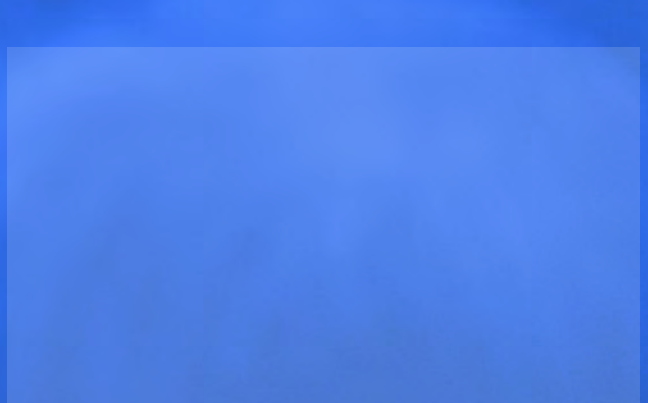
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# WHAT IS “Christmas Spirit” ALL ABOUT?



BY ABBY TRIVETT

**C**hristmas. It's the time of year when people suddenly become generous and considerate toward those to whom they have not spoken nor thought about all year, and many push aside the stresses of daily life for a sudden jolly attitude. But where does this come from? Does chaotic holiday shopping, massive amounts of cooking and buying gifts for relatives you haven't talked to suddenly, almost out of nowhere, actually give you a boost to do things differently from the other 11 months of the year?

While the festivities surrounding us can be exciting at Christmas and the lights glamorous, the Christmas spirit is

about far more than just seeing and doing things that are out of the ordinary. Unfortunately, we live in a highly materialistic society that believes gift wrap is more important than it actually is for our well-being. But what if there really is a spiritual component to Christmas? What if there really is something behind an increase in joy and our decisions to help out those in need?

Perhaps, it's the same joy that was first felt by John the Baptist while he was still in his mother's womb at the news of Jesus' coming that we are experiencing.

Right after the angel Gabriel delivered the good news to Mary that she had favor with the Lord and would be the



mother of the Son of God, she saw her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth herself was

*“There’s only one spirit capable of miraculous conception and true overwhelming joy, and that’s the HOLY SPIRIT.”*

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experiencing a miraculous pregnancy in her old age with John the Baptist. As the two women got together, Scripture says that John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth’s womb.

“When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,” (Luke 1:41-42).

Jesus’ existence here on earth brought the very joy of the person of the Holy Spirit. Christmas is about more than just our materialistic gifts. It’s about the very promises of God being fulfilled to His people. He promised a Savior, and the Savior had come. And with the coming of the Savior meant that His Spirit was on the way who would empower us to personally know Him and dwell with Him. God fulfilling His promises to mankind is all the reason in the world to have joy. The Comforter, the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords had kept His promise to redeem humanity.

Elizabeth knew that the miracle child inside of her wasn’t just moving around without reason. She knew it was because Mary carried the very God of all creation inside of her. She told Mary, “Indeed, as soon as the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy,” (v. 44). The joy that only comes through the person of Christ finally arrived.

## **The Real Spirit Behind Christmas Is the Holy Spirit**

There’s only one spirit capable of miraculous conception and true overwhelming joy, and that’s the Holy Spirit. He’s the one who made Christmas possible, and without Him, there would be no such thing as Christmas.

I can admit that I adore Christmas. I’m one of those people who, love it or hate it, have Christ-centered Christmas music playing well before Thanksgiving, and I have loved the season my entire life. If you ask any of my former college roommates, they can attest to the fact that I would frequently wake up to Christmas alarms because it’s much more cheerful than your standard “beep!” Perhaps the nostalgia of some of the real-life white Christmases that I had as a child or the annual family traditions that were hallmarks of my youth contribute to my love of the season. However, what I love most about it as an adult is seeing barriers erode for sharing the gospel to those who do not believe.

I believe the command of the angels to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds to “not be afraid” resonates with more people at this time of the year because most can agree that Jesus is at a very basic level related to Christmas, even if they have not yet heard about who He truly is. This opens the door for us to speak and move with the Holy Spirit to share the full gospel message. After all, it was through the birth of Christ that the good news of the gospel was spread to the shepherds.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Listen! Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy, which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,’” (Luke 2:10-11).

There’s only one true spirit behind Christmas, and that’s the Holy Spirit. It’s the Holy Spirit who emboldens us to share this message and embrace what the heart of Christmas is truly all about.

## **Christmas Purpose & Meaning**

When we turn our focus away from the real purpose of Christmas, we miss out on the fullness of what the Holy Spirit has for us to gain in this season.

I don’t mean that there isn’t room for Christmas cookies and hot chocolate by the fireplace. I love those two things as much as anyone else does during this season. The problem is when we only focus on the external things around us instead of the One who has imparted the joy we can have in those things. That’s where the risk lies.

The Holy Spirit is with us all the time, yet we so frequently miss the fact that He is in the details of our lives. When we get the opportunity to enjoy these small moments, we need to attribute it to the right person. It’s the Holy Spirit who brought about the season when Mary first conceived Jesus, and it is through Him that the joy for all mankind has now come.

First Chronicles 16:23 tells us to: “Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from

*“What I love most about it as an adult is seeing barriers erode for sharing the GOSPEL to those who do not believe.”*

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day to day.” We are to proclaim the joy that comes from the Lord’s salvation each and every day. It is the salvation of the Lord that came through Christ that is worth rejoicing in. The Holy Spirit is the One who highlights the promise fulfilled and the exceedingly and abundantly far more than we ever could have hoped for or imagined life. Isn’t it amazing that we get the pleasure of enjoying the festivities surrounding Christmas because God not only self-sacrificially gave us His Son to cover the cost, but because the payment was more than enough to provide us with overflow? God is such a good God that He not only gave us His Son, but He gave us His Spirit so we could personally know Him.

