

SPECIAL SECTION | CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK HAYFORD

CHARISMA®

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

MARCH / APRIL 2023

**JACK
HAYFORD**

**THE PENTECOSTAL
GOLD STANDARD**

**CRUSH
THE ENEMY**

**FIRE-POWERED
STRATEGIES FOR
GODLY VICTORY**

**JESUS
IS RISEN**

**CAN WE PROVE
HE ROSE FROM
THE DEAD?**

HONORING
**JACK
HAYFORD**

1934-2023

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Remembering a Modern Day Paul

My dear friend Pastor Jack Hayford left a lasting legacy. He was a pastor, teacher, servant, and man of God. For me personally, he was my mentor and spiritual father, and he was an apostolic elder at Gateway Church. I am so grateful for his influence in my life and the lives of everyone at Gateway Church.

I believe Pastor Jack was an Apostle Paul for our generation. Although he would have been reluctant to accept such a description about himself, a glance back over his life, his ministry, and his legacy lends overwhelming evidence to this statement. Look beyond the numerous books he authored, the hundreds of songs he composed, and his decades of faithful ministry service, and you will

find a man whose life is characterized by his deep, abiding passion to hear and obey God's voice through the Holy Spirit.

While I am grieving his loss right now, I am also rejoicing with hope knowing that Pastor Jack is in heaven with His precious Savior, and I will see him again one day!

Robert Morris
Senior Pastor, Gateway Church



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The Legacy of a Legend

I had only been president of The King's University for 17 days when I met our founder, Pastor Jack Hayford. We spent hours in conversation in his home, and I learned about his childhood dream of being a pharmacist. He explained the large collection of mortars and pestles all around his home. He began collecting them as a young boy, and after God told him he would not be a pharmacist, he continued collecting them because they had spiritual significance to him. Just as medicine is crushed and poured out, Pastor Jack saw his life in ministry the same way.

At the end of our time together that day, he gave me a mortar and pestle, and it sits in my office today. With any decision I make, challenge I face, and prayer I pray, I look over at it and it reminds me of Pastor Jack, who made himself available for God to measure, crush, and pour out.

Today, this object takes on yet another meaning. It represents a man whose service to God on earth has ended but whose legacy continues—especially in the lives of TKU students and alumni. I believe that right now he's hearing these words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Dr. Jon Chasteen
President, The King's University

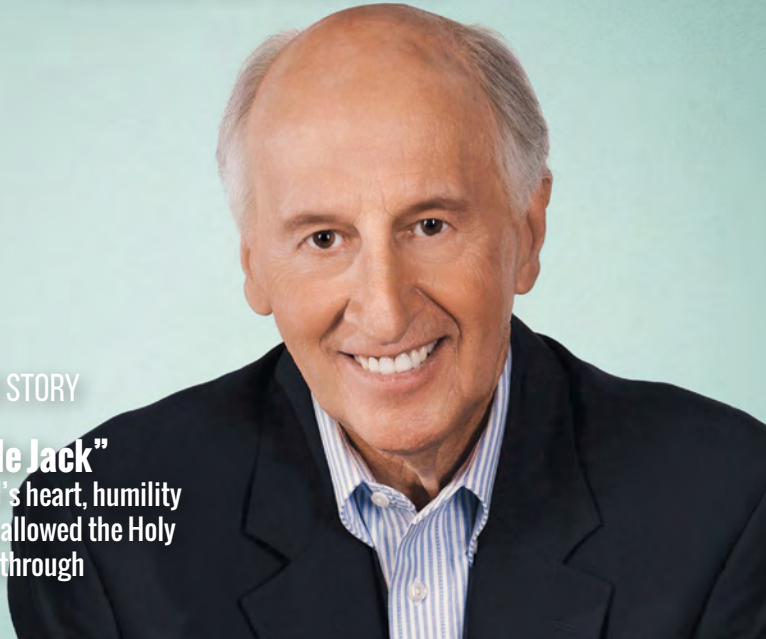
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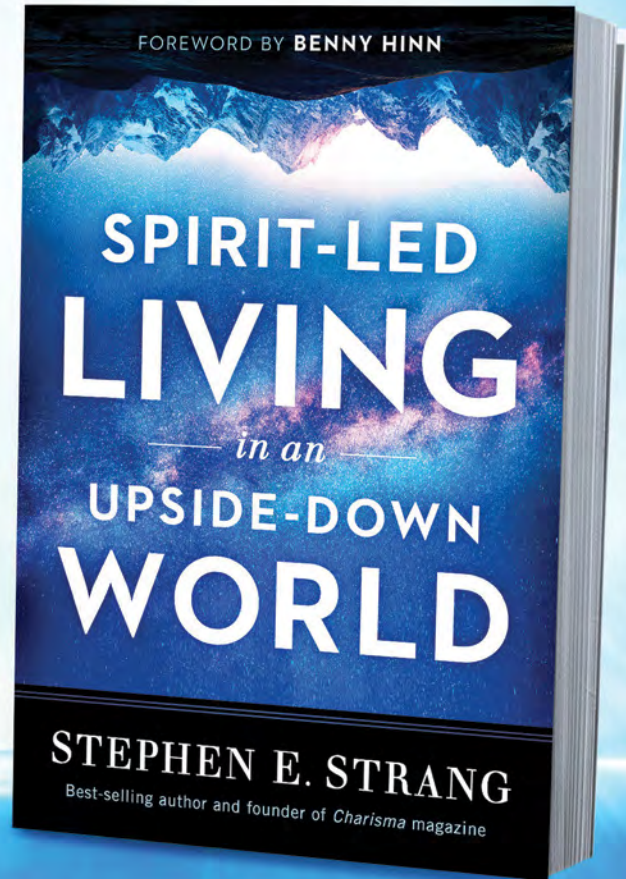
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By Stephen Strang

INTRODUCING STEPHEN STRANG'S NEW BOOK ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

written for perilous times and a new generation



Christians are under attack as never before. Intense spiritual warfare in an upside-down world is overcome only by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians, depressed and bombarded by sin on every side, need spiritual power and gifts to survive and go deep with God.

Many books have been written on spiritual warfare and spiritual gifts. Now this book helps readers understand how we can live Spirit-led lives and thrive even as events race toward the end of time.

After writing about the prophecies of Donald Trump's election and the challenges of cancel culture, the founder of Charisma focuses on Spirit-led living in fresh and helpful ways for a generation who don't remember the Jesus movement or early charismatic renewal.

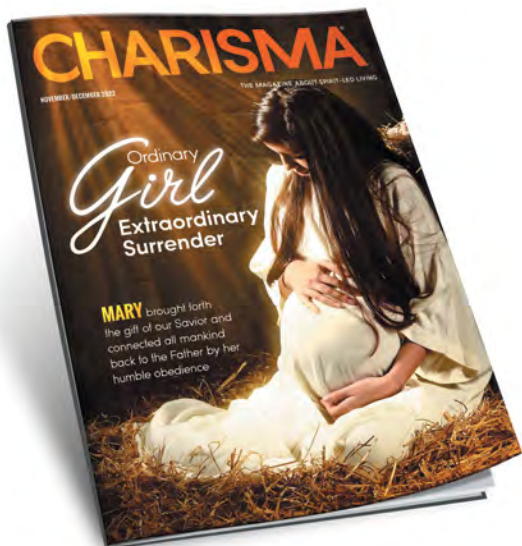
Releases May 16 near Pentecost Sunday, the book includes study questions for individuals or groups. Be the first to get your copy.



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Founder of *Charisma* Magazine, shares 48 years of experience



DEAR CHARISMA



ORDINARY GIRL, WONDERFUL ARTICLE

Thank you for your excellent Christmas season story on Mary ("Ordinary Girl, Extraordinary Surrender," *Charisma*, November-December 2022). Everyone knows the 'Christmas story' and Luke chapter 2. But this description of her faith and obedience took the whole story a lot deeper and was very encouraging.

Louise Charmin, *Bancroft, IA*

REVIVAL IN IRAN

The article on the explosion of Christian faith in Iran was amazing ("Iran's Spiritual Awakening," *Charisma*, November-December 2022). Our small group has prayed on and believed for the spread of the gospel in the Middle East since most of us were teenagers back in the Reagan 1980s. It is such joyful news to see this actually coming to pass.

Sharlene Douglas, *Portland, ME*

PAT BOONE'S EXCITING NEW BOOK

I was a giddy young fan of Pat Boone in the early days of his career, with his music and his movies (*Charismata: "Pat Boone Reminds Us God's Promises Start With 'If'"*, *Charisma*, November-December

2022). Later I read his book, *A New Song* and have been grateful for it ever since. I was so happy to see your descriptions of his latest book *If*. It is so encouraging to know Mr. Boone at 88 years old is serving God's kingdom.

Maude Frankleh, *Higginsport, OH*

PEACE AND VICTORY IN UKRAINE

Dennis Melnichuk's article on the Russian aggression in Ukraine ("From the Ashes of War" *Charisma*, November-December 2022) was as timely as it was needed and gratefully received. The news through most of 2022 was dark and getting worse. Thank you Charisma for finding the light and bringing it to us.

Zane Aaronson, *Spring Valley, MN*

MAZEL-TONUKKAH

The story about the other high holidays in the Jewish calendar was so much fun ("Beyond Hanukkah," *Charisma*, November-December 2022). It's always entertaining to realize how much you thought you knew, but actually don't. Rabbi Schneider did a great job walking through the other holidays.

Gordon Brawn, *Diggins, MO*

"Thank you Charisma for finding the light and bringing it to us."

*—Zane Aaronson,
Spring Valley, MN*

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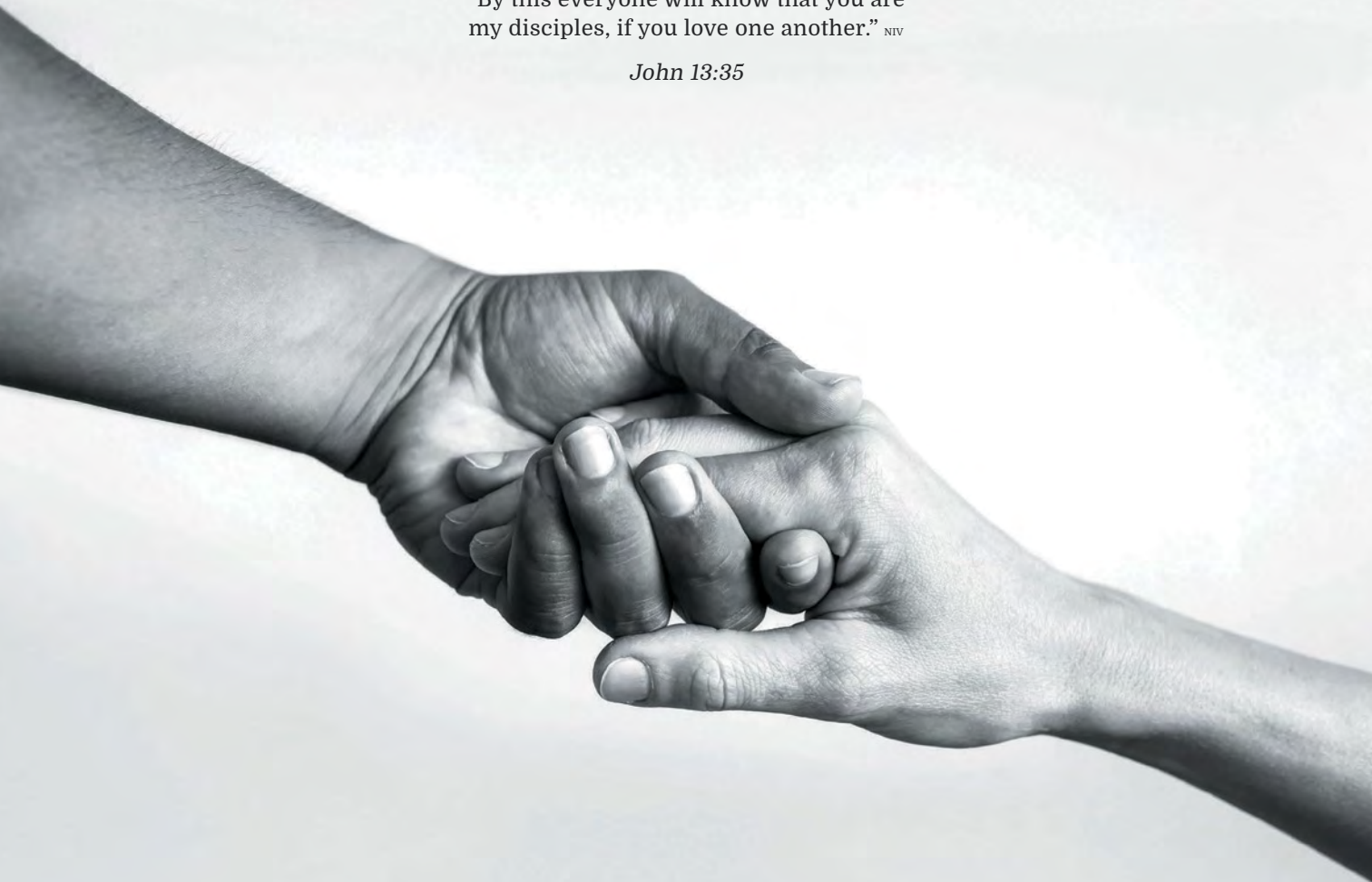
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“By this everyone will know that you are
my disciples, if you love one another.” ^{NIV}

John 13:35



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I Smell the Fresh Bread of God’s Promises

So many people right now are dealing with loss. One woman I know from Alabama, Sharlene, lost her husband in late 2021. The same year, my friend Abdiel lost his mother to COVID. Another friend’s daughter has walked away from God. A young married couple I know had a miscarriage recently. Others are facing financial stress, recurring health issues and family drama.

The pandemic is over, but the black clouds that came with the virus still linger. I wonder if some people still wear masks simply because they prefer to hide their sad expressions. Life seems more difficult because of the cost of food and gas, a crime wave in our cities, the threat of war and so much hateful rhetoric caused by political divisions.

My mother died during the pandemic, along with James, one of my closest friends. But the grief I experienced as a result of those losses was not as difficult as the heaviness I feel every time I check the headlines.

The moral and spiritual ground beneath us has shifted. Christian values that were once considered mainstream are now attacked.

Yet while processing my emotions and praying for answers, the Lord took me to the book of Ruth—and I have found so much hope from the story of Naomi. Along with Job, this godly saint deserves the award for endurance in the face of adversity. I encourage you to re-read her story.

When we first meet Naomi, she has lost everything: Her husband, both her sons and her financial security. She has no insurance benefit or Social Security check. She is drowning in despair.

Everything in Moab reminds her of her pain. Yet Ruth 1:6 says Naomi heard good news from her native Bethlehem: “For she heard that the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.”

A drought had ended and it was harvest time back in her native Israel. Some people might have been skeptical about that news. But Naomi had a tiny grain of faith left, even though she was an emotional wreck. In spite of her grief she packed up her belongings and walked back to her homeland.

It would have taken Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth,

about 10 days to make the 30-mile journey.

Naomi didn’t have the best attitude after she made the trek. When she arrived in Bethlehem she told the people, “I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty” (1:21). Yet after seeing the harvest fields and smelling the fresh bread, Naomi realized that the God she thought was punishing her was actually preparing to bless her socks off.

Naomi encouraged Ruth to glean in the fields of Boaz. In fact, it was Naomi who realized that Boaz was her relative, and that he was an eligible bachelor who just might want to marry Ruth.

With hope restored, Naomi urged Ruth to stay near Boaz, and eventually to show up at his threshing floor to offer the most unusual marriage proposal in the Bible.

We tend to focus on Ruth when we read this story, but the book that bears Ruth’s name is written from Naomi’s perspective. It is as much about Naomi’s restoration as it is about Ruth’s.

In the end, we see a satisfied Naomi holding her grandson in her lap.

The sad, “empty” woman we met in chapter one is all smiles in chapter four. God used this powerful woman to accomplish His purposes—in spite of her frailty and weakness.

Naomi’s grandson, Obed, became the grandfather of King David. And because of Naomi’s faith, Ruth was inserted into the royal lineage of the Messiah.

If you’ve experienced a season of loss, take courage from the life of Naomi. No matter how much bad news you’ve heard, look up and you will see the hope of Christ. No matter how dark it is in your Moab, something fresh is stirring in Bethlehem.

You may have to make a move—geographically or just emotionally—to find God’s new blessings. But God will lead you.

So many Christians today feel overwhelmed. Lift up your heads and trust God. He is for you, not against you. He will yet again visit His people.

Harvest time is here, and with it comes fresh bread and renewed hope. You will again see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

*“No matter how dark it is
in your Moab, something
fresh is stirring.”*

J. Lee Grady was editor of *Charisma* for 11 years and now serves as contributing editor. He directs The Mordecai Project (themordecaiproject.org), 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).

“I would have paid a million dollars to have heard that message from Jack Hayford when I was a young man.”

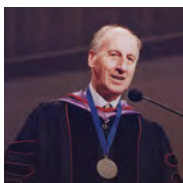


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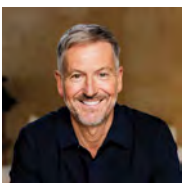
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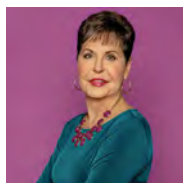
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BILL WINSTON

Pastor Carl Delatte had just watched Pastor Jack Hayford's video message "Integrity of Heart" in the International School of Ministry (ISOM), and was choking back tears, "I am now in my 70's and it would have saved me so much pain if I had known those truths Pastor Jack shared."

When we recorded sessions with Jack Hayford years ago, little did we know the global impact his teachings would have. ISOM now has over 20,000 training sites in 150 countries and over 85 languages, and we realize more and more every year the value of Pastor Jack's messages. When you put it alongside the other video teachings we have from greats like T.L. Osborn, John Bevere, Robert Morris, Joyce Meyer, Marilyn Hickey, Bill Winston, and so many other leaders, the impact on student lives worldwide is life-transforming.

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With God, It's Never Too Late!

I think one of the greatest lies we can believe is, “It’s too late!” At some point in our lives, we all feel like we’ve missed our chance or messed up an important opportunity. We can even be tempted to believe that we’ve disqualified ourselves from having a great future...that our best days are behind us.

If this is you—if you feel like you’ve missed your chance or that your opportunity to have a great life has passed you by—I want you to know something today: *With God on your side, it’s never too late.*

While God Himself never changes, He is a God of change—He is always doing a new thing and working behind the scenes in our lives to bring about new beginnings. Where we see failure, God sees potential for something new. The minute we stumble and come apart, God is already planning our comeback. When we mess up “Plan A,” we don’t have to worry—God has a “Plan B!”

I love Isaiah 43:19 (AMP). In this verse, God says, “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Take a moment to really let those words sink in and think about this: If it really isn’t “too late,” what are some things you would do? Would you go back to school to earn your degree? Would you reconcile with an old friend or attempt to make up for past mistakes? Would you follow your passion in life and try to fulfill your goals and dreams?

Whatever it may be, God wants you to know that it’s *never too late* to begin again and have a great life. He is on your side and He can even “put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

Determination Is a Must

In order to cooperate with God’s plan for our lives we must *stay determined*. I’ve learned that when you feel discouraged, when others doubt or criticize you, and when your dreams seem like they’re just never going to happen, that’s when you need to keep moving forward!

I’ll never forget, many years ago, when I first started talking about the call of God on my life. Some of my friends felt that I must be mistaken, and they actually told me, “Joyce, we really don’t think you have the right personality to do this kind of ministry.” It was not encouraging!

But I knew what God had spoken to my heart, and I knew that I had a gift and a passion to teach His Word. So I kept moving forward. As a result, I lost some friends and was eventually asked to leave my church. Even some of my family members turned their backs on me.

Sure, it was difficult in the moment, but I cringe to think where I would be now if I had given up when I felt that rejection. I know I certainly wouldn’t be fulfilling God’s call on my life now, and I would be miserable because I wouldn’t be following my passion.

I clearly remember a particular season during those early years when the Lord continued to encourage me not to quit. There was one Scripture in particular that He kept putting in front of me, and it continues to speak to me today: “Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in” (Gal. 6:9, AMP).

Our enemy, Satan, wants us to quit and give up. The Bible says he is “the father of lies” (John 8:44). He continually lies to us and tells us things like, “Who do you think you are? That’s never going to happen! Do you really believe that God spoke to you? *You* are going to do *that*?”

I believe we’re actually most tempted to quit when our breakthrough is right around the corner. But if we’ll just keep moving forward—if we’ll remain steadfast and refuse to give up—we *will* reach our goal and walk in God’s plan for us.

I don’t know what disappointments or setbacks you’ve endured today, but I do know this: *It’s not over*. God loves you, He sees you, and He has a plan to help you begin again. Because with God, it’s never too late. He’s the God of fresh starts, do-overs, new beginnings and great finishes.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, *He is the One Who makes all things new!*

“I believe we’re actually most tempted to quit when our breakthrough is right around the corner.”

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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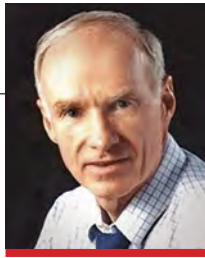
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Real Power Runs Deep (October 1981)

Several years ago, my family and I spent some time with friends in Washington state. One afternoon they took me through one of those big dams on the Columbia River where so much of the electric power for the Northwest is produced.

I had heard of such things as turbines, power plants and generators. But for some reason I had always thought the power from those big dams was provided by the water that rolled over the spillway. It never occurred to me—a flatlander from Florida—that the real power came not from the froth that splattered over the top of the dam but from machines hidden far below the surface.

We took an elevator deep into the innards of the dam and found ourselves in the middle of more power than I had ever dreamed possible. It wasn't noisy or spectacular. The power seemed to be contained in a deep hum that vibrated into the marrow of my bones.

Deep in the floor of the dam were the mighty turbines. That afternoon only five of the nine were in operation. But that was enough to provide power for half the state of Washington and part of Oregon.

Hundreds of feet above us, the huge lake pushed against the propellers of the machines. The pressure of that water turned the turbines to generate hundreds of thousands of kilowatt hours of electricity.

We took the elevator back to the top of the dam and watched the water from the spillway splash in a spectacular waterfall. It, too, was part of the process. When the pressure on the dam became too great, caused by high water in the lake, the spillways would be opened. If the water in the lake was low, there was no waterfall over the dam.

But it was those silent, hidden turbines that produced the power—even though there was no outer display of their might.

It is so easy to get enchanted by the spectacular—the outer manifestations. I thank God for continued Pentecost: tongues, prophecies, healings and miracles. These were normal in the New Testament church; they should be present in the church of today.

But I am convinced we must never confuse spillway Christianity with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The water over the dam plays a vital purpose. It is something of a release for the rising tide of spirituality. In fact, if the lake is low, there will be no outward signs. If the lake is high, you can expect an overflow whenever the body gets together.

I pray our lakes will remain high. But I hope we will never equate the power of the Holy Spirit with outward signs. Regardless of whether a church displays the spectacular, the Holy Spirit is still turning the turbines. Unless, that is, the lake has gone dry.

However, it is possible for a church—or an individual Christian—never to have any display of the spectacular and still be used by God to accomplish great things.

In other words, it is possible to have your water level far below the spillway crest and yet have your turbines still turn. Some of my finest sermons were preached when my lake was at its lowest level. In fact, there have been times when I have felt completely drained, only to find when I laid my hand on some sick person he was instantly healed.