*“There is no greater gift than seeing the Holy Spirit fulfill God’s promise to His people by presenting us with the SACRIFICIAL GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD.”*

### **Holy Spirit Highlights Goodness of God’s Gifts**

Something that has become one of my favorite things to do at Christmas time is to participate in my church’s toy collection. There’s something special about walking in to the store with the mindset that what I purchase could impact a child’s life for the better.

When I pray about my shopping day, I ask the Lord to highlight the items that I should buy. I have no idea who I am buying for, but I know that even His smallest children have great desires inside of their hearts. As I walk down the aisles, I continue to pray, and something about this entire experience connects me even closer to the heart of the Father. Knowing that I am seeking a good and abundant gift for one of His children is a reminder that He has also given me an abundant gift in Christ. As I am excited to provide a toy for a child I’ve never met, how much more is God’s excitement to give good gifts to His children that He knows and loves intimately?

Picking up toy after toy that stands out to me until I feel that my job is done is a small but satisfying kind of adventure. Knowing that I picked out these items by the leading of the Holy Spirit provides a different type of exhilaration because I know that

there is a child out there who will be blessed by this unexpected prize. This somehow brings about a deeper level of

*“Knowing that I picked out these items by the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT provides a different type of exhilaration because I know that there is a child out there who will be blessed by this unexpected prize.”*

humility and joy.

When we give according to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we see another facet of the depth of God’s love for us.

The presents should never be about us; giving is not supposed to be a spectacle about who we are or what we are able to do. Instead, it’s about how God wants to bless His children by using us as His vessels. Luke 11:13 provides the perfect insight into how God sees us and desires to bless us: “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

The gifts that we give pale in comparison to the gifts that God provides His children with. He provides gifts that only a holy God could give. If we in our sinful nature can give gifts that will bring joy to someone else, how much greater of a gift can a holy God give to His children?

As the holiday season rolls around, this is the time to remember that the true spirit of Christmas isn’t just to be found in twinkling lights or in the sprawling festivities happening all throughout the month of December. While we can appreciate these events as a gift of overflow, there is no greater gift than seeing the Holy Spirit fulfill God’s promise to His people by presenting us with the sacrificial gift of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ♦

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



# When was Jesus Born?



Most Christians don't know that Christmas was set on December 25, the ancient Roman Winter Solstice date, to displace a Pagan holiday celebrating the birth of a pagan false "Seed of Woman" god. While the Winter Solstice is an important element in the Celestial signs of Christ's Advent, careful study of the scriptures, history, and astronomy prove that Jesus could not have been born on December 25.

The Bible does not tell us when Jesus was born. However, the search for His birthdate can begin with strong scriptural evidence about the year of His birth.

We know from Luke 3:23 that Jesus was about 30 when He began His ministry. The prophet Daniel tells us the year of Christ's anointing would come 69 7's, or 483 years, after the decree which sent Ezra to Jerusalem in 458 BC. (Daniel 9:25) Doing the math, and remembering that there is no year "0", Daniel's prophecy says Jesus would begin His ministry in 26 A.D. This year is backed up by two dates from Scripture. John the Baptist began his ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius, 25 AD, (Luke 3:1) and Jesus cleared the Temple the first

time 46 years after Herod began renovating it (John 2:20) in 20 BC (According to Josephus), or 27 AD. Thus, many Bible scholars believe that 26 AD is the year Jesus began his ministry. If He was 30 years old, remembering again that there is no year "0", He would have been born in 5 BC.

Jesus would have been born either in the spring or fall of the year according to the Scripture surrounding the birth of John the Baptist. John's father, Zechariah, was a member of the priestly order of Abijah (Luke 1:5) which, according to rabbinical sources, ministered at the Temple in May and November. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, and Zechariah would have gone home and probably conceived John the Baptist in June or December, who would have been born 9 months later in March or September. We know from Scripture that John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus (Luke 1:26) so Jesus would have been born in September or March of 5 BC.

To find the exact time of year we look to Astronomy and history. We know that there was a star which appeared when Jesus was



born and that Magi from the East, possibly following the prophetic teachings of Daniel the Magi (Daniel 2:48), came looking for Him (Mathew 2:1,2). The Chinese also saw the Star, identifying it as a Nova which appeared in the spring of 5 BC and burned for 70 days. Based on the 5 BC springtime appearance of the Star of Bethlehem, John the Baptist was conceived in December of 7 BC, Jesus was conceived in June of 6 BC, John the Baptist was born in September of 6 BC, and Jesus was born in March of 5 BC.

King Herod, the tyrannical ruler of Judea, had interviewed the Magi when they arrived in Jerusalem. According to our research, described in our book *The Stars of His Coming*, (available at for a free download at (<https://bit.ly/StarBook>)) there were signs in the Sun, Moon, and Stars surrounding the birth of Jesus beginning with Zechariah in 7 BC. The Magi would have testified to the same date, and for that reason Herod ordered all of the Children under 2 years old in Bethlehem to be killed. Josephus tells us that there was a Lunar Eclipse on Passover and that Herod died later that year. This Lunar Eclipse, or Blood Moon, occurred on March 23, 5 BC, concurrent with the Star of Bethlehem.

Scholars have shown that the Passover and the Solstices and Equinoxes were associated with Christ's birth by early Church Fathers, including Clement of Alexandria, Julius Africanus, Hippolytus of Rome, and the author of De Pascha. Some believe that Christ was born on the Passover, while others believe He was conceived on the Passover and born nine months later on the Winter Solstice. The old Roman Solstice date, December 25, ultimately was selected by the Church to replace the pagan holiday, but strong support for the birth of Jesus on Passover remains. Hippolytus stated that the "Genesis", which has been translated as "Birth" or "Conception",

of Christ occurred during a Lunar Eclipse on April 2, 2 BC. Of course the actual date of the Lunar Eclipse was 5 BC, but there is one more piece of evidence to suggest that Jesus was born on March 23 5BC, on Passover.

We find it in Revelation 12:1-2, which describes a sign in the Heavens, a woman clothed in the Sun with the Moon at her feet, at the moment of Christ's birth. The woman clothed in the Sun is the Zodiacal constellation Virgo (The Virgin), which promises that God will send a savior through Virgin birth. Astronomical research shows that the Blood Moon of March 23, 5 BC occurred while the Moon was in the feet of Virgo. Thus, Revelation 12:1-2 presents us with a picture of the night sky when Jesus was born, and that night was March 23, 5 BC.

Of course we know that the whole world will continue to celebrate the birthday of Jesus on December 25. In its way, it is fitting to celebrate the Advent on the old Roman Winter Solstice, when it all began with the conception of John the Baptist around the Winter Solstice of 7 BC and signs in the Sun, Moon, and Stars began to appear. For more information view our youtube presentation "The Story of the Star of Bethlehem" at International Star Bible Society.

So on the Ancient Roman Winter Solstice date of December 25, you're really celebrating the beginning of the "Signs in the Sun, Moon, and Stars" in 7BC which led to Christ's birth on Passover, March 23, 5 BC.

Merry Christmas anyway!

THE INTERNATIONAL STAR BIBLE SOCIETY  
WAS FOUNDED BY RON ALLEN TO PROMOTE  
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE HEAVENS  
DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD.



# WHEN WORD & SPIRIT COME TOGETHER

Birthing revival, growing closer to the Holy Spirit

BY RENEE DELORIEA

A person is never the same after being one among thousands of gathered people who suddenly sink to their knees in unison under the weight of the glory of His tangibly manifested presence.

When the very air in the room becomes a cloud saturated with His glory, an inexplicable weightiness—first in the stomach and then in the shoulders—makes it hard to stand without bowing while holding on to something. Before long, everyone in the room is kneeling, most with their faces pressed to the ground.

Here, in these tender moments when God is revealing His holiness in such an evident way, it becomes clear that He loves us so much that He wants to share the beauty of His holiness with us—for eternity.

The answer to the age-old question of who we are and whose we are becomes crystal-clear as the light of truth shatters the lies of darkness.

Then, when His majesty is revealed beyond human containment, the sounds of individuals sobbing unify into gut-level cry that sounds like a corporate mother giving birth.

Microcosms of the fulfillment of Philippians 2:10, when every knee on earth will bow to Jesus Christ and confess Him as Lord, sometimes occur during worship and ministry in gatherings of believers. Modern-day examples of times



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**“When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest move of the Holy Spirit that nations, and indeed, the world have ever seen,”**

**Smith Wigglesworth**

when He manifested His presence in one location for extended periods time are the Brownsville Revival and the Toronto Blessing in the 90s.

### **The Unique Role of Every Spirit-Filled Believer**

Quotes from Smith Wigglesworth and Jonathan Edwards provide insight into revival being perpetual and its fulfillment being dependent upon every believer being in the fullness of His Spirit, understanding his or her unique and God-appointed role.

“The revival of God’s church continues, but it won’t be complete until every Spirit-filled believer understands his or her unique role in its fulfillment,” said Wigglesworth, a British evangelist and faith healer who was important in the early history of Pentecostalism.

“Revival is not about getting you back to year one; revival is to get you forward to where God appoints you to be in all the fullness of his Spirit,” said Edwards, an American revivalist preacher and theologian.

From the chronicles of history, Wigglesworth and Edwards are still calling forth every believer to be constantly

moving forward toward the fullness of Holy Spirit as they are fulfilling their unique role in ongoing revival.

Enduring and fruitful revival perpetuates forward motion. His priorities become our priorities. We are His sheep and as His sheep, we know His voice. Repentance from sin is more than a one-time action or lifestyle shift. On the one hand, it is a relational and synchronic flow in the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, it is a battle-readiness partnership with Holy Spirit and fellow believers to conquer darkness with the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A good analogy of living in sync with the Holy Spirit is found in a quote from Holocaust survivor and evangelist Corrie Ten Boom: “If a bird is flying for pleasure, it flies with the wind, but if it meets danger, it turns and faces the wind, in order that it may rise higher.”

### **Hunger for Revival**

Communion with God is the life force of every believer. God is always present and those who are paying attention will recognize many of the ways He reveals Himself.

There are times, however, when people

begin to unite in a desperate cry of, “We need You, God!”

Among the many indicators that we are in a time such as this are extended prayer meetings on campuses and in public spaces, the exponential multiplication of people responding to altar calls for repentance, numerous reports of thousands of Muslims believing on Jesus after He comes to them in their dreams and large cross-sections of people gathering for prayer.

Speaking about the deepening cry of people today, Lindell Cooley recently said in a video post, “There is prayer for it. There is a hunger from people... They need something from God like never before.”

Cooley was the worship leader at the Brownsville Revival, which lasted five years, and he is now the senior pastor of Grace Church Nashville.

### **The Coming Together of the Word and the Spirit**

Many contemporary leaders in the church today are united in the belief that the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen is in its beginning stages. It has been given a variety of names: the Great Harvest, the End-Time Harvest, the Billion-Souls Harvest and others.

At the end of his life, Wigglesworth said the biggest move of God that the world has ever seen will occur when there is a coming together of those who emphasize His Word and those who emphasize His Spirit.

“When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidence in the churches of something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the Word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit.”

“When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest move of the Holy Spirit that nations, and indeed, the world have ever seen,” he said.

God revealing Himself through miracles that confirm the preaching of His Word, for example, expresses His love and testifies of the truth of the gospel.