The absence of outward signs does not mean God is not generating power through your life. It simply means your lake is probably low. The power that runs the kingdom is not limited to the overflow. Indeed, most of that is not power at all but merely evidence of a high level of enthusiasm.

It is possible to have a huge spillway display and produce no power whatsoever—because your turbines are clogged with debris. The power that runs the kingdom is found in the dynamos of men's hearts as they love, serve, give to and pray for one another.

Granted, God loves our praise. He loves our enthusiasm. He loves it when we clap our hands and shout for joy. He goes so far as to say He abides in the praises of His people.

But God judges us on character, not charisma.

I thank God for spillway Christians—those who make a big splash. But those who provide the real power are often hidden, seldom noticed. On such does the kingdom of God depend.

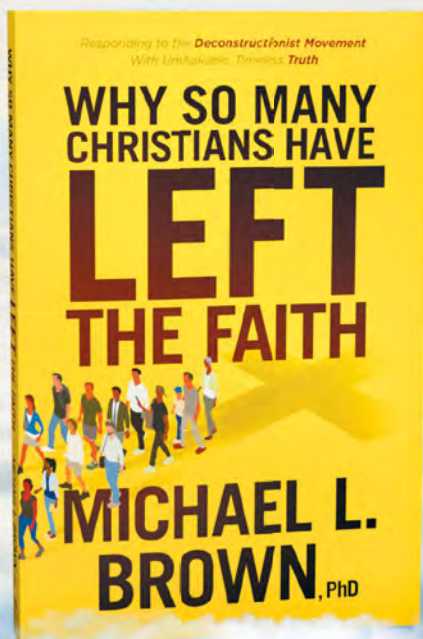
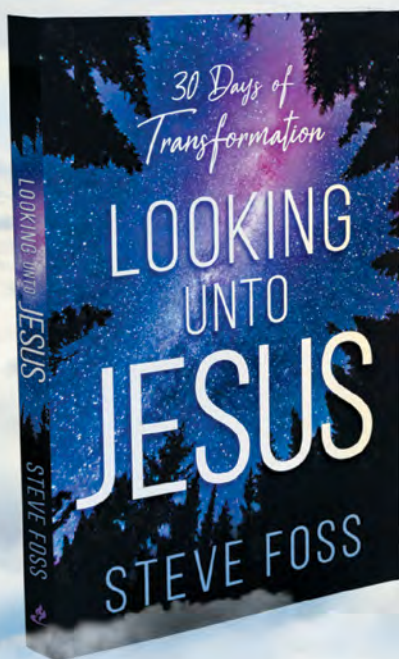
“Those who provide the real power are often hidden, seldom noticed. On such does the kingdom of God depend.”

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

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THE PERSON GOD ALWAYS MEANT FOR YOU TO BECOME.

SCAN CODE



TO PURCHASE



New Fire for a New Season

There is a saying that goes something like this: we do not fear those we despise. Even as the devil is attempting to slow down the work of God’s kingdom through intimidation tactics, God is turning those same tactics around and using them to spark faith in the body of Christ. Saying it in non-spiritual terms, we as the church are about to get so mad at the devil that we stop being afraid to act.

It started to ramp up in 2020. The Lord allowed a time of intense shaking, and that shaking is still happening. Even though the cultural shaking is not as heavy as it has been, many believers and churches are experiencing a personal shaking, too.

This is a tactic of the devil to get the individual parts of the body to isolate and clam up. Yet we know as believers that the body works best when every individual part is functioning properly. (See Ephesians 4:16.)

The good news is that the Holy Spirit is not simply reacting to the devil’s strategy. He knew the devil’s strategy before the devil did, and He is even able to use the devil’s moves for the advantage of the kingdom.

The same way a wild animal being backed into a corner can increase its potential to be dangerous, the church is working through a process of becoming dangerous again.

Our sense of safety, our economies, our freedoms, our comforts and our “normals” are being disrupted. We’re being squeezed.

In Luke 21, we see a widow who was also being squeezed to the last drop. As she got down to her last two mites (or pennies), the reality of destitution hit her and she responded with a type of reckless faith. She took her last two pennies and gave them willingly to God.

God has allowed the squeezing of His people so that we have the opportunity to figuratively take our last two mites and begin throwing them willingly into the kingdom work.

Many Christians are about to start saying, “I used to be afraid of what people think, but it doesn’t matter anymore. All that matters is that people hear about Jesus.” We’re going to hear, “I

used to worry about saving enough for the future, but now I’m realizing that investing in eternity is more critical.” People will say, “I used to prioritize and be most excited about my career, but now I can’t stop thinking about seeing people meet Jesus.”

This is the same thing that happened to the early church in the book of Acts. The death of Stephen in Acts 8 set off a terrible persecution against the believers in Jerusalem. In chapter 11, we see that those driven out of Jerusalem by that persecution began to travel to other cities, preaching the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. It also says in verse 21 that “the hand of the Lord was with them.”

God didn’t turn them around with His hand. He didn’t send them home. He didn’t restore the “normal.” He empowered them to take advantage of the situation and to preach the gospel in power.

Many of us don’t have the same comforts to lean on. We don’t have the same leisure time. Maybe our pockets aren’t as full as before. We might as well get radical with what we do have.

Radical is what we’re seeing break out across the globe. Spiritual deliverance

is returning as a normal practice in the body because people are less afraid to stand up against the devil in the authority of Jesus Christ.

People are sharing the true gospel message in creative spaces because people are less afraid of doing things in a new way. Religious traditions (which were not necessarily bad) are being turned down a notch in order to prioritize reaching the lost. Simplicity is taking new priority.

Churches are asking the question, “Are we doing the most important thing? Are we fulfilling the purposes to which we were called? If not, how can we do that better?”

What happens next depends on how each of us responds to the pain and uncertainty. We can either shrink back in fear or we can take up the truth we know to be certain and share it with someone.

It’s time to cease fearing what we used to fear and it’s time to beat back the kingdom of darkness with the message of the light of Jesus Christ.

“Radical is what we’re seeing break out across the globe.”

Troy Black is a Christian YouTuber, author and prophetic voice. His two simple goals are to be obedient to the Holy Spirit and to get the gospel of Jesus Christ in front of as many people as possible. He has appeared on shows such as *Sid Roth’s It’s Supernatural*, *ElijahFire* and *A Window Into the Supernatural*.



JACK HAYFORD

1934 - 2023

PASTOR JACK,

THANK YOU FOR LIVING A LIFE AND IMPARTING A LEGACY THAT IMPACTED MANY... OF WHICH I AM ONE.

For the first five years in ministry when I sent \$2 every week to COTW for one teaching tape (I still have them) that became the foundation for my life and ministry to actually knowing Jack personally with many warm memories, his mentoring shaped me and impacted everything Becky and I have ever done in ministry. There is probably something of Jack Hayford in every sermon I have ever preached. Jack would call me numerous times before he was to speak at Grace and ask, "have I preached this sermon before at the church?" I would respond, well Jack, you haven't preached that sermon here, but it has been preached. I still laugh about an email chain over several months with Jack, Jim Garlow and me over Jack's supposed abduction of Jim's grandson's dog named Mac. The Hayfordian sentences in those emails were something to behold. Only Jack could call a board meeting on New Year's Eve and everyone show up. Who else would call you at 4am and ask you what you were doing. It was a great honor to be asked by Jack to be a part of living out the mandate of what the Lord spoke to him about the founding of The King's as a founding board member and for a season to serve as its President. Jack was always a "favorite" in ministering over many years to both Grace Church and Grace International.

The scripture says there are not many fathers...
Jack was a great spiritual father to me. I am forever grateful.

STEVE RIGGLE





Pastor Jack Hayford
1934–2023

Jack Hayford, ‘Gold Standard of Pentecostals,’ Dies at 88

Pastor Jack Hayford, pastor emeritus of The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, died Jan. 8, 2023, at age 88. He served as chancellor emeritus of The King’s University in Southlake, Texas, which he founded in 1996, and was president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel from 2004-2009. He also played a prominent role in the Promise Keepers men’s movement of the 1990s and was senior editorial adviser for Charisma’s *Ministry Today* magazine for more than a decade.

Hayford also authored or co-authored over 50 books and composed more than 600 hymns and choruses, including the internationally known “Majesty.” But he was probably best-known as “Pastor Jack,” serving The Church on the Way for over three decades and becoming a pastor to pastors, celebrities such as singer

Pat Boone and actor Dean Jones, and bridge builder between denominations.

Charisma founder Stephen Strang once called Hayford the “gold standard of Pentecostals,” an oft-repeated phrase that Strang says has rung even more true in the years since. He says Hayford became a mentor and in many ways his own long-distance pastor, providing the spiritual covering for Charisma Media.

Hayford was born in Los Angeles on June 25, 1934, and grew up in Oakland, California. He came to faith in Christ at age 10 and heard God’s call to ministry at 16. He married Anna Smith on July 4, 1954; the couple had four children, 11 grandchildren and a growing number of great-grandchildren. Anna preceded her husband in death in 2017 after more than 60 years of marriage; he married his second wife, Valarie, who survives him, in 2018.

The Church On The Way Carries Jack Hayford's Legacy

The Foursquare church in Van Nuys, California, continues His emphasis on the power of the Spirit

Even after years of vibrant ministry to his Pentecostal denomination, The Foursquare Church, and to the larger body of Christ, Pastor Jack Hayford understood his true calling. "My heart has always been with the local church," he said.

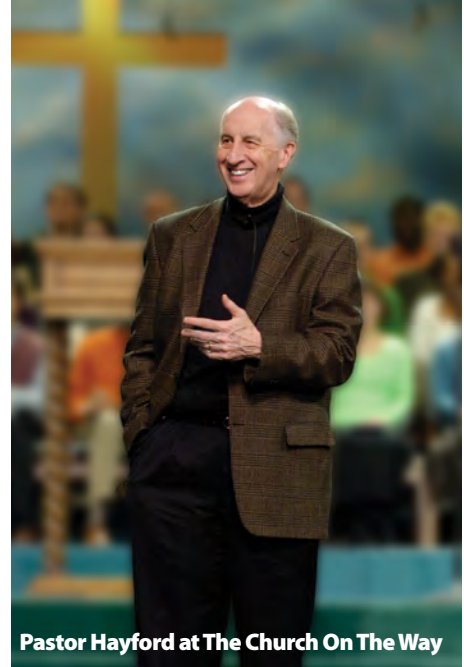
In 1969, God called him to lead the Van Nuys Foursquare Church in Van Nuys, California. He began with only 18 people in attendance but led the church, later renamed to The Church On The Way, to an attendance of more than 10,000 by the end of the 1980s.

The Church On The Way gained a place as not only an early megachurch but of influence in the body of Christ. It also became a central hub of ministry and birthplace of what is now The King's University. But Hayford's overall emphasis on the power of God—the present-day power of the Holy Spirit—was the factor that drew so many to the church and to faith in Christ.

"My wife and I met Jack in 1983 when we started attending The Church On The Way," says former TKU trustee and friend Dennis Newman. "We had attended another church that taught that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for us today, and that really troubled us. We weren't sure what to believe at that point. Our first time attending The Church On The Way, Pastor Jack taught on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He taught so powerfully, beautifully and clearly that even those of us who had little understanding of the Word could understand it clearly. That morning began a new season in our walk with God."

The thriving church posted an announcement celebrating Hayford's life, noting, "Pastor Jack taught us to rely on God's Word, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to worship the Lord with abandon, and serve in the community where God places us. The lives of countless thousands have been changed as they've been disciplined by this general in the faith.

"We here at The Church On The Way will miss the fellowship we continued to enjoy with Pastor Jack," the announcement continued. "He has touched us all and on this side of eternity we are deeply saddened by this loss, yet we rejoice over the promise of Heaven and the fact that Pastor Jack stepped across the threshold into his eternal home to the words of Jesus resonating, 'Well done, good and faithful servant ... Enter into the joy of your Lord.'"



Pastor Hayford at The Church On The Way

Hayford Made the Profound Simple in 'Majesty' and More

The beloved pastor was also a renowned songwriter

There's no doubt that Pastor Jack Hayford leaves behind a broad legacy as pastor, televangelist, academic and denominational leader. But he is equally well known as the author of more than 600 hymns and choruses, including the internationally known and widely recorded "Majesty." The song, which Hayford wrote in 1978, is rated as one of the top 100 contemporary hymns and performed and sung in churches worldwide.

"He had a brilliant way of making the profound simple; saying things just the way we wished we could," renowned worship leader Don Moen wrote

in a Facebook post after Hayford's death, describing his work at Integrity Music with the pastor and songwriter.

"'Majesty' describes the kingly, lordly, gloriously regal nature of our Savior—but not simply as an objective statement in worship of which He is fully worthy," Hayford wrote of his most popular composition. "Majesty" is also a statement of the fact that our worship, when begotten in Spirit and in truth, can align with His Throne in such a way that His Kingdom authority flows to us—to overflow us, free us and channel through us."



God's Leading Marks Past, Present, Future of The King's University

The school founded by Dr. Jack Hayford has impacted thousands in the power of the Holy Spirit

As with many other milestones in Pastor Jack Hayford's life, his founding of the school known today as The King's University began with a word from the Lord. On Feb. 16, 1996, while he was flying home from speaking at a Promise Keepers Clergy Conference in Atlanta, Hayford heard a still, small voice telling him to begin a seminary.



The King's University

His church's internal teaching ministry, The School On The Way, did not serve those pursuing a call to professional ministry. Hayford recognized the tremendous need for a Bible-based, Spirit-empowered school and wanted to raise up leaders who would rest in the power of the Holy Spirit and replicate the life of Jesus in their service to others.

In September 1997, classes began at The King's College and Seminary in Los Angeles, California, which became

The King's University in 2010. For years, TKU was the only Pentecostal/charismatic postsecondary institution in Los Angeles, and The King's Seminary was the only accredited Pentecostal-charismatic seminary on the West Coast.

Another word from the Lord, this time to Gateway Church's founding pastor, Robert Morris, began the school's partnership with his church in 2009. To fulfill his mandate from God, Gateway Church partnered with TKU to create a branch campus in Southlake, Texas. In 2014, a word from the Lord to both Morris and Hayford resulted in a decision to move the main campus operations to Southlake.

Morris serves as current chancellor for TKU, which offers 16 accredited vocational ministry degree plans, including undergraduate and graduate degrees. Hayford, who remained active with the school for many years before being named chancellor emeritus, said, "As we move into this next season and our vision expands, I believe TKU's influence will increase globally as more students gain access to a wide variety of degrees."

Jack Hayford's Books Serve as Lasting Vehicle for Ministry

Amid all his other ministries and accomplishments, Pastor Jack Hayford somehow found time to write. Over the years, he authored more than 50 books and led a team of scholars in producing the *Spirit-Filled Life Bible*, for which he wrote copious notes. His books served as an additional pulpit, putting Hayford's biblical, practical, Spirit-empowered wisdom in the hands of many.

His most recent book, *The Key to Everything* (Charisma House, 2015) points readers to the only way to a truly functional life, helping them recognize mindsets and behaviors that limit their ability to experience God's timelessly liberating wisdom. He writes: "To give is to exercise the key to everything. But the key isn't simply to give in an abstract way or with no motivating reason. Nor is the key utilized by means of a secret formula of words, social magnanimity or intellectual brilliance. Rather, learning and applying the key to everything involves the growing of a heart attitude in giving, which gives the right thing at the right time in the right way and for the right reasons."

Another key Hayford title in recent years was *Rebuilding the Real You* (Charisma House, 2009), his landmark teaching on the Holy Spirit, unfolding a clear process by which the Spirit works in the life of the believer.





Empowered21 Announces AMSTERDAM2023

The organization is preparing for “a defining decade” in which every person on earth will hear the gospel

Empowered21 will hold its “Amsterdam2023” event, a three-day conference and one-day stadium experience, on June 21-24, 2023. The ministry says the event will serve as “the starting point for [a] decade of unprecedented evangelism with the audacious goal to take the good news of Jesus to every person on earth” and invites every follower of Jesus to attend to strategize how to reach the world for Christ over the next 10 years.

In 2023, the world will celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of Christ’s crucifixion and Resurrection along with the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost. “We believe the decade leading up to 2023 will be

a *defining* decade, a decade in which it is possible for every person on earth to hear the gospel,” says Empowered21.

The organization, whose global leadership includes Heidi Baker, Christine Caine, Doug Clay, Jentezen Franklin, Marilyn Hickey, Cindy Jacobs, Bill Johnson, Sammy Rodriguez, Stephen Strang, Billy Wilson and more, seeks to unite the global Spirit-filled movement intergenerationally for the purpose of seeking a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the 21st century. To learn more, visit amsterdam2023.com and empowered21.com.



Hate Group Attacks Focus on the Family in Wake of Mass Shootings

The ministry urges prayer, healing instead

In the wake of the tragic shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Focus on the Family’s headquarters in the same city was vandalized on Thanksgiving Day, its sign defaced with the words, “Their blood is on your hands five lives taken.”

A statement released by “Members of the Front Range Queer Community,” who claimed responsibility for the attack, said FOTF “must be held accountable for the ramifications of their hateful theology,” citing the ministry’s advocacy of “anti-trans legislation” and adding accusations of “indoctrination, media saturation, falsified research, and conversion therapy.”

Rather than pushing for remuneration or revenge, however, FOTF stresses the need for prayer and healing. “We recognize the community is hurting in the aftermath of the reckless and violent actions of a very disturbed individual,” says Jim Daly, president. “This is a time for prayer, grieving, and healing, not vandalism and the spreading of hate. Focus on the Family is privileged to be one of many organizations in our city positioned to help and support the needs of struggling individuals and families.”

Singer Anne Wilson Chases Her True Calling

Brother’s tragic death inspired her to pursue dream

pray this song reminds you that you’re a blood-bought, battle-fought, made new child of the King.”

That’s how Anne Wilson, 20, describes her most recent Billboard chart-topping hit, “Hey Girl,” which has the same reminder in its chorus. But she had never sung in public until after her older brother Jacob, 23, died in a 2017 car accident. Her parents asked the then-



Anne Wilson

15-year-old, who had set her sights on a career with NASA, to sing Hillsong’s “What a Beautiful Name” at his funeral.

She now sees that request, and that performance, as a turning point that ultimately led to a contract with Capitol Records.

Now, Wilson can’t imagine doing anything else. “I felt like God was calling me to music, specifically music that worshiped Him and glorified Him,” she tells *Country Now*. “I just felt so much like this is what I’m made to do.”

Her fans agree, pushing her debut single “My Jesus” to the top of the radio charts just 14 weeks after its 2021 release. “Hey Girl” garnered more than 2.6 million views on TikTok within its first six months and a solid showing on the Billboard charts as well.

200,000 Embrace Gospel at Evangelist Andrew Palau’s Argentina Crusade

Fourteen years after renowned evangelist Luis Palau’s historic campaign in his home city, the Palau Association returned to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2022, delivering the same message of hope to a new generation. This time, it came via Andrew Palau, eldest son of Luis, who was known as “the Billy Graham of Latin America.” The campaign united more than 1,000 churches; more than 200,000 responses to the gospel were recorded as a result.

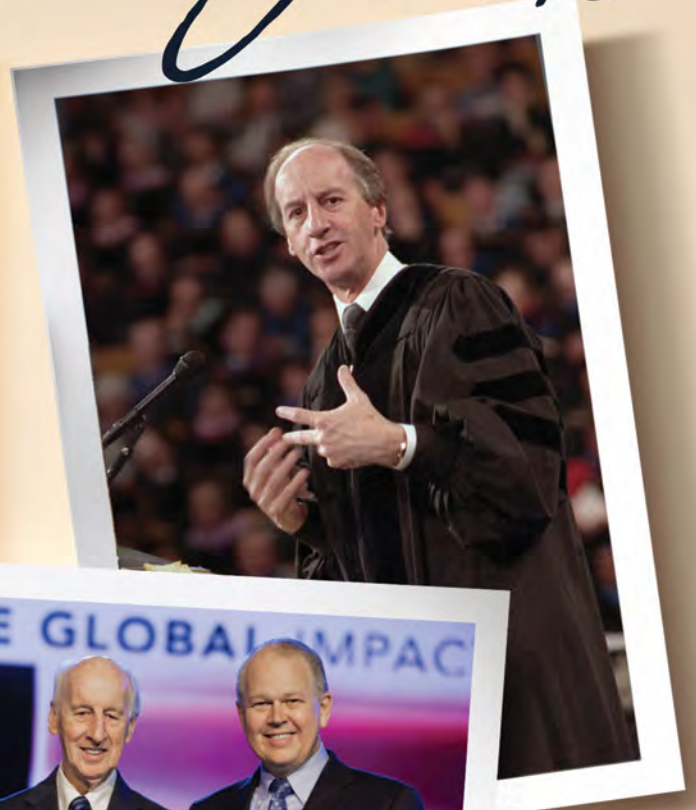
When Luis first started preaching on the streets of Argentina, he faced

consistent opposition, but there has been a dramatic change in receptivity to the gospel and growth of the church in recent years.

“It was such a privilege to be back in Argentina where God has used Dad and Mom and our team so powerfully for so many years,” Andrew said. “Many faithful believers have given their lives for this region. They were faithful to the Lord’s calling and planted many gospel seeds. And now, to see the fruit of their hard work, and to be able to take part in the great harvest—it’s humbling and thrilling.”

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
HONORS

Pastor Jack



“Look beyond achievements, success, and prosperity, and strive for a purity of motive, simplicity of spirit, clarity of conscience, and a transparency of soul before God.”

PASTOR JACK HAYFORD
1984 ORU Baccalaureate Address

JUST CALL ME JACK

Pastor Hayford's heart, humility & authenticity
allowed the Holy Spirit to shine through

BY KYLE DUNCAN

The San Fernando Valley northwest of downtown Los Angeles is bordered by a quartet of mountain ranges that serve as the boundary of the huge fertile plain. Once home to thousands of acres of orange and lemon trees, after World War II most of the citrus groves gave way to middle class neighborhoods, parks and shopping centers.

It was in this sprawling suburban enclave known by Angelenos as simply “the Valley” that, in 1969, a young pastor named Jack Hayford found himself sitting at a stoplight in his car, not far from a small, struggling congregation called First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys. God spoke to him, confirming his calling to the church. Little did Hayford and his wife, Anna, know that the Lord would soon plant and root them there to nurture and expand a ministry beyond their wildest dreams.