“The purpose of signs and wonders is to be a vehicle of getting love to a generation,” said Jaramel Nelson, founder of Elisha Revolution.

Nelson and his team have reportedly

seen over one million people saved and many miracles, including miraculous healings, in Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Malawi and the Philippines this year.

Speaking of the increase in faith when prophetic insight ignites prayer for healing, J.D. King, a pastor at Revive Church in Kansas City, Missouri, told

to effective leadership is getting under people and pushing them up.

“My effectiveness is not based on my performance or on my preaching, but on how many people I train and release to surpass me,” he explained. “Just as Elijah gave his double-portion mantle to Elisha, we must stop being insecure

of unimaginable power—is being created that will quickly and explosively destroy spiritual darkness with the light of Jesus Christ.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers recently converged for panel discussions and speaker sessions in Nashville for the Fusion Conference, which was hosted by Orbis Ministries.

“At Fusion, we set out to ‘fuse together’ gifts which many may not think of as related. In this case, these gifts were prophecy and miracles,” explains Fish. “The idea is that prophecy can catalyze miracles (Elijah prophesying a drought), and miracles often provoke prophecy (as when Mary prophesied the Magnificat).”

He said that even though they were specifically seeking to explore non-healing miracles at the conference that brought together nearly 1,200 people, they had many healings, including miraculous healings. “Based on feedback we have received, many are reporting higher and more fluent levels of prophetic ministry through their lives, and the same with miracles.”

## On the Launchpad

In this time of deep travail for breakthrough, God is calling us to be reconciled to Him and to one another. The path from fission to fusion in our own lives may seem daunting, but Jesus’ redemptive power will propel us to victory that releases great healing and power if we are led by Him through what may seem like the greatest challenge of our lives. “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body,” (Rom. 8:22-23). ◀

*During the Brownsville Revival, RENEE DELORIEA was the managing editor of the Brownsville Revival Magazine, a columnist for the Remnant Newspaper and a freelance writer for Charisma magazine. Since then, she has edited books and written articles for numerous media outlets. She lives in Nashville.*



“In this time of deep travail for breakthrough, God is calling us to be reconciled to Him.”

*Charisma* that prophetic guidance in ministering healing is a promise waiting to be realized.

“The confidence that comes from ministering healing through prophetic guidance can be likened to holding a signed and endorsed check,” he explained. “It’s a promise waiting to be realized, just waiting for you to cash it in and access guaranteed results.”

## Mentoring and Making Room

At times, missionaries and evangelists who have moved powerfully in miracles overseas find that room is not made for them to minister alongside others in the church when they return to the U.S.

“After speaking and experiencing healing and miracles in a variety of countries with over 100,000 coming into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, I found my opportunities to serve in local churches limited to greeting visitors at the door for many years,” said Melonie Janet Mangum, the transformation director for Aglow International and CEO of Partners for Transformation.

Lee Grady, founder of Bold Venture, told *Charisma* that he believes the secret

about how successful our disciples will be. We should cheer them on when they excel beyond our capacity.”

Stacy Campbell, founder of the Canadian Prophetic Council, said she has a passion to teach believers to know how to hear the voice of God through proper teaching and strong values.

“People cannot mature when they are in structures that do not allow the five-fold ministry to operate,” said the founder of a mentorship program called Shiloh Company.

## Overwhelming Breakthrough

Ken Fish, of Orbis Ministries, said he believes that we are on the cusp of an explosive breakthrough. The evangelist who studied to be a physicist earlier in his life said that it has long been said that what is seen in the physical world reflects what is happening in the spiritual world.

Drawing from this widely-held insight he said he believes that the division (fission) we see in the world today is producing such extreme pressure and elevated temperature that the energy for fusion—and the subsequent release





# CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



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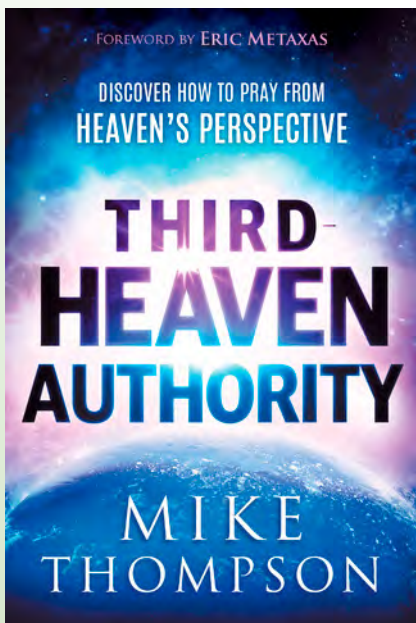
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by Mike Thompson  
(foreword by Eric Metaxas)

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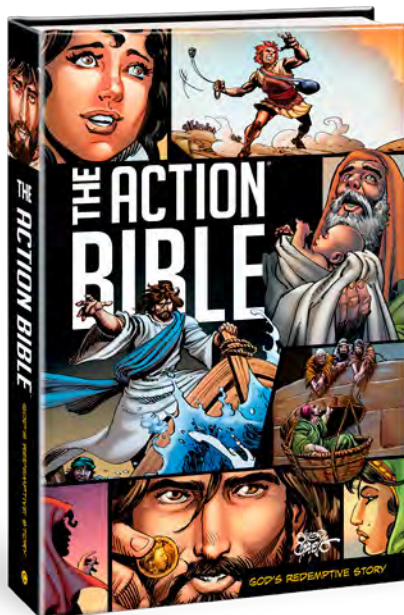
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## CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