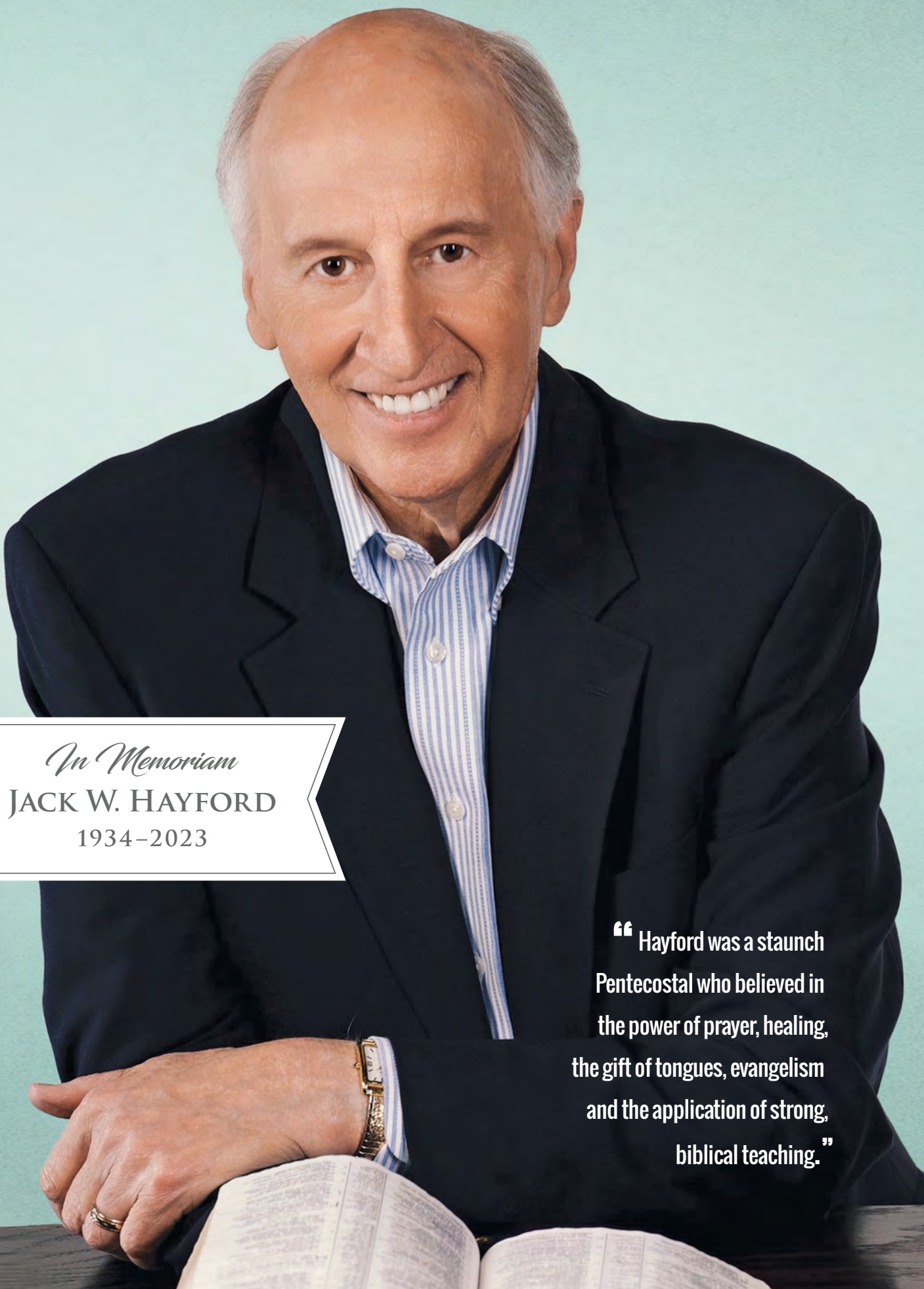
Hayford had graduated top of his class from LIFE Bible College (now Life Pacific University) in 1956, where he had met his future wife, a clear-minded—and sharp-witted—Nebraskan named Anna Smith. Upon graduation, the man who would become his spiritual father, Dr. Vincent Bird, offered them an assignment at a small church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The church had barely a dozen members when Hayford—only weeks short of his 22nd birthday—took over as pastor in May 1956. Though the church rarely

managed more than 50 people in attendance, it was here in the heartland that Hayford developed his precise, passionate preaching style. Reflecting upon his time in Indiana, he later quipped, “It was good to be nobody.”

After four years, Hayford and his wife were invited to return to his native California, where the young pastor—born in Los Angeles and raised in Oakland—stepped into a new role as national youth ministries director for his denomination. During this season, his skills as a preacher garnered invitations to preach throughout California, including Angelus Temple, the denomination's flagship church and the former pulpit of its founder, Aimee Semple McPherson.

Though Hayford was becoming a known name in the Foursquare movement, he had only a modest salary to support his growing family (two children, Rebecca and Jack II, and soon-to-come Mark and Christa). Additional income came through honorariums from preaching in churches throughout the West.

Hayford later recounted his emotional entanglement with another woman, which occurred during this time. The relationship snuck up on him, a deeply emotional connection that had him thinking he loved both his wife and the other woman. Though the relationship never turned physical, he wrestled with his conflicted



In Memoriam
JACK W. HAYFORD
1934-2023

“ Hayford was a staunch Pentecostal who believed in the power of prayer, healing, the gift of tongues, evangelism and the application of strong, biblical teaching.”



The Church On The Way's growing congregation

heart and cried out to God. He came home at night and lay on the carpet, worshipping God and praying in tongues for deliverance. He finally confessed the inappropriate attachment to Anna, which devastated her.

Though the young minister felt enormous relief and spiritual breakthrough, it took two long, hard years for trust to be fully restored between him and his young bride. This ordeal—as horrible and traumatic as it was—also crystallized within Hayford two life-altering revelations: 1) spiritual warfare is real, and we must combat our adversary with all the tools God has given to us; and 2) the use of his prayer language (praying in tongues) was a key weapon in breaking the emotional prison that encircled him. He later wrote in his journal that “the heavens were opened to me after passing the test.”

Defying Pentecostal Stereotypes

Shortly after this intense episode, and with renewed commitment and focus, a new opportunity presented itself. Hayford became dean of students at LIFE Bible College. But both he and Anna knew that their primary calling was to the pastorate—so they prayed and waited for God’s timing. He loved his work with students at the Bible college. But he and Anna felt the Holy Spirit confirming the 1969 pastoral move to the interim position at First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys.

What started off as a temporary assignment at a little church of 18 people soon became a firm and permanent calling. In Hayford’s authorized biography, *Pastor Jack* (David C. Cook, 2020), written by his longtime friend and colleague S. David Moore, Hayford said: “The phrase *On The Way* focused on the fact we are all moving forward in ministry—that is, a congregation available to be Jesus’ life wherever we go and in whatever way He directs.” The name

also referenced the location of the church building on Sherman Way, Moore points out. Most importantly, it affirmed that Jesus is *the Way*.

Another significant moment in the early days came in September 1971, recounts Moore, during a vision in which Hayford saw “an alignment between the throne of God described by John [in the book of Revelation], and the church he pastored on Sherman Way in Van Nuys. One seemed to blend into the other: vast multitudes of praising creatures in John’s vision overlapping with the praising people of The Church On The Way. As Hayford saw it, the entire San Fernando Valley ... became an amphitheater of praise surrounding God’s throne.”

Growing inside Hayford was an increasing revelation of the power of worship combined with prayer, focused biblical teaching and real-world application. He was keenly aware that the early days of Pentecostalism were marked by emotionalism and—at times—less than astute Bible teaching. Make no mistake, however: Hayford was a staunch Pentecostal who believed in the power of prayer, healing, the gift of tongues, evangelism and the application of strong, biblical teaching. Moore puts it well: “While never apologizing for his Pentecostal beliefs, his public ministry has defied Pentecostal stereotypes.”

Rather than shouts and gesticulations, Hayford brought warmth, accessibility and a conversational style to the pulpit. He embraced all the gifts, explaining them in ways neither strange nor spooky. Just the opposite: raising one’s hands in worship had biblical heft; speaking in tongues was a natural—but not exclusive—expression of worship. Slowly but surely—with the hippie movement in full swing and the cultural revolution underway—The Church On The Way drew people from

all across LA. The Jesus Movement brought droves of young people to the church, and hundreds were accepting Christ. Celebrities such as Pat Boone, Dean Jones, Craig T. Nelson and Kathy Lee Gifford would at one time or another call the church their home.

Seeking Intimacy and Unity

By the mid-’70s the church was well on its way to establishing itself as a strong spiritual harbor in the chaotic seas of Los Angeles. The congregation looked like the body of Christ—Black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern—and all were welcome. Hayford worked hard to establish a sanctuary where Jesus’ love could be fully sensed, understood and practiced—to be taken back out on the streets of the Valley and beyond. Moore captures this in *Pastor Jack*: “Reality, as Hayford came to grasp it, is that God works simultaneously in the visible and the invisible, in the physical and the spiritual The church at worship became an expression of the power of the kingdom of God with the literal presence of God in the middle of its sanctuary.”

Daniel Brown echoes this sentiment. He started attending The Church On The Way in the mid-’70s while doing post-graduate work at UCLA. In 1978, Hayford invited Brown to join the staff as college pastor—a ministry that flourished during Brown’s six years at the church, before he and his wife, Pamela, were commissioned to start The Coastlands, a church in Aptos, California, that he pastored for 22 years.

“Jack rejected the idea that only certain people were called into ministry—he believed we are all called,” Brown says. For him, the indelible mark Hayford made on the body of Christ was to model “what it is to be wholly Spirit-filled in thought, mind and heart. The Holy Spirit had unimpeded access into virtually all of Jack’s facilities.”

This intimacy with Christ caused a deep self-awareness. Hayford was a brilliant preacher and orator who was confident in his skills, which could have easily led to hubris. His organic, daily relationship with Christ, however, produced a sometimes-surprising humility.

In the spring of 1998, my wife, Suzanne, and I were attending a marriage retreat through our church, South Coast Fellowship of Ventura, California. Our pastor, John Huffman, hosted the retreat in Pismo Beach, California, and Hayford and his wife made

the three-hour drive to speak one evening. Afterward, we all went out to dinner.

During our animated conversation, Hayford made what I thought was an innocent comment about someone in his church. I had all but forgotten it when around 11 that night, the phone in our hotel room rang.

“Kyle, this is Jack. I need to apologize to you and Suzanne for my thoughtless comment this evening. It was insensitive, dishonoring and wrong. Do you forgive me?”

That was the essence of Hayford. Brown sums it up well: “There were no partitions left in his heart or mind ... he’d turn on a dime in repentance.”

I remember chatting with Hayford about the divide between the various branches of evangelicalism—particularly between conservatives and Pentecostals/charismatics. While sitting in his office one day, he chuckled and said, “I try not to get offended when a well-meaning Christian leader says, ‘For a charismatic, your theology is so sound, Pastor Jack!’” He would laugh good-naturedly and move on, but I sensed a deeper hurt. While Hayford always extended magnanimity to leaders of other streams and denominations, the treatment was not always reciprocated.

I believe this truism bothered him not on a personal level but as someone who felt called to serve the *entire* body of Christ. For him, there was no separation. The kingdom was one, and the followers of Christ were His bride—not His harem. Therefore, the sadness (perhaps grief) he felt—though not expressed publicly—had to do with Jesus’ people being one, working as one, as He prayed in John 17.

Seeing Jesus as ‘Majesty’

Bill Greig III ran Gospel Light for many years, as had his father and grandfather. For more than four decades, Gospel Light’s book arm, Regal Books, served as Hayford’s primary publisher. Hayford and Anna shared many meals with Greig and his wife, Rhonni, and a close friendship ensued. Greig says, “During the hardest season of our lives, the Hayfords invited us to their home for a meal together, and a time of prayer, encouragement and vision. At a time when it seemed all was lost, Jack and Anna lifted us into the presence of His majesty.”

And so it also was for veteran Christian publishing leader Kim Bangs, current charismamag.com

editorial director for Chosen Books/Baker Publishing Group. Over the three-plus decades that she knew Hayford, she recalls, “Pastor Jack and Anna called me family. It was shocking then and still is today.” She adds, “His passion for what he felt was the next book to write inspired me to listen to the Holy Spirit and respond accordingly. In one of our meetings, his book *Worship His Majesty* was born.”

That’s a defining word for Hayford: *majesty*. Not only did he pen the timeless worship song “Majesty”—along with more than 500 other songs—but it was the posture he always took with Jesus. He saw Him as King; as his true Lord and sovereign. And when tragedy struck the life of his family and church, he maintained the same posture.

Lana Duim started attending The Church On The Way in 1976 and joined the staff. In October 2003, not long after Hayford’s son-in-law Bauer assumed leadership, he died of an aneurysm.

Hayford was then serving as chancellor of The King’s University (formerly The King’s Seminary), which he and the church had founded. Duim says that at this time, Hayford stepped back into the role of senior pastor of the church.

“The weight, the responsibility and the call were immense,” she says. “The death of his son-in-law was heart-breaking and tragic. Yet, Jack’s commitment to go through and press on to answer the call of the Lord was incredible.”

The expression of this love and brokenness in Christ spilled into neighborhoods across the Southland. Hayford and his team partnered with LA’s Black and Hispanic leaders after the LA riots and the Rodney King beating. He became friends with such respected area leaders as Bishop Charles Blake, Christian community development icon Dr. John Perkins and others.

My first experience with Hayford occurred in 1976 as a brand new 14-year-old Christian from nearby Glendale. I was blown away by the power of the worship at The Church on the Way and soaked up his teaching like a sponge.

After high school, I attended UCLA, and my friends and I would drive over

the hill from Westwood to hear Hayford preach. Several years later, I began what would become a three-decade professional relationship with him. As the publisher at Regal Books (Gospel Light), in Ventura, I served as his editor on several of his titles, including *I’ll Hold You in Heaven*, a book for those who have lost an infant child, which later ministered personally to my wife and me.

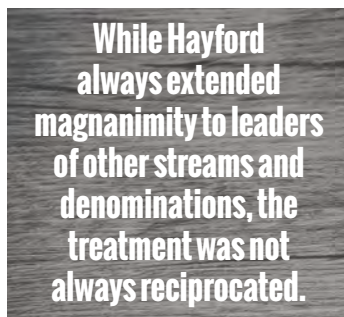
One of the most memorable nights of my life occurred during Christmastime 1995 when the Hayfords gathered with a handful of other couples at their home in the Valley. My wife and I, along with Greig, his wife, Rhonni; Greig’s brother Gary and wife, Katherine; broke bread with John and Carol Wimber, Peter and Doris Wagner, John and Julie Dawson, John and Vera Mae Perkins, and Greig’s parents, Bill Greig Jr.—president emeritus of GL—and Doris. After dinner, we gathered around the piano to hear two spiritual giants sing their famous worship songs: Hayford sang “Majesty,” and Wimber sang “Isn’t He?” That night we were simply brothers and sisters worshipping our beloved King.

Losing his beloved Anna to pancreatic cancer in early 2017 devastated Hayford. That’s why I was so happy to hear that love found him again in 2018 when he married

his second wife, Valerie Lamire, his constant companion during his final few years. His legacy lives on in the powerful ministry at The Church On The Way under the dynamic leadership of pastors Tim and Deborah Clark along with Doug and Christa Andersen.

Non-Pentecostal pastors have called Hayford one of the greatest Pentecostal leaders of the past century. I would agree—but remove the word “Pentecostal.” Although he embraced Pentecostalism, he was one of the church’s greatest leaders and teachers, period—regardless of denomination or movement. I await the day when I kneel with him before the greatest King of all and, together, we worship His majesty. ◀

KYLE DUNCAN is a full-time writer and author of *Hope for Ukraine: Stories of Grit and Grace from the Frontlines of War* (Chosen Books).



While Hayford always extended magnanimity to leaders of other streams and denominations, the treatment was not always reciprocated.



Praise & Remembrance

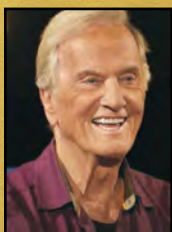
for

PASTOR JACK HAYFORD

Leaders across many fields have shared their remarks and remembrances of Pastor Hayford upon his passing, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023



» **Jonathan Cahn:** “Soon after writing *The Harbinger*, I was invited to speak at Pastor Jack’s Church on the Way. During the worship, an unassuming man came up to me, gave me a big smile and an even bigger hug. It was Jack Hayford. What struck me then was that he had no airs about him. If you didn’t know it was him, you would have barely noticed him. He was completely unpretentious and humble. It is written that Moses was the most humble of men. That’s what I’ve noticed about the truly great people of God. They not only do great things for God but are completely humble. That was Jack Hayford. Like Moses, he was one of the great servants of God, and among the most humble.”



» **Pat Boone:** “For over 50 years I’ve served as Jack Hayford’s elder, as one month older in age and literally an elder at Church on the Way, his home church in Van Nuys, California. Up close and personal, I’ve seen him become a 20th-century apostle Paul, building the local church in America and expanding and strengthening the church of Jesus internationally, in many books reinforcing God’s explicit Word, hosting pastoral conferences at home and abroad, holding a strong line against cultural and social decay in ‘theology’ and doctrinal weakness, and more than any other public speaker promoting the absolute necessity of receiving and living with the indwelling Holy Spirit as our guide, teacher and power source in this fallen

and hopeless world. Like his role model Paul, the apostle Jack used every ounce of his natural and supernatural gifts, in close communion with his heavenly Father to expand and strengthen God’s Kingdom on this earth. I’m grateful to be his brother, and to have lived with his close example, and am sure Jesus has welcomed Jack Hayford with an apostolic crown. I’m so glad he and I did a two-man ‘missionary journey’ to Japan some years ago, me doing publicized concerts combining my pop hits with gospel music and a local minister extending an actual invitation for attendees to receive Jesus, and Jack teaching local conferences of Japanese ministers during the days. It was a highly publicized tour, with estimates that over two-thirds of Japanese



knew we were there, and why. We felt God had ‘arranged’ it all, Hallelujah!”

» **Dr. Alveda C. King:** “Jack Hayford’s legacy of worship, ministry and leadership will live on in our hearts. He is now living in the presence of God’s ‘Majesty,’ no longer encumbered by the things of this world. He will be missed.”



» **Joyce Meyer:** “I am grateful for the tremendous contributions that Pastor Jack Hayford made to the body of Christ including his teaching, his leadership and writing beautiful worship music. He was truly wise and gifted. Personally, I will remember his great kindness. He was the kind of person who would make the time to sow into my life and that means a great deal.”



» **R. T. Kendall:** “The first time I heard Jack Hayford speak he mentioned a ‘haze’ in the auditorium of a church of which he

was pastor many years ago. It is the first mention of a haze I heard since I myself had been touched profoundly by a haze in a service in Ashland, Kentucky, when I was at the beginning of my ministry. It made me want to meet him. The haze is a visible manifestation of the 'glory.' It is very rare. I later met Jack at a Charismatic Leaders Conference in Lake Mary, Florida, organized by Steve Strang. Jack graciously had breakfast with my son, T. R., and me and later agreed to write the foreword to my book *Holy Fire*, my reply to the cessationists of this world. Jack was fully aware of my reformed theology but still agreed to read the manuscript with a view of endorsing it. Did he ever! He wrote a 13-page foreword to my book, the grandest and longest endorsement of all my 80 books. This demonstrated how a Pentecostal would embrace a Calvinist, setting a beautiful example how Word and Spirit people need to accept each other. I am honored to have known him and thank God for his vast influence."



» **Marilyn Hickey:** "Pastor Jack was a blessing to the world. I remember many times hearing him speak and hearing his worship and singing. It really encouraged me. We will miss him, but we rejoice greatly over his life and where he is now."



» **Bill Johnson:** "In my mind, Pastor Jack Hayford's life, ministry and personal integrity were unparalleled. His impact on me started with his influence on my dad, equipping him to more fully step into all that God had called him to be: a worshipper. Jack's personal friendship and encouragement is truly one of my greatest treasures in life. I am eternally indebted to this friend of God, Jack Hayford."



» **Mike Signorelli:** "Jack Hayford operated in a paradigm much needed in this hour—full Spirit and full Word. For years, I gleaned from his ability to function in an unrestrained supernatural demonstration, while communicating a deep mastery of the Scriptures. As a minister, I endeavor to carry this balance into a new generation so that we 'lack nothing.'"



» **Francis Frangipane:** "When I consider the life and ministry of Jack Hayford I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthian church, 'Though you had many teachers, you did not have many fathers.' Pastor Jack was a father, a teacher and a true worshipper. We thank God for his many radiant contributions to the body of Christ."



» **Sam Rodriguez:** "A spiritual father and grandfather to generations, Jack Hayford's brilliance, creativity and authentic leadership elevated the Pentecostal/charismatic movement to the forefront of global evangelicalism. Pastor Jack did away with the notion that the Pentecostal/charismatic movement did not provide room for academia, logic, reason or intellect. He embraced both the prophetic and the practical, he was full of the Holy Spirit and creativity; sustained by that Spirit, he was able to write books, songs and lead like very few others. He inspired me. I was blessed to call him friend. He spoke into my life, always encouraging me to make room for the Holy Spirit. Pastor Jack did change the world. He demonstrated that the Spirit-empowered charismatic movement can be both prophetic and practical, innovative and intelligent, anointed and artistic."



» **Dr. Mark Walker,** president of Lee University: "My dad and Dr. Hayford were good friends. They had a deep admiration and respect for one another. Dr. Hayford was a one-of-a-kind leader, minister, preacher and person. His kingdom impact is unmeasurable. He is a giant of the Pentecostal faith."



» **David Shibley:** "Jack Hayford is now home in heaven. Stephen Strang, quoted in *Christianity Today* magazine, rightly termed him 'the Pentecostal Gold Standard.' It was my privilege to serve with him on the board of directors of two ministries and to call him my friend. Pastor Jack combined a towering intellect, fervent devotion to Jesus and total reliance on the Holy Spirit to produce one of the most fruitful, far-reaching ministries of our lifetime. He will certainly be remembered for his anointed preaching and teaching. Also, he composed the great worship song, "Majesty," which is sung by Christians around the world. At a crucial juncture in my own life and ministry, he gave me wise, compassionate counsel that steadied and greatly helped me. 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on,' (Rev. 14:13)."



» **Alex Pagani:** "I spent many hours in the early days of ministry, reading resources from Pastor Jack Hayford and learning about the history of Pentecostalism. Truly the body of Christ lost a giant in the faith. He will be missed!"



» **Peggy Joyce Ruth:** "Jack Hayford is that stable Spirit-filled minister who everyone counted on. He left a great legacy. He is now beholding the Majesty."

The Life and Times of Jack Hayford

A look back at the heritage of “Pastor Jack”

JULY 4

Jack and Anna are married on Independence Day in the Crimson Chapel at the Oakland Neighborhood Church.



Jack and sister Luanna

FEBRUARY 10

At the age of 10, young Jack Hayford responds to an altar call given by Pastor Maurice Tolle and asks Jesus to be his Savior and Lord.

1934

1952

1945

1954



Jack and his mother, Dolores

JUNE 25

Jack Williams Hayford is born at Los Angeles County General Hospital to parents Jack and Dolores.



Jack in his teens



SEPTEMBER

Jack begins attending L.I.F.E. Bible College (now known as Life Pacific College) in January and meets Anna that September when he returns to school for his second semester. They quickly hit it off, and within six weeks of meeting, Jack knows Anna is the girl he wants to marry.



Anna and Jack

AUGUST 18

After the Hayfords move back to Los Angeles and Jack takes on the role of National Youth Ministries Director for the Foursquare denomination, their third child, Mark, is born.



Jack, Anna, and their four children

APRIL 21

Jack and Anna's first child, Rebecca, is born on Easter morning at 3 a.m. Hours later, Jack preaches a Resurrection message on only two hours of sleep.

1956

1959

1957

1961

JANUARY

Twenty-one months later, their first son, Jack W. Hayford III, is born.



MAY

Just weeks before his 22nd birthday, Jack begins his first pastorate when he starts leading a new Foursquare congregation in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Jack (far left) with his high school football team

The Life and Times of Jack Hayford



Jack with parents and siblings

SPRING

Pastor Jack composes the popular modern-day hymn “Majesty,” which years later is rated as one of the top 100 contemporary hymns and is sung in churches all around the world. Over the years, Pastor Jack will continue to be a trailblazer in the area of congregational worship. In addition to writing several books on worship, he’ll also pen more than 500 songs.