### Give Encouragement this Christmas Season!

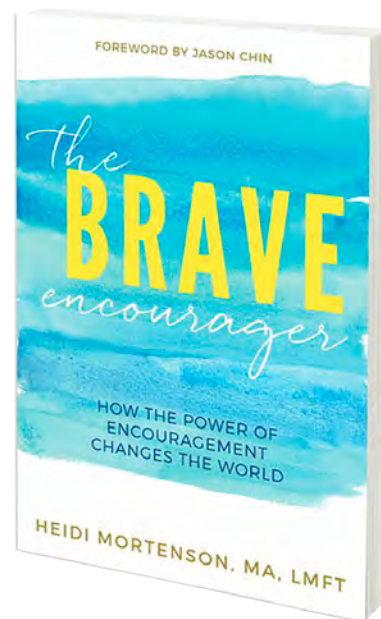
This world is hurting and we need encouragement. The book, *The Brave Encourager*, teaches you how to authentically pull the gold out of yourself and others. The author's experience as a spirit filled mental health therapist will show how we often focus on the frustrations and difficulties we have with those around us instead of what God sees. To truly bring transformation we need to learn to pull the gold and encourage no matter the circumstances.

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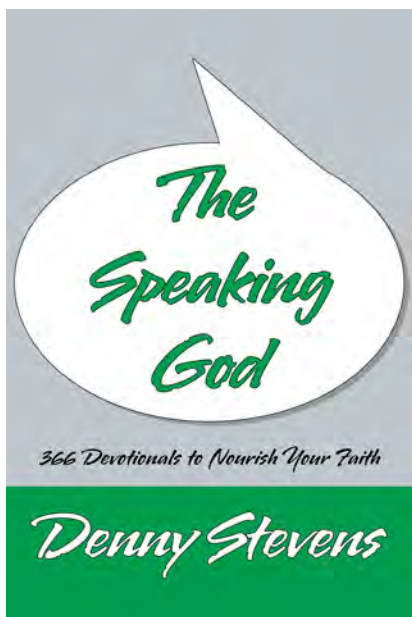
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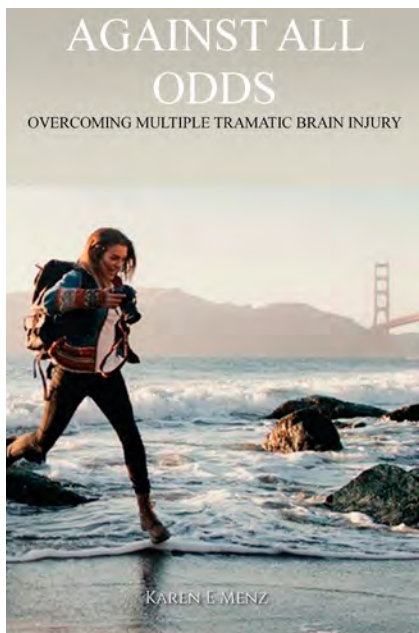
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## CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



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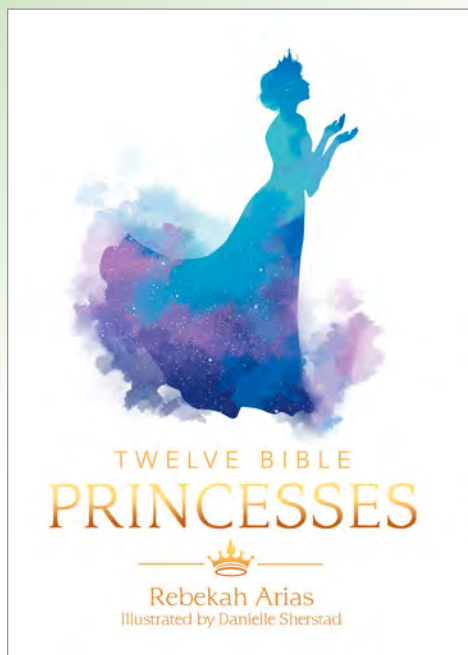
TBI helped build her bravery, created her courage, and most importantly, God planted daily seeds of hope that flourished through the years of recovery.

Karen is now thriving in her deepened walk with God.

Karen shares the strength, faith, and inspiration that made her unstoppable, even in the face of life and death events, tribulations, and tests of her determination. Karen's life lessons have value for those facing TBI and similar challenges who are traveling against the odds to survive and discover how valuable life can truly be.

Karen is a child of God, mom, Domestic Engineer (wife), author, Health is Wealth Agent, Veteran, (TBI) Survivor.

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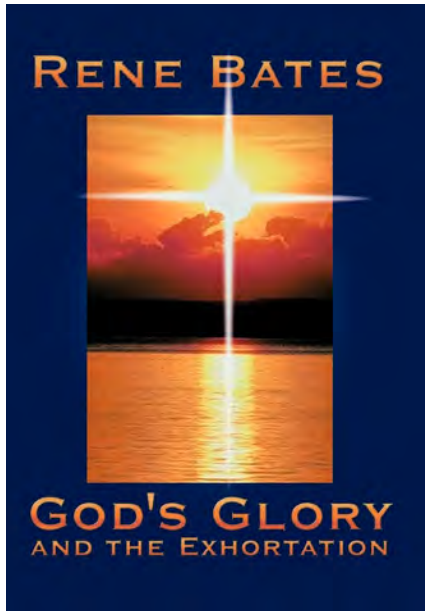
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**Cecily Lachapelle, author**