APRIL 11

The Hayfords’ fourth child, a little girl named Christa, is born.

1969

1993

1968

1978



Prayer chapel at First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys



MARCH

Less than a year after Christa’s birth, Jack begins pastoring the First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys, California, a small congregation with only 18 members, whose average age is 65 years. During the next 30 years, under Pastor Jack’s leadership, the church (now called The Church On The Way) grows to over 10,000 members and becomes the largest Foursquare congregation in the United States.



SEPTEMBER 21

God calls Jack to begin to intentionally mentor pastors. This eventually leads to the development of the Jack W. Hayford School of Pastoral Nurture, which allows him to personally mentor hundreds of pastors. Pastor Jack’s passion for pastors and his tremendous wisdom led many who sat under his leadership to consider him “a pastor to pastors.”

OCTOBER

Hayford becomes Foursquare's president. His single term includes bringing financial disclosure, restructuring of the national leadership team, and also marks the creation of the Foursquare Foundation, formed to accelerate interdenominational evangelism and invest in fruitful outreaches around the world.



1996

2015

2004

2023



FEBRUARY 16

Pastor Jack senses God directing him to establish a Spirit-filled college and seminary. The King's College and Seminary opens with Pastor Jack as president. It is the only accredited Pentecostal/charismatic seminary on the West Coast. The school later relocates its headquarters to Gateway Church in the Dallas area. Pastor Jack serves as chancellor until 2017, when he receives the title of chancellor emeritus.

JANUARY 8

Jack W. Hayford, noted pastor, seminary chancellor, and hymn writer went to be with the Lord at the age of 88 at his home in Los Angeles.



MAY 20-25

Pastor Jack is one of six leaders—along with Morris Cerullo, David Mains, Marilyn Hickey, Vinson Synan and Reinhard Bonnke—honored as Pentecostal trailblazers at the Empowered21 Global Congress in Jerusalem. Although Jack had stepped down as global co-chair in 2014 and was replaced by George Wood—then general superintendent of the Assemblies of God USA—he remains an honorary member of the Global Congress. In October of that year, The Church on the Way confers on him the title of pastor emeritus.



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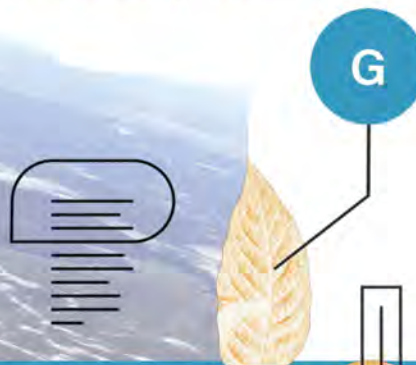
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| THE MANTLE PASSED

A Spiritual Legacy



JACK HAYFORD's timeless impact on the body of Christ

BY ROBERT MORRIS



When Jack Hayford was 5 years old, he received his first allowance as payment for a chore—10 cents. Instead of giving him a dime, his father gave him a nickel and five pennies. Then he sat down with his son, showed him Scriptures on tithing and explained that one penny out of every 10 cents belongs to God. The boy took out one penny and gave his first tithe.

Years later, when Hayford and his wife, Anna, received a paycheck for more than \$1,000, he realized the tithe would be triple digits for the first time in his life. When he went to write the check, he paused for just a moment and thought, “Lord, this is *a lot* of money.” The Lord spoke to him and said, “It’s still only one penny on every dime.” And from that point on, he tithed one penny on every dime he ever made.

That’s just one of the amazing things about Hayford—his faithfulness, in the big and the small. Yet, there are so many other things about him that I admired and have influenced my life.

Hayford began influencing my life years before I ever met him. The first time I heard him speak was at a James Robison Bible Conference in the early 1980s. He spoke on the beauty of a spiritual language. As a young Baptist minister, I hadn’t heard anything like it.

But Hayford had a very nonconfrontational way of humbly presenting Scripture. He didn’t try to defend or argue a position; he simply presented his belief. He didn’t say, “This is the *only* way. Either I’m right or you’re wrong.”

His presentation, mannerisms, Christlikeness and humility, not to mention his knowledge of Scripture and theological soundness, caused me to open up to this man with a Pentecostal background. He caused me to start thinking about Scripture differently, and I began reading his books and watching him on television.

‘Just Jack Hayford’

In 2001, a year after I began Gateway Church, I went to a small pastors’ gathering to hear Hayford speak about how we could help Messianic Jews. I met him in the parking lot and told him how much he ministered to me and how much I appreciated him. He was very kind and gracious. He took an interest in me and asked about the church. We only had 200 people attending Gateway at the time, yet he treated me like an equal.

In fact, he treated all pastors that way. He made a statement once that it takes as much character, time, and energy to prepare a message for 200 people as it does for 2,000. He never saw pastors at different levels or hierarchies. He saw us as shepherds of God’s sheep no matter how many we were pastoring. And I felt that from the first time I met him.

A couple of years later, I sent Hayford an invitation to come speak at our first pastors’ conference. He responded by saying he wanted to talk over the phone before he accepted. During our conversation, he asked who was coming and what our focus was so he could be a good steward of his time while he prepared.

It didn’t matter to him that we didn’t have many people coming—maybe a few hundred—he

wanted to know how he could best help and serve the pastors. When he arrived, it was like being with family. As we spent time together and got to know one another better, I absolutely fell in love with his character and his fatherly nature,

When he talked, there was no pride in him; there was just a recognition that God gave him influence in the body of Christ, and he wanted to steward that influence well. In fact, he spoke to me about times when a church or a pastor

would Jesus do?” because we want to be like Christ, but God gives us earthly examples too, and Hayford was one of those examples.

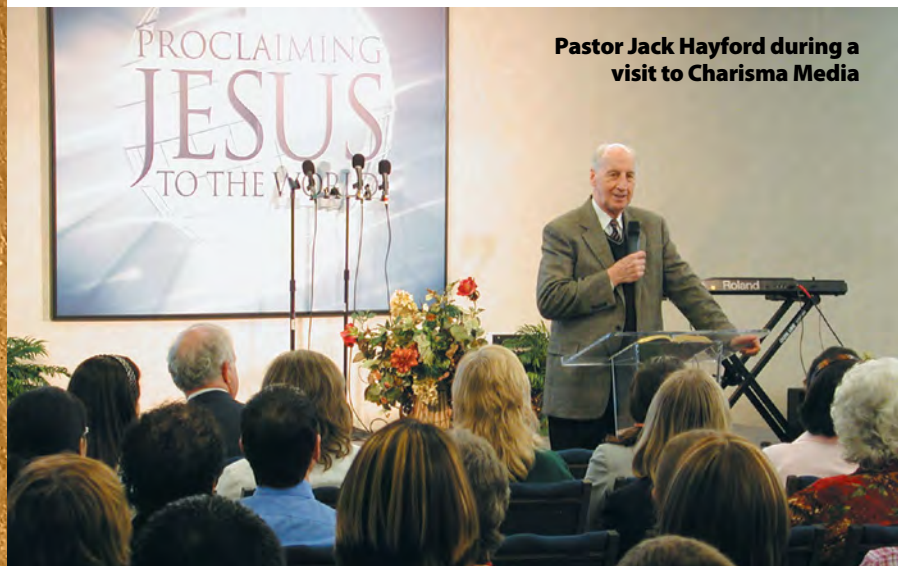
There were times when I was leading the church to embrace a new vision, and I thought to myself, *What would Jack do?* Or if I felt as though I needed to bring a corrective word, I thought, *How would Jack say this?* Or if I was trying to lead the elders in something I believed the Lord had spoken to me, I would ask them, “How would Jack have done it?”

However, it wasn't just about “What would Jack do?” when it came to ministry but also “What would Jack do?” when it came to marriage. Nine years ago, we had a celebration to honor Hayford's 80 years of ministry and nearly 60 years of marriage to his college sweetheart, Anna. The first time he saw her from across the gym, he decided he wanted to get to know her. He was the big man on campus, and all her friends had told her, “Just wait until you meet Jack Hayford!”

Later, she said her first thought when she met him was, *Oh, he's not such a big deal!* But obviously they fell in love and stayed deeply in love with each other until the day she died. The way he honored and loved Anna and the way she honored and loved him was an example to us all.

I've said many times that Hayford was an apostle Paul for our generation. Paul was a man of the Spirit and a man who knew the power of God. At the same time, he was a man who knew Scripture. He was a brilliant man who could communicate to different people and different churches in many ways, which is represented by the letters he wrote. So when I think of the apostle Paul, I think of a man who had a diverse and rich background. A man who was an effective teacher of the Scriptures. A man who was of the Spirit, and a man of great intellect. A man who saw the power of God work within him. A man like Hayford.

Hayford was a man of the Spirit and a man of the Scripture. When I think of him, I'm often reminded of John 4:23–24, “Yet the hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who



and he seemed to immediately fall in love with me as a teachable son he could pour into. As our spiritual father-son relationship developed, we spent more and more time together.

Not long after that, I went to Hayford's weeklong School of Pastoral Nurture with about 40 other pastors. As he poured into us, I realized that in addition to his vast knowledge of theology, he had a practical pastoral wisdom I'd never heard before. That week, he shared why he preached series instead of just stand-alone messages, how he arranged his series, how he used his study times and how he spent his off times—so many practical subjects that Bible college didn't teach me. He helped prepare me for the everyday things I'd experience in ministry.

Watching how Hayford handled being a well-known author and pastor helped me understand how I should steward the influence God has given me. Accomplishments such as writing so many books and composing so many songs didn't change his personality. He never thought of himself as a celebrity. He didn't have “yes people” around him. He didn't have an entourage when he traveled. He didn't think more highly of himself than he should.

honored and received him in a special way. It was as though he were shocked. I would think, *Well, of course they honored you! You're Jack Hayford.*

But he never thought of himself that way. He was just Jack Hayford, and he always remained just Jack Hayford.

'An Apostle Paul for Our Generation'

Over the years, I've looked at the influence God has given me in the kingdom and thought, *Can I handle this? Can I be the good example God wants me to be? Can I be the pastor God wants me to be?* But then I would look at Hayford and be encouraged, because he was an example of a normal person whom God used to do great, extraordinary, supernatural things for Him.

He was a very humble, transparent person who never put on airs. He never came across as prideful in what he did, yet he had a confidence that God was using him. It encouraged me to know I could walk with God and God could use me to part Red Seas, because He had done that with Hayford.

I've often joked that I have a WWJD bracelet: “What would *Jack* do?” Not to take anything away from “What

worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

Some people put more emphasis on the truth of Scripture, and others put more emphasis on life in the Spirit. Yet Hayford embodied the perfect blend and balance of both of these. He taught people how to worship God in the life of the Holy Spirit and in the truth of God’s Word. He didn’t try to put them at odds with each other, but instead emphasized both in wonderful balance.

Hayford helped all of us to unashamedly yield to the Holy Spirit. He came along as a soft-spoken, kind, humble, theologically sound pastor who was completely yielded to the Holy Spirit. He helped people understand that a person who is normal can fully believe in the work of the Holy Spirit, and modeled normalcy and being Spirit-yielded.

‘Spiritual Father’

Hayford fully believed in the Holy Spirit, yet he was *normal*. When he was on TV, he never said things like, “If you send money to my ministry or if you pray for my ministry, I’m going to pray for you, and your problem will be solved.” He never tried to draw people to himself. He *always* drew people to Christ. He was one of the first leaders I saw who influenced a large part of the body of Christ—those who believed doctrine the way he did *and* those who might not have shared the same views doctrinally but respected his academic accomplishments, his approach to the Word and his normalcy of life.

For years, there has been a division in the body of Christ between those who believe in the person and work of the Holy Spirit for today and those who don’t. Hayford bridged those gaps. Many people at the James Robison Bible Conference where I first heard him were from a Baptist background. Hayford presented the Word and didn’t try to force it down people’s throats that Robison invited him back to speak on the gift of tongues at the conference. That message became the basis for his bestselling book *The Beauty of Spiritual Language*.

It was amazing. In essence, he spoke about a very controversial gift in the body of Christ with such grace and humility that people who might not have had

the same doctrinal view listened to him without a competitive or argumentative spirit. It’s because of his influence that the body of Christ is not as splintered as in the past and is in greater unity today—the greatest unity it’s ever experienced.

Hayford also had a tremendous influence in the area of worship—not only through the songs he wrote but also through his teachings on worship. The resurgence of worship in the church today is largely due to the seeds he sowed



“I realized that in addition to his vast knowledge of theology, he had a practical pastoral wisdom I’d never heard before.”



in the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s. His teachings on worship, along with his extravagant yet genuine expressions of worship, helped me as well as people of all faiths and in all nations learn to express their love to God. I can’t think of anyone who has had a greater influence in this area than Hayford.

I heard someone say once, “For years the church has been over-mothered and under-fathered.” Mothers nurture us. They’re the ones we run to when we fall off our bikes and scrape our knees. It’s not that fathers aren’t nurturing, but they are responsible for calling out the destiny of God in our lives. A father will say, “Get over it! Get up! Let’s do it again! I know you fell and scraped your knee, but get up. Let’s go for it again!” We need more fathering in the church today. Hayford was a tremendous example of a father who was loving and nurturing, but also one who would encourage you and call out your destiny.

In 2 Kings 2:8–10, Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of the spirit that was on him. And Elijah said, “If you see me when I am taken from you, it will happen to you.” He was saying, “If you’ll stay with me to the end.”

We need to stay with our spiritual mothers and fathers until the end. They have something to contribute to the kingdom, and they have something to teach us. They have impartations and anointing for us. I, along with many other pastors, have experienced the benefit of this by spending time with Hayford until the end. The results of his influence are evident in my life and in churches all over the world.

Paul told the church at Corinth, “For if you were to have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers” (1 Cor. 4:15a). We have been blessed with many wonderful teachers and instructors, but just a few spiritual fathers and even fewer Jack Hayfords. Really there was just one, and he was great! ◀

ROBERT MORRIS is the senior pastor of Gateway Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Since 2000, the church has grown to more than 100,000 attendees. His television program airs in over 190 countries, and his radio program, *Worship & the Word with Pastor Robert*, airs in over 2,800 radio markets. He serves as chancellor of The King’s University and is the bestselling author of numerous books, including *The Blessed Life*, *Frequency*, *Beyond Blessed* and *Take the Day Off*. For more information, visit PastorRobert.com.

The Holy



Spirit's Abundant Treasure

A priceless visit with Pastor Jack, on
who the Holy Spirit is

BY JACK HAYFORD

This article was carefully adapted from Hayford's 2009 book, Rebuilding the Real You: The Definitive Guide to the Holy Spirit's Work in Your Life (Charisma House), and Stephen Strang's forthcoming new book, Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-Down World.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is somewhat of a mystery to most people. Referred to for centuries as the Holy Ghost, a dimension of unreality, if not spookiness, has surrounded His person for a long time.

When a person comes to God the Father and willingly receives the gift of life through Jesus the Son, the first thing that happens is that the Holy Spirit enters that person's life. Jesus described Him as a "Comforter"—One who will remain beside you to help, to counsel, to teach and to strengthen you. His entering is only a beginning, though, and the sensible believer in the Lord Jesus will keep open to the Holy Spirit's increasing desire to expand the evidence of God's purposes in his or her life.

Life Abundantly

The fullness of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and most of all, the abundant, flowing love of the Holy Spirit are all expressions of God's intent in giving us His Spirit. In other words, to simply realize that the Holy Spirit entered when I received Christ is

to grasp a precious truth. But I need to see more—to want more. The practical development of God’s work in my life requires that I give a growing place to the Holy Spirit’s working within me.

The Comforter has come, and His mission is to help us to move forward as growing sons and daughters of the Most High God.

If you haven’t yet done it, allow the Lord to open in you a conduit of His Holy Spirit, an ever-flowing stream of living water. This fulfills His promise, which is to you personally as much as it is to every other believer in the body of Christ: “You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Jesus wants you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Here is a miracle resource of power, flowing from an unending source. “Spirit-fullness” can strengthen you when you’re under attack, provide refreshment through daily prayer and praise, and release a flow of Christ’s ministering, healing power in you and through you to others.

Ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit. With praise in your heart and on your lips, come into His presence, and, by faith, receive His promise because “the promise is to you” (Acts 2:39). Expect His miraculous touch upon you as He answers your invitation.

Continue daily in a fresh walk in

Holy Spirit-fullness. Ephesians 5:18 literally reads, “[Keep on being] filled with the Spirit.” You cannot be sustained by drinking only once. But having been satisfied initially, keep coming daily to King Jesus’s pool, the Holy Spirit’s never-ending fountain of living water.

Building with Spirit Fire

Having begun this life by the power of the Holy Spirit, how shall we grow in this new life? The answer is rather obvious: by the power of the same Spirit! But most of us are slow to understand this fact.

Paul asked the Galatians, “After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?” (Gal. 3:3, NLT). We all need the same reminder: New birth isn’t the end of God’s program for us. His Spirit has started something by His power that He wants to advance with our partnership.

Now, everything I have said up to now is probably easy enough for you to acknowledge. Any honest believer will be quick to say, “I need to grow,” or “I want to grow.” But the pathway to growth is usually cluttered with obstacles, and the obstacles are usually hangovers from our past—past lifestyle, past habits, past attitudes, past sinning,

We will not “grow out of” such things naturally. It’s the partnership with the Holy Spirit that is all-important to our spiritual and emotional growth.

In other words, the results of our past all too often remain part of our present reality. The fact that you sinned in the past can be seen in its remaining fruit. Of course, you can be certain that God has forgiven it all: this is a bright truth of your new God-given inheritance! But of equal certainty is the continuing presence of many personal problems bequeathed to you from your past. Your salvation solves the problem of your relationship with God, but it doesn’t always dissolve the problems in your life. It opens the doorway to solutions, but it is only by walking through that door and patiently pursuing that way that those problems will finally be resolved.

If patience during God’s “waiting periods” is trying for even the most mature believer, how much more so is it for those of us still discovering that our receiving of the Holy Spirit rarely includes an immediate change of circumstance?

Resting in His Perfect Timing

Over the years I have had many people ask me, “Pastor, since I’ve been filled with the Holy Spirit, I feel different, but it doesn’t seem like much else has changed.” They go on to express their concern that a week, two weeks, a month has passed, and yet dramatic events still aren’t filling their days “like all those people” they’ve heard testify.

I usually seek to comfort them with two facts:

1) My experience with dramatic testimonies is that they are honest but usually abbreviated. People report, in condensed version, things that took much longer to come about. Don’t feel like a second-class Christian when time seems to be passing by and action seems slow.

2) God is never in a hurry. Yes, the presence of the Holy Spirit within us does bring an instant witness; He’s there and He’s at work. (See Romans 8:14.) But remember this: the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit

“The practical development of God’s work in my life requires that I give a growing place to the Holy Spirit’s working within me.”

—Pastor Jack Hayford



aren't unwrapped with haste or grown at a moment's notice. If things aren't happening fast, that's normal.

The relevance of our learning to recognize that God's delays are not denials is that such understanding can defuse the tendency to feel unworthy (condemned) simply because things aren't happening as quickly as we think they would if we were somehow more acceptable to God.

The simple fact of the matter is that the Lord has quiet times of dealing with our souls. When they come, be of good courage. If you have opened yourself up to the Holy Spirit, be patient. The Holy Spirit knows what He's doing, and a little more time won't make Him falter or fail. God doesn't have to dash about busily in order to prove Himself. He's the One who's in charge, not you. Don't compensate by getting busy yourself, or most likely you will have to undo your work.

Some time ago, after the passing of a family member, I was moved to do a study on God's activities "in the dark." I was amazed at the number of major events in the Bible in which victory was wrought in the midst of darkness:

» Creation's light burst into the darkness of chaos (Gen. 1).

» Jacob wrestled all night and gained a new identity (Gen. 32).

» Israel's Passover deliverance took place in the night (Exod. 12).

» Gideon's battle unto victory began in midnight hours (Judg. 7).

» Jesus's cross was immersed in a sky of inky blackness though it was midday (Luke 23).

Even when Jesus comes again, it will be as a "thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2, MEV) and during an era of history predicted as one in which "darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples" (Isa. 60:2). This truth [of the Holy Spirit] can bring brightness and exhilaration to your soul.

Time to Get to Work

The Holy Spirit is ministering to your need now. Whatever the apparent darkness, God never forsakes the works of His hands. (See Psalm 138:8.) Rather than allowing the darkness of



“This truth [of the Holy Spirit] can bring brightness and exhilaration to your soul.”

—Pastor Jack Hayford

waiting to become a shadow of doubt, and instead of letting a cloud of questioning deceive you into believing that you are the victim of God's apparent inactivity or unconcern, learn this wisdom: *dark times are intended for your rest*. When they come, lean back and recline in the everlasting arms of the Almighty. Allow the Holy Spirit to work out and through what He's surely doing. I guarantee you that when morning comes, you'll be surprised!

Years of pastoring have taught me that the healing and deliverance of human souls can only be preserved where responsible obedience is manifest by those receiving the Holy Spirit's rebuilding within them. Jesus's words to the restored include this advice, which we are wise to heed: "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you," (John 5:14, NLT). Luke 11:24–26 teaches us, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it goes through dry places seeking rest. Finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house, from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it swept and furnished. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that man is worse than the first" (MEV). These are hard words. But Jesus also said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more," (John 8:11).

What should we do with all of this?

Well, for one thing, thank the Holy Spirit that He is jealous enough to crowd you against the wall. Give thanks to God that He cares enough

about you to not allow you to wander off the narrow but joy-filled pathway of holiness and true abundant living.

When you feel overwhelmed by the circumstances of life, ask Him to show you what He's doing. He wants to get your attention. He will not allow you to be defeated by your [enemies] or your own wayward human impulses.

Then, once you hear His voice saying, "Come," return to Him. Come back. He will bring the power of the cleansing blood of Jesus that not only carries away the stains of sin but also filters out whatever is toxic to His new life. He will identify the hidden works of darkness. He will dissolve bondages. He will not permit you to continue to grieve the Spirit. He is your permanent Helper.

He who has come to help you see your life rebuilt will also come to see your life advanced into His purposes. He will respond to your every prayer, and He will nurture your soul, reminding you of His loving character and His clear truth.

The Holy Spirit will restore, establish, strengthen and settle you, today and every day of the rest of your life. ◀

JACK HAYFORD was the longtime pastor of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California. He later served as chancellor of King's University (formerly King's College and Seminary). Pastor Hayford and Stephen Strang collaborated on many projects over the years, including Hayford's Foreword in Strang's book, *Old Man, New Man* (Charisma House, 2000).

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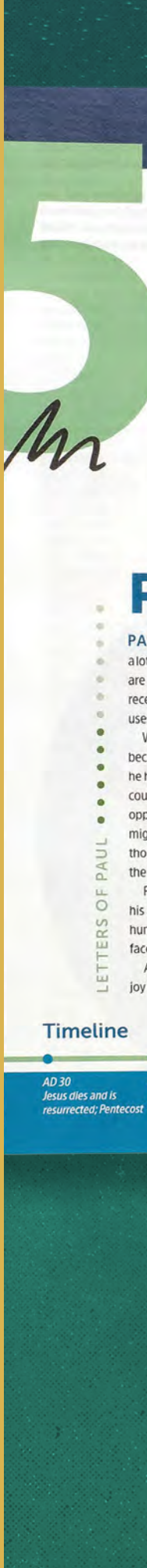
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LETTERS OF PAUL

Timeline

AD 30
Jesus dies and is
resurrected; Pentecost

Philippians

PAUL IS IN PRISON, and he thinks it's very possible he may die soon. He's suffering for the sake of sharing Jesus with others, and his life's work is in danger because he's sharing the message with the wrong motives. Meanwhile, one of his closest friends recently experienced a serious illness. In the midst of all this, what is the one word Paul uses to describe his emotional state? *Joy*. What's up with that?

When Paul first encountered Christ, everything in his life changed. His perspective became the most important thing, far above everything else. From that point on, Paul had been adopted by God, and he wanted to share the Good News with everyone. He would experience the same thing. So, even though now he is in prison, Paul has an opportunity—to share about Christ with those who are guarding him. Even though he might die soon, he can still be happy, knowing that he will spend eternity in heaven. Even though people are sharing the message for the wrong reasons, at least some are sharing the message.

Paul is deeply rooted in a new way of looking at the world, a new perspective on peace, his joy, and his mission. He understands that Jesus' sacrifice is the source of our humanity, and Paul considers it an honor to follow Jesus' example. When we face persecution ourselves, they can look to both Jesus and Paul. As you read Philippians, notice the specific things Paul mentions. What do you think Paul is trying to say? Are you ever able to see the hope and joy that might come from this message?

AD 35
Paul converts to Christianity

AD 46–48
Paul's first missionary journey

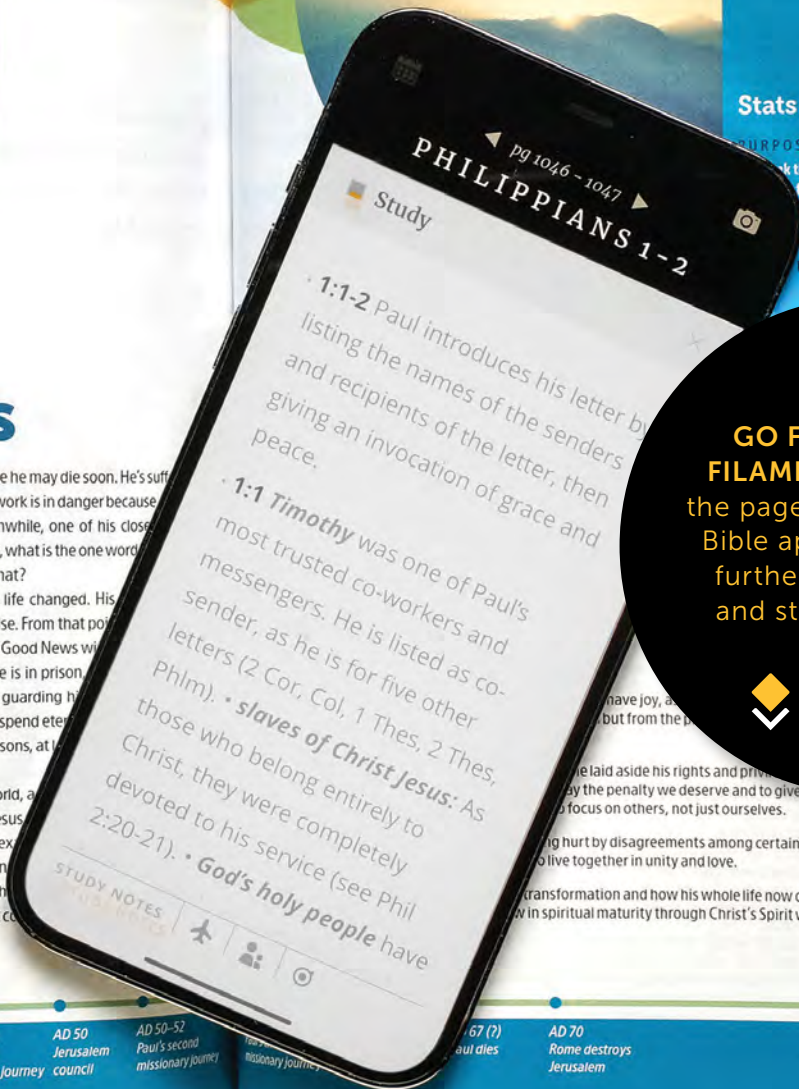
AD 50
Jerusalem council

AD 50–52
Paul's second missionary journey

AD 67 (?)
Paul dies

AD 70
Rome destroys Jerusalem

AD 95
John writes Revelation



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TRANSLATION

CRUSH THE ENEM

Former satanic priest John Ramirez delivers fire-powered strategy to living Godly victory & putting the devil in his place

BY JOHN RAMIREZ

After 25 years of reaching the highest levels of the occult, which is identified as the shadows of the demonic, I understood my demonic training. After going to devil church from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., I also understood the things of the spirit, whether they were on the side of demons or on the side of the Holy Spirit. So how do we navigate as believers and “fight the good fight” (1 Tim. 6:12a), taking back what the devil has stolen from us? From my experience in the areas of the occult and demonic, I want to share some insights into how we can stand against the forces of darkness to not only claim the victory but walk as “more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37b, NKJV).

I learned in my time as a devil-worshipper that demons, principalities, territorial spirits and familiar spirits love culture. They love humanity, but they also are fixated on controlling regions, territories and atmospheres. Some atmospheres and regions have poverty, some areas experience deep addiction and substance abuse, some have prostitution, and some areas are known for suicide. Even the more prosperous areas of the world are controlled by money, power and greed. Demons live there too.

We must recognize that this calls for all-out warfare. As Scripture teaches, “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12).

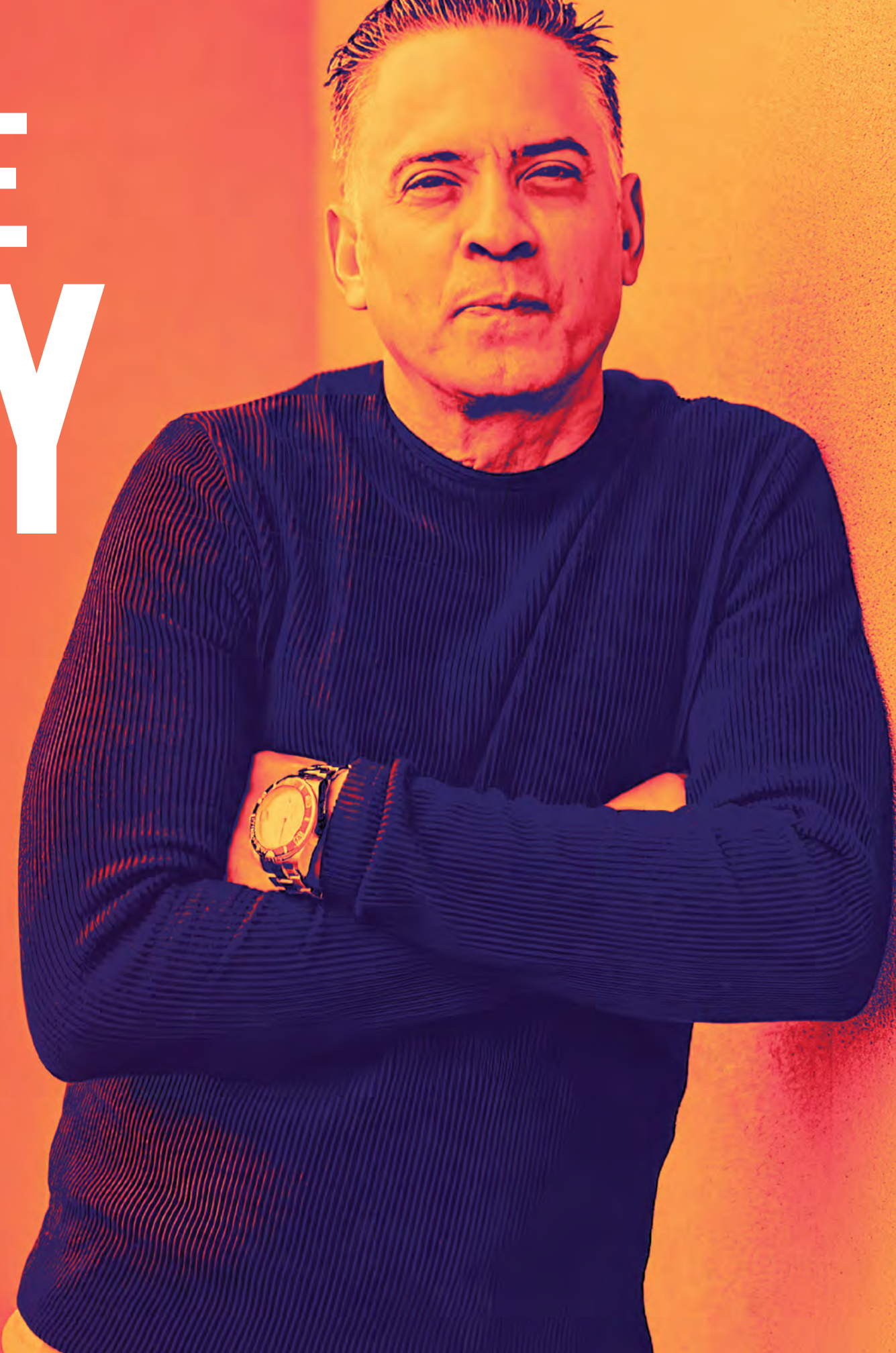
Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. And because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

Becoming More Than Conquerors

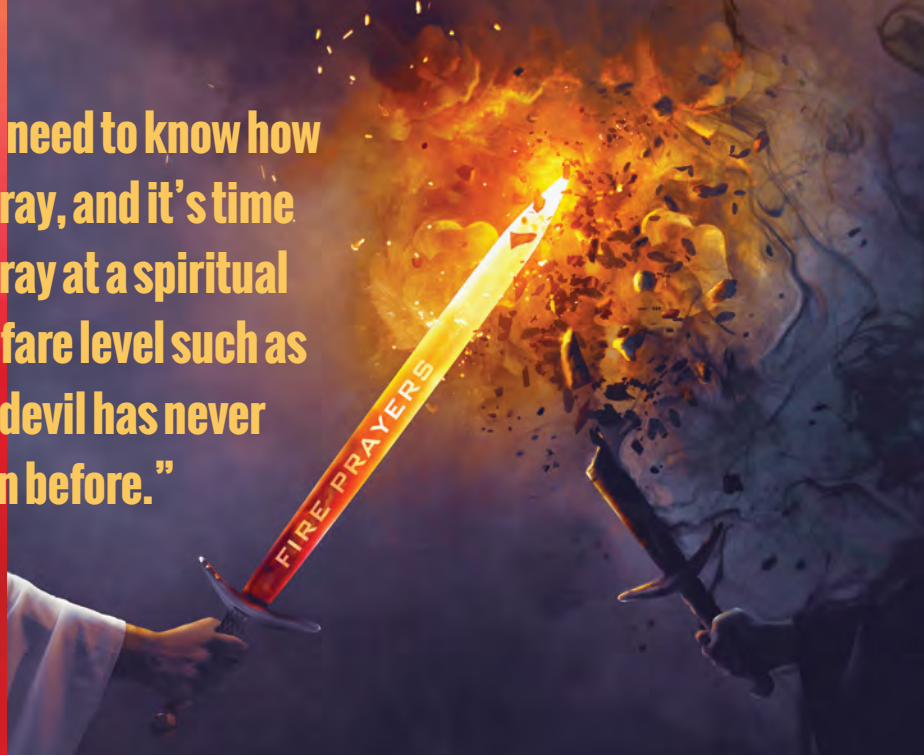
We win battles, we gain victories, and sometimes we win wars, yet we never conquer. But by the power of the Spirit, God brings us the wisdom and strategies of heaven. He gives us revelation, insight and clarity in our spirits on how to fight this demonic world where the church has allowed the devil to become comfortable and the Holy Spirit to be uncomfortable.

It’s time to rise up with fire prayers that bring the devil down to nothing. These are prayers that break hindrances, delays, blockages and destructions against our lives. They will also break backlash, retaliation, retribution and reinforcement devils. They carry the fire of the Holy Spirit! continued »

E Y



“We need to know how to pray, and it’s time to pray at a spiritual warfare level such as the devil has never seen before.”



We must learn how to use these powerful prayers to take back territory, destroy atmospheres and paralyze the devil’s demonic arsenals once and for all. We must learn how to intercede for our family, our businesses and our finances. We must become equipped to reclaim our purpose and destiny, to pray for our loved ones, schools, regions, environments, atmospheres and countries in the power of the Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the authority and the anointing to accomplish the mission. We need to know how to pray, and it’s time to pray at a spiritual warfare level such as the devil has never seen before.

I have known incidents where people have purchased homes where suicides had taken place. When the new owners moved into the home, a spirit of suicide jumped on them, and with little to no warning, suicide wreaked havoc in yet another family.

How do we pray for new homes, new apartments and new condominiums so we can move in, conquer the atmosphere and destroy the demonic residue present there? These are skills we must learn.

How do we pray for our children’s schools with all the despicable, unrighteous acts being displayed there? We don’t want our children—or anyone else’s children—to be contaminated with these things, so we must fight the good fight and rise to become more than a conqueror over our

children’s schools and every school.

How do we destroy generational sicknesses in our families? Grandma had cancer, Mommy had cancer, Auntie has cancer and now your daughter or your son has cancer. How do we get rid of these demonic sicknesses once and for all?

Learning to pray fire prayers will disciple you, prepare you, equip you and release you to victory. You must become a spiritual force to be reckoned with, a vessel of honor, an arrow in God’s quiver. Once you know the things of the Spirit, you will have the ability to combat the devil’s playbook once and for all in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Turning the Tables

Before I came to know Christ, I was in the highest levels of the demonic kingdom and got instructions from the devil himself about how to use demonic spiritual warfare against believers: against their homes, against their families, against their pregnancies, against everything they stewarded that represented the Lord Jesus Christ.

The devil does not stop in his attacks, whether through infirmity, oppression, depression, generational curses, locational or regional spirits coming against you and your loved ones. Even when you go on vacation, no matter what hotel you choose, evil spirits await. We must learn how to pray for our hotel rooms, vacation places, homes, children and families

in a way that will destroy demonic kingdoms with the arsenals of heaven.

It’s time to turn the tables on the enemy. Learning to pray fire prayers will equip you, disciple you and train you in the Spirit so you will be able to help others walk the walk and finish the race God has set before us.

Between the Lord, your purpose and your destiny lives the devil. This is called the battlefield. If you consider yourself a real believer in Christ Jesus, it’s time to access the arsenals of heaven and release the fire and the judgment of God upon every wicked spirit in your region, your home, your community,

your marriage, your children, your children’s children and all the generations to come. In other words, we need to teach our family and our loved ones to fight the good fight.

The Lord Jesus Christ told me once, “John, I will always do my part, but I will never do yours.” His heart is to raise up His church in this desperate hour and conquer every enemy that rears its head against His children. There is power in agreement and unity for the Holy Spirit. The day we pray fire prayers in this kind of holy unity is a bad day for the devil.

My background taught me the set-up and entrapments of the devil; now, I want to give you insight to overcome these entrapments and become powerful in spiritual warfare, strengthening your position in the spirit realm. The true language of spiritual warfare, critical to understand in praying fire prayers, will give the devil and his demons heart attacks.

In today’s society, we know we don’t have to look far to find our children being attacked, brainwashed and manipulated by the enemy in unrighteous, despicable ways. In fact, many of our homes have been invaded and contaminated by the enemy whether through marriage, children or generational curses. He has come to steal, kill and destroy. But I have bad news for the devil, and I have good news for you.

Fighting the Good Fight

When you're in a fight for your faith and your family against the kingdom of darkness, the devil and his cronies, the following spiritual warfare keys will serve as your personal arsenal against the weapons of evil:

» Knowing and understanding the revelation of God's power in your life. Don't let the enemy sidetrack you from that.

» Knowing and understanding the power of the gospel of the Word of God. They are healing words, and they are arsenals to destroy the devil like a nobody, which he is.

» Embracing the revelation in your life that no doubt, fear or disbelief interferes with intimacy with Jesus Christ the King. Even in your last breath, you will still know and understand that you believe in Him.

» Embracing the revelation of the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the anointing He put over your life. This is nonnegotiable. Don't let the enemy downplay this in your life. Walk with the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit; this equals a one-two punch against the enemy.

» Living your life in the power of God, day in and day out: cultivating, saturating, walking in it, living in it and even dying in it one day. This all occurs with nothing missing and nothing broken in the Spirit.

» Focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus in your life all day, every day.

» Asking the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to give you the revelation and the wisdom of heaven over your mind. Live your life by the power of the Holy Spirit, not the opinions of others.

» Divorcing yourself from the distractions of the world. Be married to, not dating, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. His name is King Jesus.

When we deal with the generational, demonic activity, generational curses or generational hindrances, delays, blockages and distractions, we also need to usher in a generation of blessings in our families, our children, our homes and our marriages. In my book, *Fire Prayers*, I include an entire chapter on how to do just that: Shame

the devil. We must give Satan an eviction notice and kick him right back to the pits of hell by speaking declarations and blessings over our homes.

Through my travels, my walk with the Lord, my preaching engagements, the many altar calls that I do and the more than 30,000 emails I receive every year, I know the spiritual condition of many wonderful believers who love Jesus Christ: distracted, defeated and in need of deliverance. But things don't have to stay that way because that's not God's perfect will for your life.

God has told us in John 16:33b, "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." Jesus did not die on the cross to give us a mediocre Christian life. He has given us a purpose and a destiny, and I know when we get to heaven one day, we will have to give an account. I want to help you reach heaven knowing you have borne much fruit for the Lord. I want you to know that you went to the battlefield and came out on the other side victorious, a winner, accomplishing and fulfilling the purpose

“The true language of spiritual warfare, critical to understand in praying fire prayers, will give the devil and his demons heart attacks.”

and destiny the Lord Jesus Christ gave you to fulfill and to honor His name.

When you close your eyes for the last time, I want you to know that you made Jesus Christ proud because you had a prayer language like no one ever, and I want hell to rejoice because you left the battlefield. You fought the good fight as never before; you accomplished what you needed to accomplish as never before. You walked out on the other side of the battlefield making Jesus Christ proud that He chose you to fight. You destroyed the

works of the devil as never before.

It's time to arise and fight the good fight, as Paul says. We must learn to pray fire prayers so we can fight that fight and become more than conquerors.

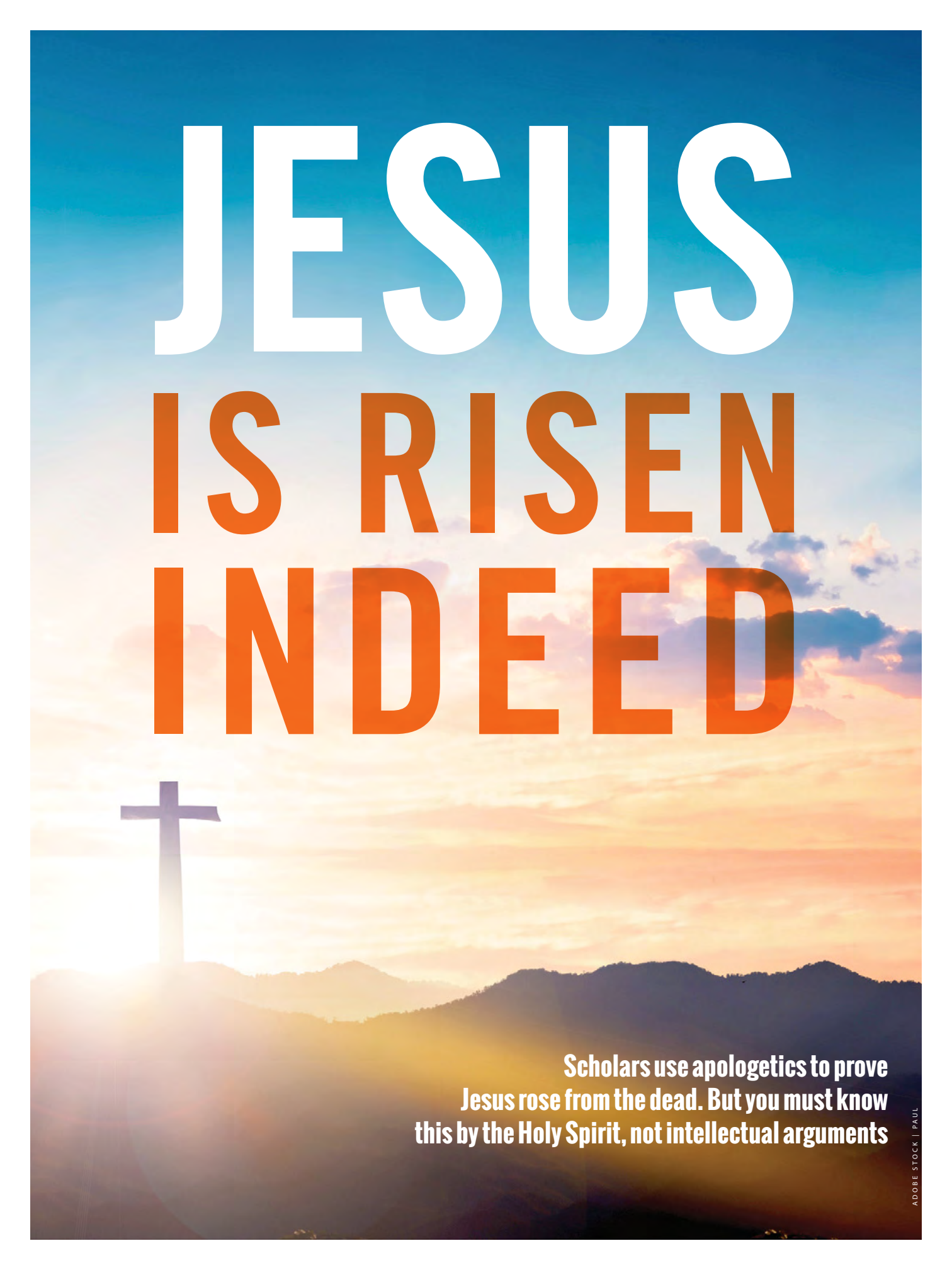
I thank God for the opportunity to show you, teach you, equip you and disciple you on how to be a champion in Jesus and how to stand in the face of adversity with the spiritual storms in your Christian walk. I want you to learn how to trust the Lord, how to obey Him, let Him lead you, let Him guide you and let Him nourish you as He transforms your life once and for all.

Christians, it's time to get out of the chicken coop and become the eagles He has called us to be. It's time to let the devil know we're coming for him. We're no longer staying on the defense, but we're on the offense, trusting the power of God's Word and the revelation of the Holy Spirit to crush the head of the serpent once and for all, in Jesus' mighty name.

Why would God save someone like me who deserved hell, someone who knows the devil's playbook and how he operates against the church at large and against the believer? It's time to fight the good fight, to turn the tables on the devil through fire prayers, and my kingdom heart is to equip you to do just that.

I leave you with Psalm 23:5, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over." Have no mercy on the devil. It's time to be victorious, a champion once and for all, in the mighty, untouchable name of Jesus Christ. ◀

Evangelist JOHN RAMIREZ used to fight on the enemy's side, so he understands from an insider's point of view how the enemy works. He now fights for Jesus Christ and uses the experience and knowledge he has to teach believers how to fight and win. He is an internationally known evangelist, author and speaker who teaches believers how to defeat the enemy. His powerful testimony of being miraculously saved as a high-ranking satanic priest has been shared on It's Supernatural! and The 700 Club. His first book, Fire Prayers (Charisma House), debuts this month.