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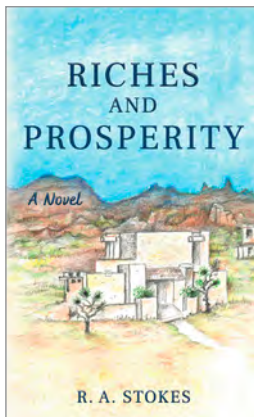
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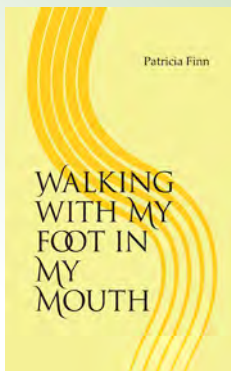
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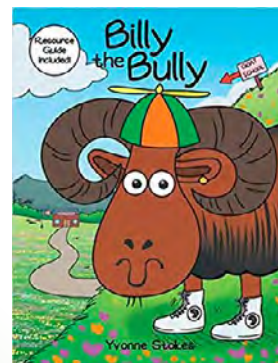
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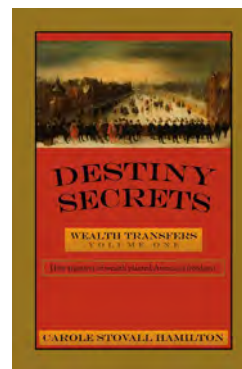
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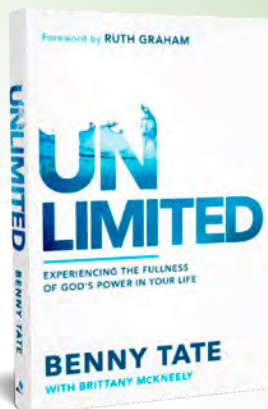
## **The Josiah Manifesto by Jonathan Cahn**

In his newly-released *New York Times* and # 1 best-selling book, author Jonathan Cahn is revealing the stunning mysteries and revelations behind the recent events that have changed America, the world, and our lives.

What does the future hold? Is America heading for calamity? Have we received an answer, a guide, and a blueprint revealing what lies ahead? Discover the answer to these questions and many more as you embark on a prophetic journey from a Caribbean Island to Washington D.C. to the ancient Valley of Hinnom to the Supreme Court to a desert mountain to an ancient middle eastern temple to the gates of America to uncover an ancient puzzle that lies behind the most dramatic events that have altered our lives...

As mind-blowing as all of Jonathan Cahn's other *New York Times* best sellers are, you'll be amazed as *The Josiah Manifesto* contains something different than all the others: the answer and hope for the end times!

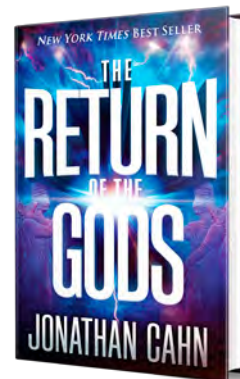
[BooksbyJonathanCahn.com](http://BooksbyJonathanCahn.com)



## **Unlimited by Benny Tate**

After watching God change his entire congregation for the better during a sermon series on the Holy Spirit, Benny Tate is now sharing the satisfaction and joy that comes from a relationship with the Holy Spirit. After seeing God's limitless power and love for them, readers will find true growth and meaning with the Holy Spirit.

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## **The Return of the Gods by Jonathan Cahn**

Is it possible that behind what is taking place in America and the world lies a mystery that goes back to the gods of the ancient world...and that they now have returned? From *New York Times* best-selling author Jonathan Cahn comes one of his most explosive books ever. You will go on a fascinating, unforgettable, and mind-blowing journey that will leave you stunned and with the ability to see the world as you never have before.

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## Learning to Hear God's Voice

Millions have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit since the Day of Pentecost, when tongues of fire rested on those in the Upper Room and the disciples began to speak in a heavenly prayer language that made onlookers think they were drunk in the morning. In his sermon in Acts 2, Peter said they were witnessing what Joel prophesied: the Spirit of God was being poured out on all flesh, and the sons and daughters of Israel were prophesying. But there was more to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit than just what people saw and heard. A power caused 3,000 to believe that day and begin a movement that spread worldwide and continues today.

The Roman Empire tried to crush that odd Jewish sect as it had quashed many others before it. But they were unsuccessful. The Roman Empire is gone, replaced by the Christian church, which exorcised the paganism of the Romans and the Greeks before them. Today, Christianity is the dominant religion in both Italy and Greece. While the Spirit's power seemed to ebb and flow and even go underground for generations, the Holy Spirit has been at work throughout history and has made Himself evident in our generation.

God wants nothing more than to pour out His Spirit on our sons and daughters, no matter how much it seems evil is increasing around us. Today's world is not that unlike the pagan world of biblical times. Babies were sacrificed to Molech in places such as Caesarea Philippi, a region Jesus often visited and the site where He asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Sexual perversion and temple prostitution were common in the known world, even in pious Israel. And if contending with pagans weren't bad enough, the religious people of the day persecuted the early believers. It reminds me of Christian denominations today that not only deny the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit but hound out of their midst anyone who dares to believe or teach about them.

And today, with the advance of the Left and a one-world government, it seems we are racing toward the end of time. It's

enough to discourage even the strongest believer. But it's not about us. We had no choice but to be born at this time. We don't control world events. All we can do is trust in God, believe His Word and experience the amazing power of His Spirit, which not only will help us stand up to and get through all this evil but also will help us experience joy and peace in the midst of trials, as the apostle Paul did.

Just before his execution, Paul wrote these timeless words: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith. From now on a crown of righteousness is laid up for me," (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Paul encourages us that this crown of righteousness is not just for him "but also to all who have loved His appearing." That is you and me.

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*"Experience the Holy Spirit's power in your prayer life...exercise it by increasing your faith to see miracles, cast out evil spirits and live in the glory of God."*

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Mark Batterson tells his readers in *The Circle Maker* that it's "imperative... you come to terms with this simple yet life-changing truth: God is for you. If you don't believe that, then you'll pray small timid prayers; if you do believe it, then you'll pray big audacious prayers. And one way or another...it will change the trajectory of your life." My prayer life has been greatly affected by Batterson, who is himself a powerful Spirit-led leader.