JESUS IS RISEN INDEED

**Scholars use apologetics to prove
Jesus rose from the dead. But you must know
this by the Holy Spirit, not intellectual arguments**

BY R. T. KENDALL

My life was transformed when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit on Oct. 31, 1955. This experience made me see how real Jesus is and how true the Bible is. It is also what held me to this very day to believe in the infallibility of holy Scripture.

I was trained at a theological seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, when it was very liberal. Few of the professors there at that time believed in the literal, physical, bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many of these teachers even believed in process theology, which is camouflaged atheism in my opinion. It is now called open theism, and it is even embraced by many evangelicals and charismatics. Open theism is the most dangerous teaching to come into the charismatic movement and influence charismatic leaders in America and Britain.

If some readers wonder whether I spoke in tongues, I can tell you that for some reason this did not happen to me until February 1956, some three months later. But it happened unexpectedly and undoubtedly. It was so real.

Although my old denomination taught against it, as do many evangelicals and all cessationists today, I knew I could not deny my experience of speaking in tongues. And I never will.

I sometimes reckon there would not be a teaching of cessationism today were it not for the gift of tongues inserted by

Paul into the nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. It is the only gift that challenges our pride. The baptism of the Holy Spirit did several things for me:

1) It gave me instant peace and joy that words cannot adequately describe. It is what Charles Wesley called the “second rest” in his hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” (Wesley based this on Jesus’ words in Matthew 11:29b, “You will find rest for your souls.”)

2) It gave me full assurance of my salvation. Until then, owing to my old church background, I was afraid of losing

my salvation every time I did something wrong. I knew on that day, 67 years ago, I would never doubt my salvation again, and I never have.

3) It changed my theology permanently within hours. This pertained largely to the teaching of the sovereignty of God, which I describe in some of my books.

4) It convinced me forever that Jesus was literally raised from the dead. I will return

to this later.

5) I saw that Jesus was a real man. I am sure I was taught that theoretically before then. All I can say is, seeing that Jesus’ being a *real man*—truly and fully man as well as God—gripped me to no end. A verse like 1 Timothy 2:5b (ESV, emphasis added), “There is one mediator between God and men, the *man* Christ Jesus” became very precious to me.

6) It persuaded me that the intercession

“THE SPIRIT
VINDICATES HIS
WORD, WHICH
IN TURN POINTS
US TO THE
RESURRECTED
JESUS.”

of Jesus for me at the right hand of God was literal and real. This would later become a vital part of my theology.

7) I saw that without doubt the Second Coming of Jesus is absolutely true! I was so excited to see and know that He really is coming again.

My reason for detailing these items is this: I believe God wants us to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead *supernaturally*—by the Word and the Spirit. Not by reason or logical argument.

The same is true in how we believe the Bible to be the Word of God. “Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion,” said Charles Spurgeon. We believe the Bible is the Word of God not because of intellectual arguments but by the internal testimony of the Holy Spirit.

Our Faith Is Not Based on Intellectual Arguments

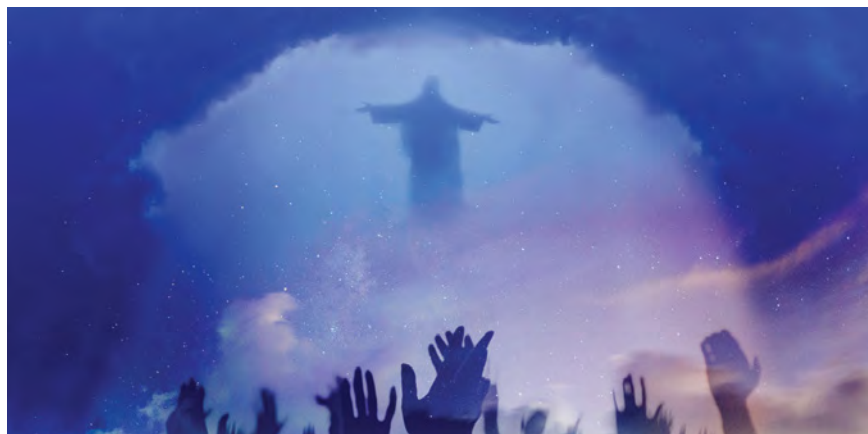
I do not deny that there is a place for apologetics in Christian theology. But apologetics deals with *objections* to the faith; rarely is a person converted by hearing someone defending the faith.

People are generally converted by the aggressive preaching of the gospel: that Jesus died, satisfying God’s wrath and justice by His precious blood and then rising from the dead.

In fact, my beloved and respected predecessor at Westminster Chapel, Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, always said that one of the worst things to happen in the earliest church was the introduction of apologetics in the second century by some of the apostolic fathers. He felt it gave rise to a lifeless Christianity.

T.F. Torrance has shown that there was virtually no doctrine of grace taught in the apostolic fathers; Christianity had become a teaching of morality and good works.

The New Testament shows again and again that people are converted by the Word and Spirit at work simultaneously. The Resurrection of Jesus vindicated the Word. People laughed Jesus to scorn when he said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will



raise it up” (John 2:19b).

The Jews threw this up later, claiming Jesus was referring to the Temple Mount, as reason to show that He was a fraud (Matt. 27:62-64).

But John gave the real explanation of Jesus’ words: “But [Jesus] was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken” (John 2:21-22).

Jesus was intent on defending the Scriptures. The Scripture during His life on earth was the Old Testament. One of the most disappointing translations of Psalm 138:2 appears in virtually every modern translation.

“THERE IS A MAN IN GLORY, SEEN ONLY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT OPENS OUR EYES.”

The King James Version got it right: “Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

There is fortunately a footnote in the ESV that quotes the Hebrew. I don’t understand why modern scholars chose to gloss over the Hebrew in Psalm 138:2. Is it because they think David was not giving enough honor to God’s name? Granted, God cares about His name.

His name refers to His power and reputation. But it happens that God cares more about His Word—His

integrity and honesty.

God will vindicate His name one day. Oh yes, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Rom. 14:11, Phil. 2:9-11).

God will then explain the reason He allowed evil and suffering, as promised to Habakkuk (Hab.2:1-4). But He can wait for that! So must we. What our heavenly Father wants in the meantime is for His people to revere His Word.

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a vindication of His Word. Why do you suppose God raised Jesus from the dead when there was no one to see it happen? Answer: He wanted it to be believed because of His Word.

The angels said to the women at the empty tomb on Easter morning, “Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise” (Luke 24:6b-7, ESV). Then comes this moving and never-to-be-forgotten comment by Luke: “And they remembered his words” (Luke 24:8).

As the two men on the road to Emmaus put it, after realizing they had been with the living Christ for a few moments on Easter Sunday: “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us on the road, while he opened unto us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32).

Later Jesus appeared to His disciples and said to them: “These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses

and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).

Some might say, “But [the two men] had Jesus himself with them, who had been raised from the dead, to give to them that direct Word.” True. But we have the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who will reveal the same word of God to us. Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45).

That is exactly what the Holy Spirit does. He wants us to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead by believing the Scriptures. After all, the Holy Spirit’s greatest product is the Bible. Holy men of old spoke as they were “carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21b). “All Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Tim. 3:16a).

But it is the Holy Spirit—not external “proofs” that we might look for—who will make us see that Jesus was truly and literally, bodily and physically, on a date in history and a place on the map, raised from the dead.

The Spirit vindicates His Word, which in turn points us to the resurrected Jesus.

Do You Believe Jesus Rose From the Dead?

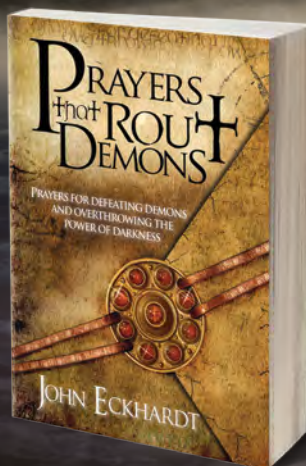
By the way, vindication is God’s prerogative. “Vengeance is mine,” says the Lord (Deut. 32:35a). I could add to my previously mentioned testimony that I have learned this the hard way. I could also add another thing my Spirit baptism did: It led to a long separation between my dad and me.

There are two kinds of vindication: external and internal. External vindication is when people openly vindicate you; they say, “You are absolved from blame. You have got it right. You were falsely accused.”

This is the kind of vindication we all like. I wanted it for years and years because my own dad, disappointed with my change of theology, said to me in 1956, “Son, you have broken with God.” Twenty-two years later—in 1978—he said to me, “Son, you were right and I was wrong. I am proud of you.” Yes, external vindication is sweet and worth waiting for. continued »

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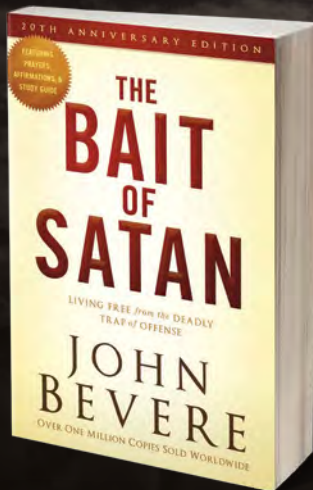
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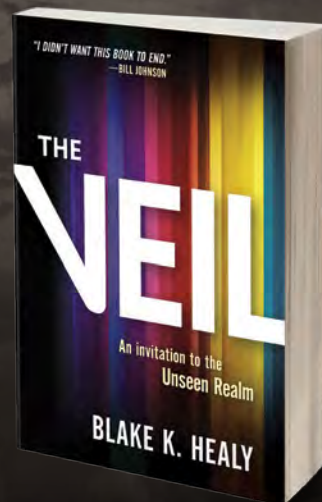
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Are you looking for vindication? Have you taken a stand that many disagree with? You are lonely. It hurts. Caution: Don't try to compete with the expert.

Vindication is God's prerogative, and His alone. If I have learned anything from 65 years of ministry, it is this: Don't trespass on His territory. The vindicating business belongs to Him. There is a sign on it that says, "No trespassing allowed." If you want to be a fool, step on His territory. It will backfire on you and postpone vindication.

We are talking about external vindication. When friends see. When enemies see. When relatives see. When the world sees. "The Lord will vindicate his people" (Deut. 32:36a). He loves to do it. He wants to do it—but His way. In His time.

Jesus has never had an external vindication. Yet. The Bible has never had an external vindication. Yet. This will come—on the last day. The final day.

Even your vindication and mine are not promised or guaranteed to take place in this life. They can. And they often do.

I can remember when I was in a dark hour at Westminster Chapel. Some leaders in the church turned against me and were a bit cruel. In a dark hour, rightly or wrongly, I opened my Bible for a "word." I turned to 2 Thessalonians 1:6: "God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you."

I thought, *Oh, good!* But I kept reading; my heart sank when I saw that this will surely happen "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire" (vv. 7b-8a).

Oh no! But yes. There is no guarantee of vindication or vengeance in this life. Sometimes it happens, but not always.

I can tell you what you *can* have in this life: internal vindication. It is what Jesus had. Would that be good enough for you? It is a genuine opportunity—even invitation—to be like Jesus.

This is because Jesus' vindication was not external but internal.

He was "vindicated by the Spirit" (1 Tim. 3:16b). What does that mean? Jesus heard the Father speak into His heart, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt.3:17b, 17:5b). He knew the Jews rejected Him.

There was no vindication from Pharisees! He knew why they missed Him entirely as their promised Messiah.

Jesus put it in a question: "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not

**"IT IS BY THE
ENABLING WORK
OF THE SPIRIT OF
GOD THAT YOU AND
I VINDICATE HIM."**

seek the glory that comes from the only God?" (John 5:44). He, however, wanted only the glory and praise that came from His Father.

That is what He enjoyed for 33 years—and after. After? Yes: both after His Resurrection and after Pentecost.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, did He go to Herod's door on Easter morning and say, "Surprise!" Or to the house of Pontius Pilate—to prove Himself? No. His vindication was not external, but internal.

This is *still* the way Jesus is vindicated. You and I do it. We vindicate Him. How? By affirming Him as Lord. No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

It is by the enabling work of the Spirit of God that you and I vindicate Him. In other words, Jesus is—to this day—vindicated by the Spirit.

One Day, Everyone Will Know Jesus Is Lord

But His day will come! You will see it. I will see it. Not only that, but the world will see it. He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. All the tribes of the earth will wail when they see Him (Rev.1:7), vindicating Him. People will not worry then what others will think.

That is also when the Bible will be vindicated. The same people who have held the Bible with utter contempt will be the ones who weep and wail and gnash their teeth. They will discover—not by faith but by direct sight—that the Bible is true.

Heaven is real. Hell is real. Jesus is God. Jesus is man. What a day that will be.

In the meantime, you and I are better off not to wait or hope for the external vindication that we could understandably wish for. I can't blame anyone for looking for apologetical proof of the Resurrection. But even that will not fully satisfy or necessarily lead one to being born again.

It is a fact that a famous rabbi in Jerusalem said several years ago that he believed that Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead, but he was not going to convert. He continued to stay outside the company of Christians and would not say that Jesus is the God-man.

God values His Word. He wants His integrity affirmed: what He has written by the Holy Spirit. What His beloved Son said while He walked physically on this earth.

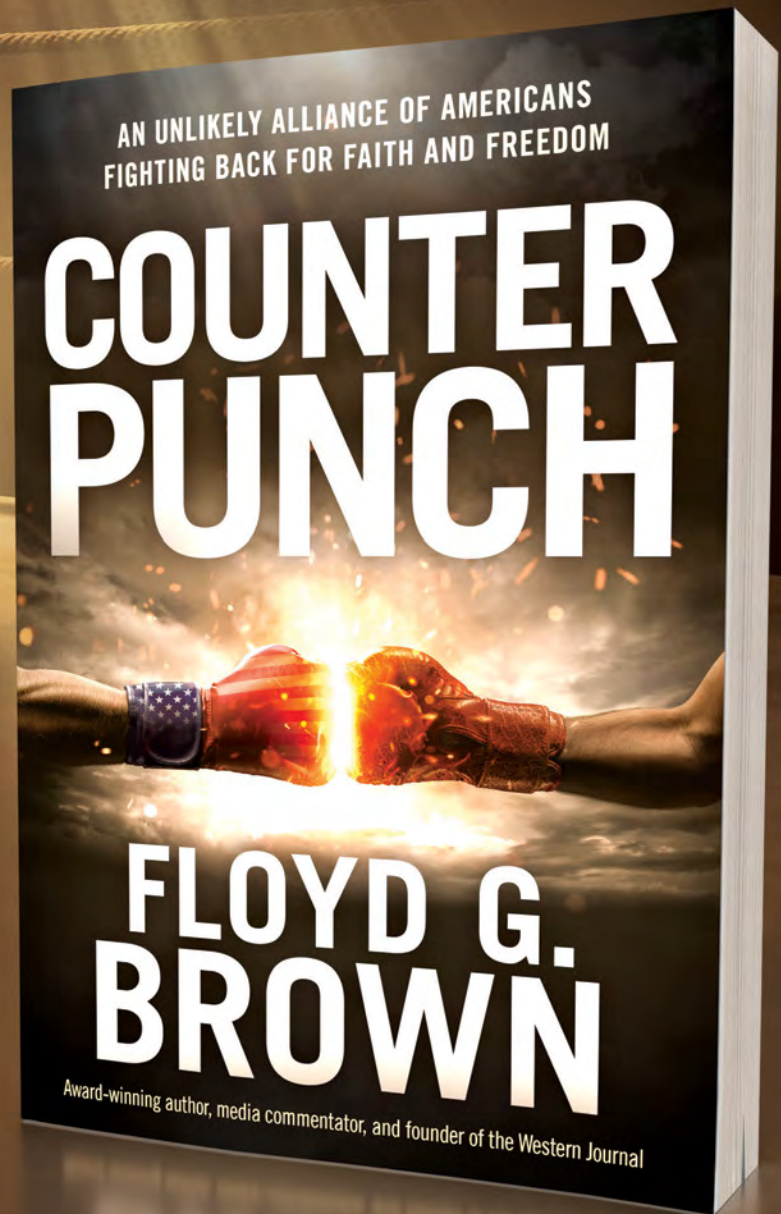
It is when the Word is joined by the Spirit that we see with full assurance that the Bible is true and trustworthy and that Jesus Christ was indeed raised from the dead on Easter morning and now is seated in power and authority at the right hand of God the Father.

Yes, there is a man in glory, seen only when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes. As Jesus opened the eyes of the disciples, let us pray—fervently and earnestly—that He will open our eyes so that the Resurrection will be vindicated as God has been pleased to vindicate it: by the Scriptures. ♦

R. T. KENDALL was the pastor of Westminster Chapel in London, England, for 25 years. Born in Ashland, Kentucky, he was educated at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Oxford University (D.Phil.). Dr. Kendall is the author of over 55 books, including *Double Anointing*, *Total Forgiveness*, *Holy Fire*, and *We've Never Been This Way Before*.

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Recover, Return & Restore

More Christians are deconstructing or abandoning their faith. Here's how to support their redemption

BY MICHAEL L. BROWN, Ph.D.

The news was jarring and disturbing, captured in this July 29, 2019, headline in *USA Today*: “He wrote the Christian case against dating. Now he’s splitting from his wife and faith.” Yes, Joshua Harris, the man who wrote the bestselling 1997 book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, the man who played a key role in what became known as “purity culture,” the man who pastored an influential megachurch in Maryland—this respected Christian leader was now leaving his wife after some 20 years of marriage and was no longer following Jesus. Joshua Harris?

Harris noted in an Instagram post that he had “undergone a massive shift in regard to [his] faith in Jesus.” He stated that he had repented “of my self-righteousness, my fear-based approach to life, the teaching of my books, my views of women in the church, and my approach to parenting, to name a few.”

He continued that he “specifically” wanted to apologize to the LGBTQ community, saying that he was “sorry” for views on sexuality he had espoused in his books and at the pulpit. “I regret standing against marriage equality, for not affirming you and your place in the church, and for any ways that my writing and speaking

contributed to a culture of exclusion and bigotry. I hope you can forgive me.”

Yet it was this same man who, at the age of 21, authored his influential bestseller, a book that discouraged young Christian people from dating, a book that emphasized the importance of remaining sexually pure until marriage and encouraged serious courtship leading to marriage. Now he was saying goodbye to it all.

But Harris is not the only Christian leader to renounce his faith in recent years. To the contrary, this is becoming increasingly common, to the point that there is an active call for Christians in general to follow suit and “deconvert,” often the final step in the process of “deconstruction.” Put another way, Christians are being told, “It’s time to question everything you learned, time to read the Bible through new eyes, time to put away your presuppositions and cherished beliefs and time to be brutally honest with yourself. When you do, you will no longer profess your Christian faith—at least, not in the way you once did. It’s time to be enlightened!”

Losing Faith

There had been no public hint of struggle until August 2019, when Marty Sampson, a popular Hillsong worship



90%

of Americans identified
as Christian in 1972

64%

of Americans identified
as Christian in 2023



“What can we do to help? How can we restore someone to the Lord?”

leader and songwriter, used his Instagram platform to announce that he was questioning his faith. This prompted me to write an article reaching out to him, saying, “My prayer is that Marty Sampson would have the integrity of heart to seek the truth earnestly, with humility and passion, and that all others with questions will put those questions on the table.”

On Aug. 13, 2019, the *Christian Post* reported that Sampson had responded to my column, clarifying he hadn't lost his faith, but it's “on incredibly shaky ground.” Sadly, just a little over a week later, he wrote, “It was amazing being one of you, but I'm not anymore.”

“Time for some real talk,” he explained on Instagram (before deleting the post). “I'm genuinely losing my faith...[sic] and it doesn't bother me... like, what bothers me now is nothing... I am so happy now, so at peace with the world... [sic] it's crazy.”

And what, in particular, caused this change of heart and mind? He continued: “How many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it. How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it. How can God be love yet send 4 billion people to a place, all coz they don't believe? No one talks about it.”

In short, he's “not in” anymore, and he desires “genuine truth.” But, he claimed, “Science keeps piercing the truth of every religion. Lots of things help people change their lives, not just one version of God.” He went on to say that he was “keeping it real” and that people could unfollow him if they wanted to, adding, “I've never been about living my life for others.”

Of course, it is easy to respond to Sampson's concerns, as I did in my August 2019 article, reaching out to him rather than condemning him. But that doesn't diminish his own very real loss of faith, nor does it detract from the reality of his own experience, which reflects the experience of many other former Christians. In fact, the number of professing Christians within America has dropped dramatically in the last decade, from 75% to 64%, while the number of Americans who have no religious affiliation is now up to nearly 30%, according to a Pew Research Center report. It looks like Marty Sampson, an Australian, has plenty of company worldwide.

How do we explain this phenomenon, and how should we respond?

As a Jewish believer in Jesus who faced challenges from learned rabbis from my earliest days in the Lord (when I was just 16 years old and with almost no spiritual or biblical grounding), and as someone who wrestled with the objections raised by my secular professors from college to university, I can sympathize with those who struggle. I also know people lose their faith for a wide variety of reasons. But whatever the cause, I am concerned. What can we do to help? How can we restore someone to the Lord?

I'm aware, of course, that some Christians do not believe anyone can truly fall away from the faith, citing 1 John 2:19 (NIV) in support of their views. There, John wrote, “They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

This remains true to this day. Many

people appear to be “with us” for a season, only to show their true colors by leaving. John refers to such people in this verse. But that is not to say that every single person who leaves the church is a false convert. Certainly not. To the contrary, it is all too easy to write off those who have departed from the faith by saying, “They never really believed.”

Again, it is true that some were false converts. But many were true converts, and I take their stories seriously. Why did they renounce their faith? Was it intellectual? Was it experiential? Was it a combination of both? Did they fall morally before they changed their theology? Did church hypocrisy drive them away? Did bad theology distort their expectations?

Seeking Answers

It is to answer these questions and to respond to these concerns that I wrote my latest book, *Why So Many Christians Have Left the Faith: Responding to the Deconstructionist Movement with Unshakable, Timeless Truth*. I think it's important to ask serious questions and seek serious answers. In fact, I not only welcome such questions, but I also solicit them. Truth is our friend, not our enemy. And that's why I pulled no punches in my book, addressing the issues plainly and openly, and inviting all truth-seekers to come on a journey with me.

In my view, the current rise in apostasy can be traced to a number of major factors. First came what I referred to as “the trickle-down effect” of atheism and agnosticism, pointing out the aggressive attack on the faith coming from the so-called New Atheists, which started to rise in prominence around 2006 and has trickled down to the culture at large, even to young people. The arguments once raised on college campuses are now couched in catchy memes shared by millions on social media. And the sentiments are simple and clear: God is not worthy of worship. He deserves mockery!

Of course, there are wonderful, beautiful, powerful, intellectually satisfying answers to atheism. And there is the insightful quote from C. S. Lewis, who describes how his atheistic arguments began to break down. He explained:

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he

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has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning; just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning.”

He was absolutely right.

Another major reason that many have fallen away is the epidemic of Christian leadership scandals, from the pulpit to the university, from charismatic circles to Baptist circles, from pastors to apologists. That’s why I devoted an entire chapter to the question “Can Christian Leaders Be Trusted?” The answer is that, in the vast majority of cases, they can. Of course, that doesn’t minimize the terrible damage done by these scandals (and I say this not to throw stones but to speak candidly; I’m fully aware that “There but by the grace of God go I”).

Another major factor in people leaving the church is the widespread cultural celebration of LGBTQ-plus activism, because of which millions of Americans have come to a simple conclusion: If gay is good, then the church is bad! Another is the politicizing of the gospel to the point that some of us became better known as followers of a particular candidate than as followers of Jesus. Worse still, some of us became just as carnal as the candidates we supported, justifying our immature behavior by quoting verses from the Bible.