Books about prayer like Batterson's are important because experiencing the Holy Spirit begins with prayer. It's how we commune with Him and enter His presence. But knowing the Holy Spirit involves more than just prayer. Even non-Christian religions incorporate some form of prayer. I want to encourage you not only to experience the Holy Spirit's power in your prayer life but to exercise it by increasing your faith to see miracles, cast out evil spirits and live in the glory of God. The Holy Spirit empowers us not only to pray but also to see results!

But there's more. The Holy Spirit prompts an awareness of deep worship and empowers us to understand how the gifts of the Spirit can operate not only in the church but also in our lives. The Holy Spirit shows us how we can become free of the things that bind us and overcome spiritual strongholds, offenses and unforgiveness.

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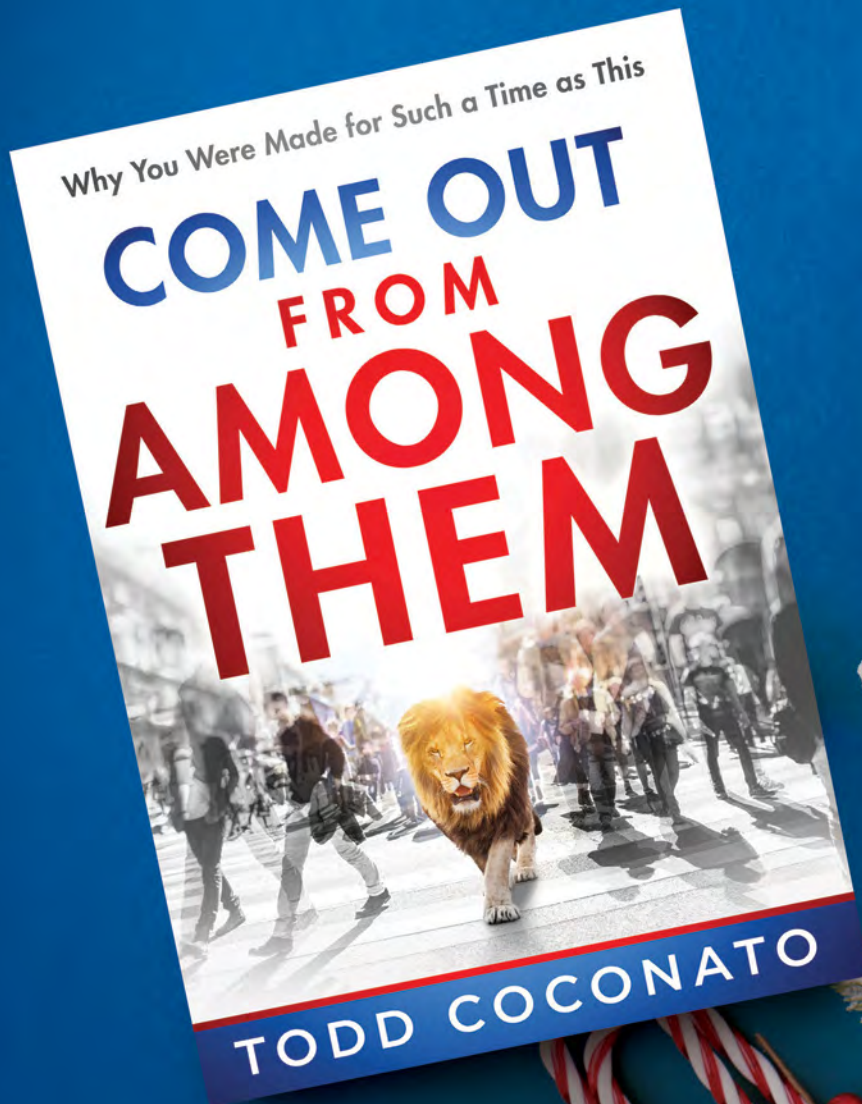
**Stephen Strang** has seen major changes in the church, the culture and technology since he founded *Charisma* magazine in 1975. In addition to being CEO of Charisma Media, he hosts a *Strang Report* podcast live on YouTube and Rumble at 4 p.m. EST every Tuesday and Thursday. His important new book *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-World* (from which this column was excerpted) is available wherever fine Christian books are sold. You can get a copy signed

by the author online at [mycharismashop.com](http://mycharismashop.com).

God is calling His people into  
**His heavenly  
Kingdom plans!**

Give your family and friends the gift of boldness this Christmas! After experiencing an angelic encounter in 2021, Todd Coconato is now sharing what he believes God is asking of his people in this hour of wickedness. Discover how to:

**TRULY BE SET APART**  
**REFUSE TO CONFORM TO THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS HOUR**  
**TAKE BACK THE CULTURE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD**





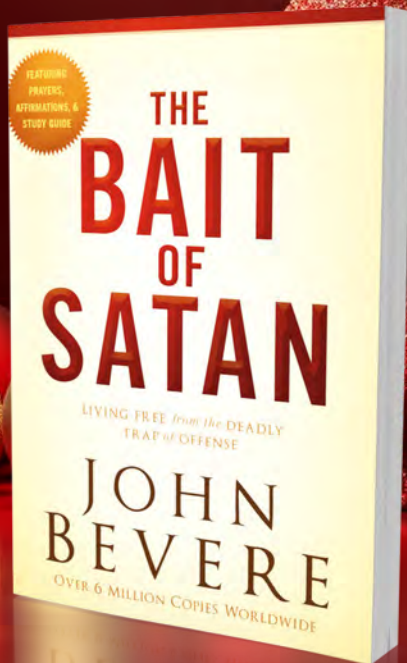
# Don't Spend Christmas

## Ensnared by the Bait of Satan

Most people who are trapped by the bait of Satan don't even realize it.

With John Bevere's *The Bait of Satan*, you'll be able to answer questions like:

- \* Why am I compelled to tell "my side" of the story?
- \* How can I fight thoughts of suspicion or distrust?
- \* What can I do to stop rehearsing past hurts?
- \* How can I regain trust after someone deeply offends me?



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## BIBLE READING GUIDE

Follow our daily reading plan in each issue of *Charisma* to read through the Modern English Version Bible in one year. The plan is also available online at [mycharisma.com/bible-reading-guide/](http://mycharisma.com/bible-reading-guide/).

“Mary said, ‘I am the servant of the Lord. May it be unto me according to your word.’” —Luke 1:34

### DECEMBER

Dec. 1	Rom. 5-8
Dec. 2	Rom. 9-12
Dec. 3	Rom. 13-16
Dec. 4	Eph. 1-4
Dec. 5	Eph. 5-6; Ps. 119:1-80
Dec. 6	Phil. 1-4
Dec. 7	Col. 1-4
Dec. 8	1Tim. 1-4
Dec. 9	1Tim. 5-6; Titus 1-3
Dec. 10	2Tim. 1-4
Dec. 11	Philemon; Heb. 1-4
Dec. 12	Heb. 5-8
Dec. 13	Heb. 9-11
Dec. 14	Heb. 12-13; Jude
Dec. 15	James 1-5
Dec. 16	1Pet. 1-5
Dec. 17	2Pet. 1-3; John 1
Dec. 18	John 2-4
Dec. 19	John 5-6
Dec. 20	John 7-8
Dec. 21	John 9-11
Dec. 22	John 12-14
Dec. 23	John 15-18
Dec. 24	John 19-21
Dec. 25	1John 1-5
Dec. 26	Ps. 117, 119:81-176; 2-3 John
Dec. 27	Rev. 1-4
Dec. 28	Rev. 5-9
Dec. 29	Rev. 10-14
Dec. 30	Rev. 15-18
Dec. 31	Rev. 19-22

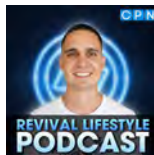


# HOLY SPIRIT YOU ARE WELCOME HERE...

# AND HERE

# AND HERE

Deepen your  
connection with **HIM**,  
**CLICK TO LISTEN!**

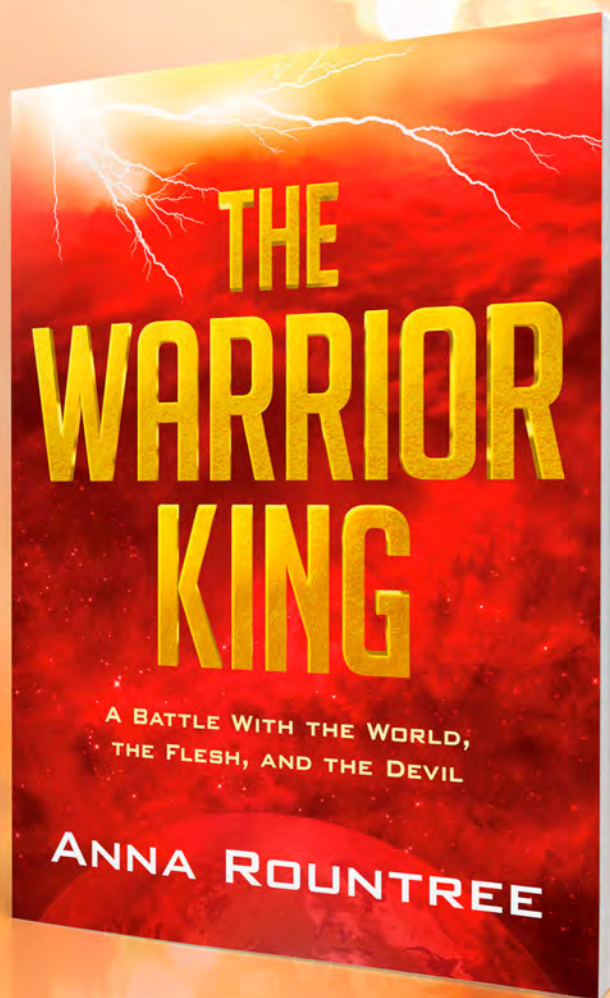
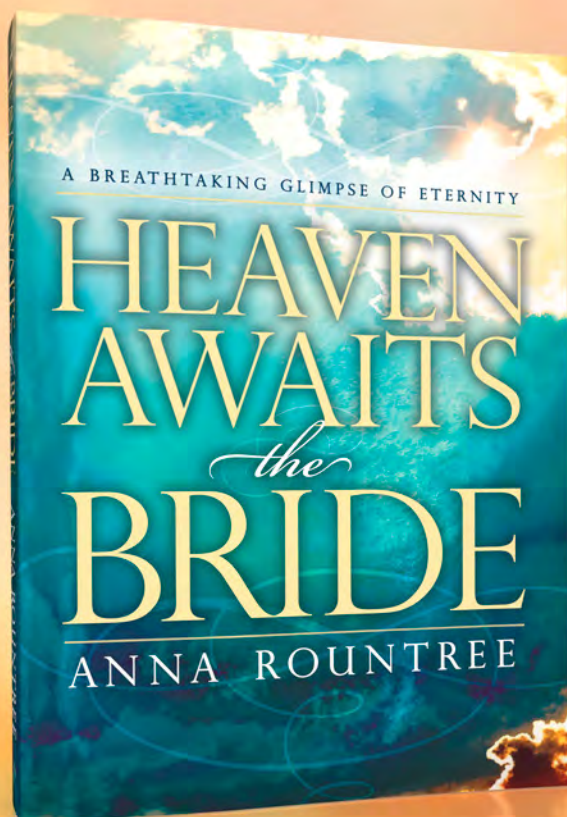


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