Other factors that have contributed to many believers falling away are the effects of a compromised gospel (in other words, people have been hearing a faulty gospel message for decades, and the bad fruit has now ripened); the ubiquity of sinful temptation (as Jesus said, “Because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold” [Matt. 24:12, MEV]); questions about the relevance and authority of the Bible (why should we care about what this antiquated book has to say?); and questions about divine morality,

especially the issue of hell (as Chapter 9 in my book asks, “How Could a Good God Send Billions of People to Hell?”).

Strengthening Our Faith

But here’s the good news. With every problem, there is a solution. With every question, there is an answer. And I truly believe that if we seek God and His truth with all our heart and soul and mind, with humility and patience, we will be richly rewarded. Our faith will become even stronger!

As I wrote in the last chapter of *Why So Many Christians Have Left the Faith*:

“Is it healthy to question what you believe? Is it good to examine the sources of your faith? Or is this a dangerous practice, a matter of opening up a Pandora’s box of doubts and questions, even to the point of giving place to the devil? It all depends on the motivation of your heart and the types of questions you are asking.

If your intent is to mock, undermine and destroy, likely you have already made up your mind, and you can easily find confirmation for your cynicism and scorn.

“Truth is our friend, not our enemy.”

But if you have honest questions or serious doubts and if your intent is to get to the truth, whatever the cost or consequence, then asking these questions can be healthy indeed. Your heart and mind can be in harmony.”

As for my own life experience, I love scholarship. I love critical study. When I was in college, I studied Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Latin, German and Yiddish. In graduate school, I added Ugaritic, Aramaic, Syriac, Akkadian (meaning, Babylonian and Assyrian), Phoenician and French, plus some other, smaller dialects. I love to dig deep when I study!

I have written commentaries on Jeremiah and Job, and I’m currently working on a commentary on Isaiah. My doctoral dissertation focused on *one Hebrew*

word. So yes, I find great value in serious academic study, and that includes asking critical, difficult questions. And over the decades my studies have increased, not decreased, my confidence in the veracity of God’s Word.

But when the Lord asks me to trust Him, it’s because He has proven Himself faithful to me over these decades. My trust is based on relationship, first and foremost. And when I fall on my face and worship Him, it is because of His beauty, holiness and goodness rather than because of an insight I gleaned about biblical Hebrew.

Yet I’m not asking you to believe just because I do. I’m not asking you to take my word. I’m asking you to join me on a journey of discovery, of truth, of reality, whether you’re a solid believer who can’t relate to doubt or someone who tried to believe but are riddled with doubt. I have written my book to help and strengthen you. I also invite you to explore the contents of the *AskDrBrown.org* website, where I address many of the most pressing issues of the day. There are thousands of hours of free resources waiting for you there.

I am 100% sure that God is absolutely faithful and that His Word is absolutely trustworthy—and I say that having experienced the tragedies and pains of life, like everyone else who has lived long enough, and having been challenged for decades by brilliant rabbis and professors and activists and nonbelievers of every stripe.

But that is my story, and you have your own. My prayer is that in the days ahead, as you seek the Lord and pursue the truth earnestly, He will bring you to a deeper place of certainty in your faith so that you become secure in Him, enjoying the Lord with both heart and mind, thriving rather than living in doubt and pain.

That can be a reality for you too! ◀

MICHAEL L. BROWN, Ph.D., is founder and president of *AskDrBrown Ministries* and the president of *FIRE School of Ministry*. The author of over 40 books, he is host of the syndicated daily talk radio show *The Line of Fire*. His syndicated columns appear on leading websites, and his scholarly publications range from biblical commentaries to articles in Semitic journals. He has served as an adjunct or visiting professor at seven seminaries and debated gay activists, agnostic professors and Orthodox rabbis on university campuses.

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CECE WINANS

Believe, Time to *Expect*

The first Black female GMA artist of the year, CeCe Winans has lived a career blessing the body of Christ—and is believing for a new season of revival

BY RENEE DELORIEA

Mega-influencer CeCe Winans is challenging people across the world to believe for what may seem impossible. “Believe for It,” the title song of her album by the same name, has become a theme song for a post-pandemic world recovering from widespread loss, division and discouragement.

The “Believe for It” song is both a soulful prayer and a bold proclamation of faith, as the most-awarded and highest-selling female gospel artist of all time sings, “Move the immovable/ Break the unbreakable/ God, we believe/ God, we believe for it/ From the impossible, we’ll see a miracle/ God, we believe/ God, we believe for it.”

The song and album release in March 2021 spawned a rapidly expanding community of people daring to believe for breakthrough and breakout in their own lives, in their communities and around the world. The song that was released as the second single from her first-ever live album took multiple Grammy and GMA Dove nominations and awards in 2021 and 2022.

Describing the call to faith and action conveyed by the original song she wrote during the pandemic in 2020 with Kyle Lee, Mitch Wong and Dwan Hill, the 58-year-old says it’s time to stand strong and move forward.

“It’s time to believe that you can make it, to believe that you can achieve what is in your heart,” she tells viewers of *The Story Behind the Song*. “It is time to believe for wholeness and healing for yourself, your family and your community. It’s time to believe for unity.”

Christian ministry leaders and music producers alike concur that a lifetime of earning widespread credibility as a woman of faith and prayer paved the way for Winans to serve as a messenger of hope during these trying times. “In music and in life, she has been taken to places in God where most people have not been—and yet she leads in incredible humility,” says Lee, co-writer and producer of “Believe for It.”

Making History

Priscilla Marie Winans, “CeCe,” is making history. In the ’80s and early ’90s, as part of the brother-sister duo BeBe and CeCe, she was one of the first Black artists to receive significant airtime on contemporary Christian radio stations.

A solo artist since 1996, she became the most-decorated Grammy gospel singer of all time in 2022 and fourth most Grammy-awarded woman of all time. To date, she has 15 Grammy Awards and 31 Grammy nominations, making history again in 2022 when she became the first Black female gospel singer in history to receive the GMA Dove Award for Artist of the Year.

She brought the GMA Dove Awards’ audience to tears when she sang a portion of “To God Be the Glory” in lieu of an acceptance speech. “I was in shock, and the only thing that flooded my mind was, ‘To God be the Glory,’ and so that’s the only thing that came out,” Winans says, pointing out that she had received three other GMA Dove Awards the previous

year and was surprised when her name was called for both Song of the Year and Artist of the Year.

“Well, I think it’s a step, a step in the right direction,” she says in an interview with Religion News Service, speaking about the state of the contemporary Christian music industry and her status as the first Black female soloist to receive Artist of the Year honors. “And hopefully, it’s encouraging to see more diversity in our industry occupying all the different levels of award.”

“I know there are extremely talented young people who are coming after me that will deserve that spot,” Winans adds. “And I feel good about that door being open so others can walk through as well.”

Her remarkable award achievements also include 28 Dove Awards, 16 Stellar Awards, seven NAACP Image Awards and many others. As a duo, BeBe and CeCe Winans’ awards include three Grammy Awards, nine Dove Awards, two NAACP Image awards, two Soul Train Music Awards, numerous Stellar Awards, three gold albums and one platinum album.

Imparting Hope

After the song and album release, “Believe for It” rapidly became the prayer and declaration of a wide cross-section of people who were still suffering after the pandemic.

“It’s bigger than a record, it’s a theme that I really want people to embrace—people who believe in God and people who might not ever go to church,” Winans says. “I believe that hope is needed, and I want to impart this into the hearts of people everywhere.”

The timing and the message created explosive demand for both the song and the album. “‘Believe for It’ is a song with a message that is meant for the time in which we live,” says Howard Dukes of SoulTracks.

The album, a compilation of 12 tracks that highlight some of the biggest songs in Christian music today, quickly rose to the No. 1 spot on four different Billboard gospel charts and remained there for seven consecutive weeks. Winans’ celebration of its popularity maintains her focus on the

Good News. “I celebrate reaching Top 10 and millions of views the videos have received—not because it elevates me in any way—but because the songs promote the truth of the gospel and the hope we have in Christ,” she says.

By August 2021, the U.S. on-demand streams for the song surpassed the 13 million cyber count, and the album was over 41 million and increasing daily, reports

“I was in shock, and the only thing that flooded my mind was, ‘To God be the Glory,’ and so that’s the only thing that came out.”

the online gospel music platform Coghive. “People were ready to celebrate, they were ready to worship again, they were ready to praise God,” Winans tells RNS about why the time was right for “Believe for It.” “I believe this record really encouraged people to believe again, to take out their faith, to wipe off their dreams.”

A 20-city concert tour—her first in over a decade—in the fall of 2022 and carrying over into the spring of 2023, exceeded Winans’ expectations. During an informal sit-down with her mother, who lives in Detroit, and her daughter, Ashley Rose Phillips, on the 2022 *CeCe Winans Generations Thanksgiving Special*, she describes the concert appearances as powerful times of worship.

“Everybody came out ready for worship,” she says. “It wasn’t a concert; it was a service. I was worried my voice was going to go out. But in most of the concerts everybody sang the songs for me. ... My prayer is that the Lord would be glorified, and that the world would come to know who He is.”

The rallying message that reached across multiple communication channels has birthed, ignited and expanded a “Believe for It” community. “Praying for your neighbor with the same intensity that you are praying for yourself” is connecting an online community of people who are cautiously stepping out of isolation.

The BFI community defines “neighbor” as anyone around the world who is in need. The expansion of the word’s meaning hit home for her during the pandemic, Winans

says, telling AARP Sisters that “love others better” is one of her personal goals during this new season.

Belief for healing, family reconciliation, freedom from addiction, financial breakthrough, world peace, holy boldness, restored marriages and hope are the primary concerns posted by online followers who respond to Winans’ invitation to “Tell us what you are believing for and join the CeCe Winans #BelieveForItChallenge Family.” One of many messages of hope Winans shares through BFI communication channels is that you can expect life to get better when you say yes to God’s will.

Passing on Faith

Generations, a regularly scheduled program hosted by Winans and launched on YouTube in 2021, was inspired by the relationships she forged with young adults at Nashville Life Church. She and her husband of 38 years, Alvin Love II, founded the church in 2010, watching it grow from a Bible study in their home to a multigenerational, multiethnic church of more than 400 attendees. The husband-and-wife pastoral team discovered that people, especially young adults, needed parental figures who model and guide them in the ways of the Lord.

Generations, with its welcoming set design and heartwarming tone, allows Winans to model healthy home life, where important issues and concerns are discussed in a casual and loving way. She speaks from her life experience and commitment to pass on her faith to the next generation.

Her daughter, who lives in Nashville with her husband, Kenny Phillips, is a regular program guest. The couple married in September 2017 and welcomed their first child, son Wyatt Thomas Phillips, in 2020.

During the show’s 2022 Thanksgiving special, Phillips shared the news of another pregnancy, announcing, “It’s a girl!” and that her due date is in spring 2023. Winans, the soon-to-be grandmother of two, was visibly elated. She often describes how her grandson is one of the greatest highlights of her life.

“Passing on faith, while a sacred responsibility, is not complicated,” Winans writes

in her book released in November 2022, *Believe for It: Passing on Faith to the Next Generation*. Although she has written three other books over the years, it has been more than 10 years since her last release. A book tour, including interviews on nationally syndicated television talk shows, has generated excitement about believing for breakthrough and passing on faith to others.

“As we take what has been handed down to us and walk in relationship with Christ, we naturally invite others to experience the Lord’s goodness,” she writes. “We set the blueprint they can follow. As they watch us go through the ups and downs of life, biblical principles come alive.”

Encouraging Families

At first glance, one may assume that the Winans family of legendary music artists, known to many as “The First Family of Gospel,” was the product of a long generational line of seamless Christian bliss. CeCe was the first girl born after seven boys in a family of 10 children, all of whom were raised under the watchful eye and loving encouragement of a family and church that soaked them in the Word of God and created a safe harbor for them.

What may come as a surprise, however, is that parents David and Delores Winans were both from broken homes. In fact, David’s parents were never married, and when he was born, he received the last name of his mother, Laura Glenn.

The change of last name for the nuclear family of 12 from Glenn to Winans came about when, before he died, David Winans’ grandfather asked him to change his last name so that the Winans family name would “remain on this earth.”

Even though his father was not involved in his life, David was close to his grandfather and initiated the name change right away. CeCe was the first in the line of 10 children to be given the Winans name at birth, with her two younger sisters following suit. Their seven older brothers all became Winanses at the courthouse.

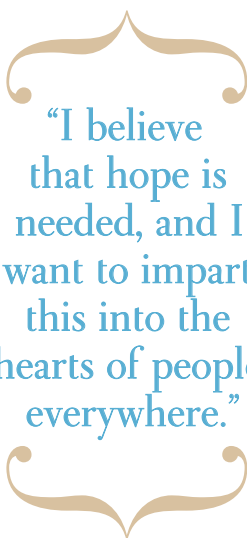
David “Pop” Winans was one of the founding fathers of American gospel music. He and Delores “Mom” Winans made music and attending the church his grandfather founded in Detroit, Michigan, a top priority in family life.

Early on, David Winans’ grandfather prophesied that his family would spread

the gospel around the world through singing. His prophecy was fulfilled through all of the children, and even their parents, individually or as various groups comprised of family members.

CeCe uses her own generational story to illustrate what can happen when two parents commit from the start of their marriage to keep Jesus Christ at the center of their home. During a recent sermon, she describes her mother’s fierce commitment to ensuring that her 10 children were in every church service each week.

“I saw my mother cook and clean and work outside the house and [still] make sure we were in Sunday school and church [on Sundays] and back again on Tuesdays and Fridays,” she says. “[She would say], ‘Bring your homework, sit in the back row. I don’t care if you go to sleep, the presence



“I believe
that hope is
needed, and I
want to impart
this into the
hearts of people
everywhere.”

of God will saturate your body even when you’re unconscious.”

CeCe also shares stories of her own ups and downs as a wife and mother to encourage parents, grandparents and mentors to be faithful to use all of the spiritual and biblical tools that are readily available to them. “No matter the condition of your family of origin or your current situation, passing on faith to the next generation is possible,” she says. “Establishing a loving, faithful household centered on Christ is not out of reach!”

Sharing Struggles

CeCe’s humility and transparency also extend to speaking publicly about her personal struggle when her son, Alvin Love III,

was in a crisis of faith and moved to Australia, presumably to get as far away from his parents and their church as possible.

In an interview with Premier Gospel, she says her heart broke when her eldest son decided to break away. Maternal alarm bells had already been going off before he left, she says, noting her concern about things he was saying and some of the young people with whom he was associating.

CeCe would later learn that before he left, her son had told God that he would go with whomever got to him first—either God or the devil. Thankfully, God intervened. The person who picked him up from the airport in Sydney was enrolled in Bible college and bubbling over with stories of miraculous encounters with God.

“I spent time on my knees crying to God to bring [Alvin III] back home,” she says. “Then one day, I got a call from my son in Melbourne, Australia. He had encountered God and wanted to let me know that God was real.”

After hearing the testimonies and experiencing the presence of God in a fresh way himself, Love III returned home after eight months with renewed faith and passion to share the gospel with others. More than a decade later, at 36, he serves as the lead pastor of the church his parents founded.

The day before marrying his bride, Jasmine San Martin, on Nov. 12, 2022, he celebrated her on Instagram in a way that exhibited his faith behind his choices: “Tomorrow, I get to laugh with this beauty for the rest of my life. Her ability to hear from God and obey Him when it’s hard is my favorite thing about her.”

CeCe and her husband, now 71, are still active in ministry alongside their son at New Life Church. In fact, she refers to her husband as her “pastor at home” and to her son as her “pastor at church.” In a Mother’s Day message, she describes her husband as a man who loves her and her children well.

“My pastor at home, after 38 years, I still like the guy,” she says. “He lives up to his name [Love], and I am so grateful that I have a husband who has loved me well and continues to love me and loves his children. And so I honor you.” ◀

RENEE DELORIEA is a freelance writer based in Nashville, Tennessee. The second leg of CeCe Winans’ “Believe For It Tour” kicks off Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023.

| DELIVERANCE



DRIVING THE DELIVERANCE MOVEMENT FORWARD

Pioneer Alex Pagani champions the future
of today's deliverance movement

BY ALEXANDER PAGANI

Pioneers are among the first to explore or settle a new country or area, develop or be the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge or activity. They forge the roadway that helps a generation reach its destination. Though they are usually unnoticed and rarely acknowledged, pioneers are always remembered when it's time to move forward. For the glory of God, I share the story of how God has raised me up as a pioneer in the new era of social deliverance, one of the first to use social media and technology to reach this generation with the gospel and set the captives free.

Throughout the Old Testament when God wanted to initiate something new, He would raise up a pioneer who had the personality, boldness and zeal to carry it out. From the conquests of Joshua to the liberation of the children of Israel from Egypt by Moses to Abram leaving his father's house to go to a land God would show him, the list continues, adding King David, Deborah, the prophet Samuel and others.

This blueprint of the pioneer became part of God's template of change. The pioneer forged a path so heaven could send the change (new era) the children of Israel needed. Could God in His sovereignty show up and bring the shift required? Of course. But even with the advent of His Son Jesus Christ, who would also usher in a new era, He chose first to send a forerunner—for one primary purpose: to prepare the way of the Lord.

"Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, 'Clear the way through the wilderness for the

Lord! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!" (Isa. 40:3, NLT).

"But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland" (Isa. 43:18-19).

Notice the connection in the preceding verse. God wants to do something new. He raises up a pioneer or trailblazer who has the courage to initiate that new era, often unnoticed and unthanked, though honored by heaven above all others: "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. 11:11a). Pioneers, pathfinders and trailblazers are the brave individuals who carry the mindset of the final frontier, pushing to the limit of understanding or achievement in a particular area to thrust a generation forward into a new era.

All great revivals, reformations and eras throughout history were pioneered by one or more people who gave their lives to initiate it and paid a heavy price to carry it. History has shown us the wisdom of placing special honor on these individuals. Without them, the body of Christ would not have progressed along a particular path where the Lord wanted us to go.

A Global Movement

During the pandemic, when everyone was on forced lockdown in their homes, and the media was spewing out all the COVID fear, an increase of demonic activity hit both the world and



“The ministry of deliverance on digital platforms is a juggernaut that can’t be stopped.”

individual homes. Demonic spirits of fear, anxiety, worry and phobia were released, but because God had led me to prepare the way, digital deliverance ministries arose to take social media by storm. Today, the ministry of deliverance on digital platforms is a juggernaut that can’t be stopped.

What started out as one man’s quest to pioneer deliverance on all digital platforms has now become a global movement involving multitudes who are spearheading the era of digital deliverance with God’s blessing. Online ministries such as those of Isaiah Saldivar, Vlad Savchuk, Mike Signorelli, Art Montgomery, Amazing Church Global, Jason and Sonia Welsh, Nigel Lewis, Daniel Adams, Jenny Weaver and more have willingly embraced the marks of carrying the cross of digital deliverance and taking this gospel of the kingdom to social media.

Not only have these ministries responded to the call to be part of this digital deliverance era, but others are also taking the marks of this anointed ministry.

“From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus” (Gal. 6:17, MEV). What are these marks that the apostle Paul mentions? For him, they were physical scars (lashes) that he received during many of his missionary

journeys through Asia Minor. In the book of 2 Corinthians, we find him describing these scars in detail: “Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches,” (2 Cor. 11:24-28, NLT).

We can see that Paul was justified in saying that he bore on his body the marks, indicators of the price he paid to carry the gospel to the Gentiles but especially to his fellow Jews. The ministry of deliverance is no different. The average American evangelical church rejects the idea of a Christian needing deliverance, vehemently opposing it from the pulpit and

through social media pages.

The call to become a deliverance minister, both in person and online, is not a light one; to embrace this ministry, you must have heard from God. Let’s take a look at the marks that come along with this unique calling.

The Mark of Theological Conflict

This conflict was the hardest for me to overcome, as it dealt with my theological worldviews, which were shaped by my ministerial upbringing in denominationalism and Bible school. The idea that a Christian might need deliverance from the demonic after being saved was far-fetched, and according to my Bible school training, the concept of a Christian having a demon was heresy. Due to the fear of doctrinal error or the potential risk of steering others into error, this inner conflict was the hardest to overcome.

I began my ministry with such opposition to deliverance that I spent the first part of my 19 years as a pastor preaching against the ministry of deliverance, calling all deliverance ministries “sensational” and “fanatical.” Not until a surge of porn circulated among the male membership of my church, along with my own season of struggle to get free from porn, did I consider the possibility that this sexual perversion running rampant among us might have a demonic root. The men engaged in this battle loved Jesus and were obviously saved, but they struggled with porn in such a way that it seemed to go beyond the threshold of the flesh.

What was I to do? As any good pastor would in moments like these, I encouraged my church to pray more and fast more. But ultimately, even those sacred rituals didn’t work. In a moment of frustration, I cried out, “Lord, I’m doing everything right as a pastor. What am I doing wrong that so many people in our church still seem bound? I don’t know what else to do or how to help them.”

Just like that, a still, small voice said, “The ministry of deliverance.”

That’s when God worked a change in me. *What’s the worst that can happen? If deliverance isn’t from God, nothing will change*, I thought.

With this “What do we have to lose?” mindset, I decided to explore the ministry of deliverance, and to my surprise, demons

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LOCKE

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PAGANI

ISAIAH
SALDIVAR

VLADIMIR
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MIKE
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COME OUT IN JESUS NAME

THE MOST IMPORTANT AWAKENING IN CHURCH HISTORY HAS BEGUN

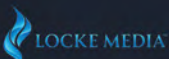
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began to manifest and come out of my church members. Without any formal training and operating on pure trust in the Holy Spirit, my theology shifted to embrace the ministry of deliverance.

Others who seek to embrace this ministry will find that the theological conflict is the first battle they face and the first mountain they must overcome. It is also the first way to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him, denying your theological preferences and traditions.

The Mark of Church Conflict

The second conflict is the one that will hurt the most. Many of my ministerial colleagues whom I had known for years, as well as members of my church, whom I had helped receive Christ as Savior, verbalized their public disagreement with my new embrace of the ministry of deliverance. Various leaders and other members threatened me with resignation, and many left the church.

During this time, others not only left the church but also called their former pastor a heretic. A number of my ministerial colleagues criticized me and disconnected from years of friendship.

God reminded me of the story of Jesus in Mark 3:20-22. When He entered a house to teach, His family stood outside trying to stop Him from teaching and saying, “He is beside Himself” (v. 21). The fear of public ridicule on their family dominated them; the Bible also says that Jesus’ own brothers “did not believe in Him” (John 7:5). The Mark 3 passage adds that the scribes even accused Him of being demon-possessed: “and by the ruler of the demons He casts out demons” (v. 22).

If you intend to embrace the ministry of deliverance, you must realize that the church will not agree with you, and many who are zealous may even publicly resist you. This resistance will hurt. This same type of resistance also marked the ministry of Jesus, who was crucified by the Pharisees, the “church folks” of that era.

Through the years, many videos by well-meaning Christians who consider me a heretic for pioneering this digital deliverance era have appeared on social media. Although some people have still not seen or experienced the fruit of the deliverance ministry, the movement has become bigger than the religious restraints set up against it.

Christians from all denominational backgrounds are seeking out deliverance ministers, and thousands are getting set free.

Religion in the church will never stop Jesus from setting the captives free. This is why, throughout the years, I’ve encouraged believers to search the Scriptures for themselves regarding this important topic. Countless numbers have been strengthened far beyond the persecution of their Christian brothers and sisters.

The Holy Spirit is highlighting the ministry of deliverance right now and is pushing back the religious Sanhedrin who want to control this move of God but can’t stop it. The presence of God is not limited to church tenets or denominational bylaws, although those things aren’t bad in themselves. It is not being stopped by those who want to maintain the church

A quote graphic with a dark background and light text. The text reads: "Without any formal training and operating on pure trust in the Holy Spirit, my theology shifted to embrace the ministry of deliverance." The quote is enclosed in large quotation marks.

status quo. There is a hunger for the power of the Holy Spirit, and that hunger is causing an outbreak of freedom from the religious restraints.

“But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers to the city officials, crying out, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,” (Acts 17:6).

The Mark of Demonic Conflict

I taught the first Bible study on the topic of demons at my church on a Tuesday evening. That night, I went to bed, and around 3 or 4 a.m., I heard a noise in the living room. When I went to investigate, I saw no one, but a candle flew across the room.

Immediately, a voice cried out, “Don’t open a can of worms you can’t handle. Don’t come into this realm of deliverance.” It startled me, but also served as a notice that the kingdom of darkness had sent me a personal message.

Anyone venturing into the ministry of

deliverance will be marked by the backlash of demonic resistance. There will be no way around it. I don’t mean demons will physically attack you, but you will experience a heightened awareness of unusual circumstances that will have no natural explanation.

The kingdom of darkness will find a way to accuse, harass, torment or simply annoy you with circumstances beyond your control, both to discourage you from pursuing this sacred ministry and also to distract you from being effective. But we have been given a promise in Scripture that no weapon formed against us will prosper (see Isa. 54:17). Jesus also promised believers, “Look, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all power of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

From the beginning, the demonic backlash came strong and still persists against my ministry, as well as many attacks against other online deliverance ministries that have just started. But as they stay committed to the Word of God, they all will persevere. As the Bible says: “And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matt. 7:25, NKJV).

A final word: “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil” (Eph. 6:10-11, NLT).

The era of digital deliverance began in 2012 and continues today. Along with others, I have opened the path and laid the groundwork for the highway upon which others now walk. From this point on, we will see the greatest revival the world has ever seen. And it all begins with deliverance, which will lead to reformation and end in revival. By the grace of God, the digital deliverance era is here to stay. ◀

ALEXANDER PAGANI is the founder of *He Is Risen Tabernacle in the Bronx, New York City*. He is an apostolic Bible teacher with keen insight into the realm of the demonic, generational curses and deliverance. A sought-after conference speaker, he has been involved in over 400 deliverance sessions. He has appeared on various television networks, including TBN and The Word Network. He currently lives in New York City with his wife, Ibelize, and their sons, Apollos and Xavier.

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The day pointed to by prophets from the time of Moses,
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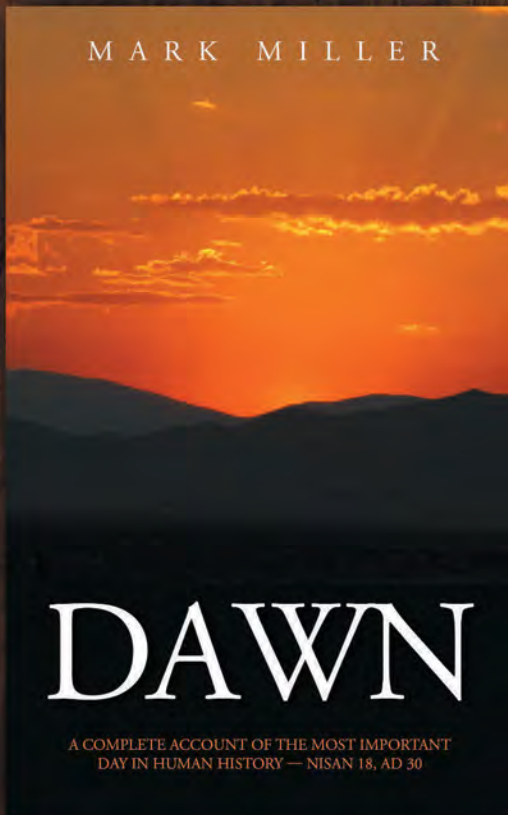
A day when all of humanity hung in the balance.

A day when the claims of Jesus would be proven true or a lie.

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MARK MILLER



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A PURPOSE for RESTORATION

Taking hold of new rules for Spirit-filled believers,
to land a peaceful CounterPunch

BY FLOYD G. BROWN

As a child, I received one of the greatest gifts parents can ever give: I was raised in a home with parents who took their Christian faith seriously. This has had a lasting impact on my life and played a great part in my role for the past several years as founder of *WesternJournal.com*, helping renew the blessings of liberty for the current generation.

My grandfather was a man of great faith. In May of 1936, he set sail for Indonesia as a missionary and spent four years on the mission field. My father, the oldest of his five children, was raised in church.

He met my mom at Sunday school, they were married in 1959, and I was born in 1961. I accepted Christ as my Savior in 1968 at the age of 7 in my grandfather's dining room. On my knees, I prayed the sinner's prayer.

It is a blessing to come from a family that serves Christ over generations. My parents serve Jesus, I serve Jesus, my three children serve Jesus, and now my grandchildren are being blessed by growing up in a Christian home.

As I look back, I'm grateful that for the first 18 years of my life, whenever the church doors opened, my entire family was there. This has accumulated and accrued in me as a tremendous blessing.

But life isn't a fairytale; life is a journey. It is only when I look back that I see with clarity that God has directed my paths and given me unbelievable opportunities to fulfill His purpose for me.

In an amazing act of providence, I was able to meet Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1976, when I was 15 years old.

As a result, I became intensely involved in conservative politics.

Politics Without Fulfillment

Throughout high school, I volunteered on many campaigns. During college, I was able to secure my first paid job in politics, becoming the youth coordinator for the 1980 Reagan campaign in Oregon. During that campaign, I met many people who became lifelong friends and mentors. I have counted among them such amazing people as Attorney General Ed Meese, Judge Bill Clark, Office of Personnel Management Director Don Devine and other key Reaganites. As a result, I had a string of jobs in the '80s and '90s that anyone in politics would envy.

In 1983, I moved to Washington, D.C., and was appointed executive director of the United States International Youth Year Commission. I traveled the globe representing the youth of America for the Reagan administration. In 1987, I was made Midwest political director of the Bob Dole for President campaign. The next year, I was appointed political director of Americans for Bush, a major independent expenditure campaign. I served as leader of the team that created what is called the "Willie Horton ad," which *Time* magazine called one of the top 10 political ads of all time.

continued »





Immediately after Bush was elected, I founded a political organization that is today a household name and, to the far Left, a curse word: Citizens United. In 1992, I wrote the bestselling book, *Slick Willie: Why America Cannot Trust Bill Clinton*. My work investigating the Clintons earned me their eternal enmity. They ordered the wiretapping of my phone, and the tapes were played during the *CBS Evening News*.

By 1996, I was back with Bob Dole and ended up helping write the 1996 Republican platform. That same year, I accepted a job back in the Pacific Northwest with Hot Talk 570 KVI, the No. 1-rated radio station in Seattle, and I worked as a talk show host for five years. In 2001, I moved to Santa Barbara, California, and took over the historic preservation of the Reagan Ranch.

During this 20-year period, I had some amazing jobs, but spiritually, I was in a desert. Great and exciting jobs didn't satisfy my heart. I was always planning and striving for my next big position. The fulfillment that can only come with an on-fire, sold-out relationship with Jesus Christ was, to say it nicely, put on hold.

I attended church, I was a Christian, but I was living for myself. I was selfish, I was self-centered, and God was going to give me some real hardships so I could learn to depend on Him—hardships I now see I needed.

Through adversity, I learned that if I slow down and listen, God speaks today, just as He has always spoken to His followers. He is the same today as He was yesterday. He never changes.

Trials With a Purpose

My wife, Mary Beth, and I will have been married 40 years this year. But several years ago, within a span of two years, trials and tribulations dramatically changed our lives. In January 2005, she was rear-ended in what at the time seemed to be a simple fender bender but caused her to have a nerve transplant surgery and unresolved pain to this day.

In April 2005, our son Patrick also experienced an auto accident. His was more serious, forcing him to homeschool for his last two years of high school and delay going to college for a year. He became addicted to the opioids prescribed to help

with the tremendous pain.

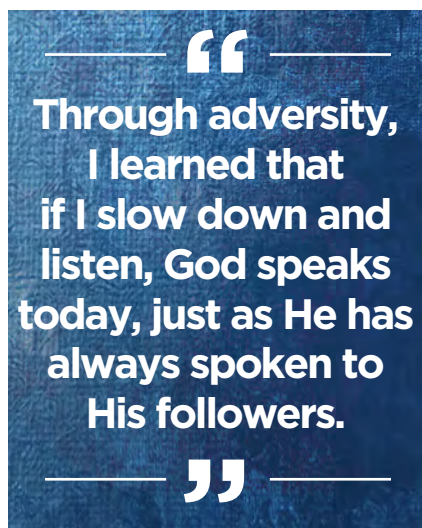
These family issues pushed me to make a career change, and I took a new job consulting with several clients. This allowed me to work remotely, and in early 2007, we left Santa Barbara to move closer to family in the Pacific Northwest.

As I watched my child debilitated by pain, I cried out to God for Patrick's healing. Jesus answered, and this is when our miracles began. The trials didn't stop, but the miracles started.

Patrick was able to secure a surgery and a spinal fusion at cervical 2/3. This stopped spinal fluid from leaking on his brainstem. As his doctors predicted, he saw his pain resolve six months later. We were able to get him off the pain meds that were stealing his life, and he headed to college in fall 2007.

Also, about this time, the 2008 financial crisis hit. I lost a large consulting contract, and I was forced to restructure my business. Money became an issue. Again, I cried out to God and in my crisis, He provided a miracle.

I had graduated from college in 1983 with a degree in economics and been an investor most of my adult life. Providen-



tially, I was asked to write a newsletter to help investors deal with the pain of the 2008 crisis. I then toured the country speaking at investment seminars and helping people rebuild their portfolios.

During this time, I also began doing what was at that time an innovation: I started my own blog. Obama had been recently elected, and I had plenty to write about during his term in office.

Every summer during his break from school, Patrick would rework my website, *WesternJournal.com*. He also suggested that I post my thoughts on a new platform called Facebook. Its traffic grew rapidly from 2009-2014, and my blog grew with it, transforming from a hobby to a business.

Then came 2012. I had been prone to back issues ever since I played high school basketball in the 1970s. In September 2012, I went with my wife to Costco and mishandled a heavy box. Almost immediately, in great pain, I became confined to bed, unable to walk. I visited my orthopedic doctor, and he recommended surgery, gave me pain medication and sent me home until I could get on the surgery schedule.

Two mornings later, I started coughing up blood and ended up in the ICU with a pulmonary embolism, caused by lying still in bed, waiting for surgery. I learned that two out of three PE cases end in death. But this was my next miracle: I lived, praise God. He spared me for a reason. Treatment for the PE meant I couldn't have surgery. Instead, I spent the next year in intensive physical therapy.

With each trial, my relationship with God was changing, growing, deepening. God was preparing me. He was walking with me. He was remaking me. Each time I cried out to God, He was answering and providing. My dependence on Him was growing. He was building my faith with every answer.

Movement With a Message

By 2016, Western Journalism had 40 million followers on Facebook. This led to content from our company appearing 11 billion times in the Facebook news feed that year. Our website had more than 1 billion views in 2016. That year, we became the fourth largest publisher on the Facebook platform.

Then Donald Trump was elected. Silicon Valley reacted with tech suppression of conservatives. New problems like shadow banning and social media censorship appeared. Despite our being at the point of the spear under tech suppression, God was faithful. With each Big Tech attack, Western Journalism built workarounds and found alternate news distribution outlets.

In 2017, we renamed the blog



Floyd Brown with wife, Mary Beth

“With each trial, my relationship with God was changing, growing, deepening.”

WesternJournal.com to recognize its growth from a blog to a full-blown news organization. By this time, we had opened a new headquarters outside Phoenix and employed 100 staff. Because of our success in fighting against tech suppression, we began helping others overcome the same problem.

But the miracles were not over. Two of our greatest challenges lay straight ahead.

In the spring of 2019, I took Mary Beth into the Mayo Clinic for a routine ultrasound, a procedure that was supposed to last half an hour. Three hours later, I was still waiting for her in the lobby. Doctors had found a tumor on her adrenal gland. A series of tests and surgery to remove the tumor soon followed. We held our breath. Would it be cancer?

Then we received the devastating news: Mary Beth had a rare cancer, difficult to treat, called adrenocortical cancer. The typical prognosis is five years until death, and the treatments are almost as horrible as the cancer. We traveled to Texas and MD Anderson Cancer Center for a second opinion on treatment options.

Instead, God had another miracle in mind. Soon after surgery, our pastor, Randy Vanesian, who didn't know about her illness, stopped in the middle of the Sunday service and came and sat next to

Mary Beth. He had the entire church pray for her in a giant intercessory prayer. God had told him to pray for her, and as he prayed, Mary Beth says she felt an electrical charge through her body. Against all odds, to this day, she is cancer-free.

I wish the story had stopped with cancer, but during the height of COVID, Mary Beth and I were on a walk near our home, and she collapsed unexpectedly. Her heart had gone into an abnormal rhythm. I took her to the emergency room; I was not allowed in because of all the COVID rules. The medical team shocked her heart back into rhythm; it had a problem at the aorta that required another surgery to repair. Fortunately, the Mayo Clinic brought a specialist from Rochester, Minnesota, down to Phoenix to operate. And praise God, once again, my wife was healed.

Joy in the Deep End

All these trials have changed me. Today, I have peace. I don't know what the future holds, but I know my loving Savior, Jesus, will be with me through it all.

Today, I hear His voice more than ever when I read His Word and when I pray. When He gives me an assignment, I try to act on it immediately. I have learned that the more I say yes to Him, the more peace and contentment I have. I live every day

for Him, and my prayer for you is to hear Him too. Just listen. He still speaks today through His Holy Spirit, just as He has throughout history.

He fills me up. He makes me happy. He is always there. My only regret is not releasing my life completely to Him earlier. If you haven't released to Him unconditionally, let me say this: The deep end of the pool is awesome.

I close with a verse from the first chapter of James: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3, NKJV). I can testify that this verse is true.

My latest assignment from God is to write a unique book that pulls together all I have learned in over 40 years of working around media and politics full time. Its title is *Counterpunch: An Unlikely Alliance of Americans Fighting Back for Faith and Freedom*.

Issue by issue, with the complicity of both parties, the fundamental ideas of our nation, including our faith and freedom, are being crushed for the benefit of powerful elites. Using everything from Big Tech to Big Government, these power brokers are silencing the voices of dissent, canceling those who refuse to fall in line.

Sadly, they are targeting the gospel of Jesus Christ, the message that, through the power of Jesus' blood, has transformed and renewed my own life. I have been called to fight back, and I want you to lock arms with me and fight back too as you discover how an unlikely group of Americans are doing just that in Jesus' name. I pray that you will join our movement to renew the blessings of liberty for the current generation. We purpose to extend America's golden years so we can reach more people than ever with the saving knowledge that only comes from following Jesus Christ.

We are binding together to seek renewal through peaceful pushback against the powerful forces seeking to undermine America. Will you join us? ◀

FLOYD BROWN is an American author, speaker and media commentator. He is the former CEO of USA Radio Network. Brown founded the conservative website *The Western Journal* in 2008. In his early career, Brown was a political consultant conducting opposition research for political campaigns.

Fresh Grace for Spreading the Gospel

THE CASE FOR GENUINE MODERN-DAY APOSTLES

BY J.D. KING

Can you believe that crazy preacher on the other side of town thinks he's an apostle? Imagine the absurdity!"

A ministry friend told me that the biggest problem in the body of Christ is self-proclaimed apostles and prophets. I didn't expect him to be so dismissive. Yet, noticing some of the extremes in the church, I understood where he was coming from. Many have gone off the rails. Although the foolishness from modern-day apostles is unsettling, this is not a reason to dismiss this ministry role altogether.

There was an evangelist visiting small Midwestern prayer groups, claiming to be the catalyst for the "next great awakening." Despite having only a handful of followers, he said he was an "apostle of the highest order." I don't want to

ridicule anyone, but this was an outrageous claim.

More recently, I noticed an article about a preacher insisting he won the "International Spiritual Wrestling Championship"—defeating Satan in a "closed-door match." This so-called apostle smiled as he clutched a massive title belt. Narcissism and bizarre displays can cause many to question whether apostles exist at all.

These kinds of antics infuriated my friend, and he came across a Bible passage to prove their ineligibility. In Acts 1:21-26, the earliest disciples replaced Judas Iscariot. According to their protocols, the replacement must be someone who walked with Jesus prior to the cross. My friend said, "That not only shuts down these fools, but anyone who claims to be a modern-day apostle."

The excesses are out of hand and must be rejected, but I



told my friend his stunted reading of Acts 1:21-26 didn't mean what he thought. This passage provided the criteria for the Twelve Apostles who walked closest with Jesus—not all apostles. Other New Testament Scriptures reveal a much broader view of this ministry. Apostles are still a vital part of the Christian mission in the 21st century.

Apostolic Identity

The modern church doesn't know what to think about apostles. A diligent search shows the Greek term for this role in early New Testament manuscripts is *apostolos*. It means “one commissioned” or “sent forth.” In ancient records, diplomats, admirals and royal envoys were called “apostles.” The word was used in some settings to designate a “warlike expedition sent out to sea to a distant contest.”

Nevertheless, when Jesus chose his “apostles” (Mark 3:14-15; Luke 6:13), He didn't have Roman culture in mind. Much of what He spoke about was rooted in the first-century Jewish experience. During that era, Jerusalem authorities assigned men to collect money, share correspondence and protect synagogues from threats. They were curators and community builders. In Hebrew, they were called *shaliach*, but in Greek, these figures became known as “apostles.”

Although the Greek background of “apostle” shouldn't be disregarded, the Jewish undertones deserve more consideration. I'm inclined to believe that the early Christian leaders were drawing from the idea of the *shaliach* when discussing apostles. Obviously, Jesus never wanted to appoint warlords.

I heard my friend say, “Apostles rule congregations and write Scripture.” I know most Christians have the same impression. Yet the Holy Spirit did not take most of these figures in this direction. Instead of governing and doctrinal formation, many of Jesus' ambassadors focused on building culture and revitalizing the faith communities.

Ministering in pairs (Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1), the

apostles established, empowered and protected the faithful (1 Cor. 4:19-21). They set things in order (Acts 11:19-26; 2 Cor. 10:8, 12:19) and focused on “strengthening the churches” (Acts 15:41b). They kept placing the glory of the gospel into a sustainable context.

Instead of being heavy-handed or burdensome, apostles worked to simplify—laying no additional yoke (Acts 15:6-11). They weren't “severe” in their “use of ... authority” (2 Cor. 13:10b, ESV). Acting like a father with his children (1 Thess. 2:11), they used their position for “building up and not for tearing down” (2 Cor. 13:10c).

My friend remained adamant about Scripture-writing as a key apostolic duty. I told him barely three out of the Twelve composed any part of the Bible, and their contributions represent less than 46% of the New Testament. Contrary to popular opinion, an apostle is not chiefly a scribe.

When discussing apostles, the spotlight also turns to signs, wonders and miracles. I recognize that this is a crucial part of New Testament Christianity. However, the charismatic gifts were not predominantly about securing a position or formulating doctrine. Instead, prophecy and the grace gifts provided “upbuilding and encouragement and consolation” (1 Cor. 14:3b). Individuals get caught up in the doctrinal (and sensationalistic) aspect of miracles, forgetting these mighty works often served the functional purpose of edifying people.

I also believe it is important to see that signs and wonders are a means of accomplishing the mission—not the mission itself. Paul declared, “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you ... *with* signs and wonders and mighty works” (2 Cor. 12:12, emphasis added). The apostolic sign wasn't the miracles but the curation of healthy, Christ-centered environments.

My friend couldn't seem to understand the distinctions between an appointment to an office and fathers recalibrating culture. I told him he would have a tough time finding an apostle focused on institutional authority in





“The modern church doesn’t know what to think about apostles.”

the Bible. Instead, they were concerned with helping restore the divine image in the people of God.

Biblical Apostles

Many in the 21st-century church are still grappling with questions about apostles. I heard a man recently ask, “Who has the credentials and the right to be sent out by God?” This is an important question.

Although many don’t see the apostolic role extending beyond those who witnessed Jesus’ Resurrection, the New Testament shows several apostles who couldn’t check all the boxes in Acts 1:21-26.

Consider, for example, the 72 disciples released to go on a mission in Luke 10:9. The literal Greek rendering in this passage is that these men were “apostled” (Greek: *aposteilen*). As Jesus sent them out, they were to pray for the sick and announce the kingdom of God—just as the Twelve did.

Looking beyond the Gospels, the word “apostle” was used to characterize the ministry of Matthias (Acts 1:23-26), Paul (1 Cor. 9:1-2) and several others:

- » Barnabas (Acts 14:4, 14; 1 Cor. 9:5-6).
- » Andronicus (Rom. 16:7).
- » Junia (Rom. 16:7).

- » Apollos (1 Cor. 4:6-13).
- » Titus (2 Cor. 8:23).
- » James (Gal. 1:19).
- » Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25).
- » Timothy (1 Thess. 1:1, 2:6).
- » Silas (1 Thess. 1:1, 2:6).

The term “apostle” is applied broadly in the New Testament, and many evangelicals feel a little out of sorts about this. In some Bible translations, lesser-known figures such as Junia, Andronicus and Epaphroditus are called “messengers”—though the Greek manuscripts plainly refer to each as *apostolos* (See Acts 14:14; Rom. 16:7; Phil. 2:25; 2 Cor. 8:3).

I heard an academic argue, “Readers must differentiate between big ‘A’ and small ‘a’ apostles. One is governmental, and the other is merely a missionary.” If that were true, surely Scripture would have clarified such a vital distinction. Theologians argue about many things, but there are no textual variations here.

Moreover, if the gift of apostle did not extend beyond the earliest and most closely aligned disciples, why bother to correct “false apostles” (2 Cor. 11:13a) and “super-apostles” (2 Cor. 11:5b)? If Paul was the only one who could legitimately maintain this position, why drag anything out? Similarly, John the Revelator says he “tested those who called

themselves apostles . . . and found them to be false” (Rev. 2:2). The fact that John used an evaluation process at all suggests more apostles would be coming.

Elsewhere in Scripture, we see the apostles will continue “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13b, NIV). Thus the apostolic role will endure until the church comes into its “full stature” (Eph. 4:13b, NET), shortly before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Modern-Day Apostles

I told my friend no one should take anything away from the Twelve. Peter and the earliest disciples were the nucleus—the gold standard for everything. Nevertheless, they were also only one part of a much wider range of ministry. When Paul mentions “all the apostles” (1 Cor. 15:7b), we get the sense that the apostolic team was sizable. Modern-day believers need a vision that is just as big.

I explained to my friend that while he went too far with his remarks, he had some valid points about the pride and shameless self-promotion. Some things taking place in the body of Christ are detestable.

Legitimate apostles are never self-appointed; they are activated “by the will of God” (2 Cor. 1:1b). One is “an apostle—not . . . through man, but through Jesus Christ” (Gal. 1:1b, MEV). This is not a fast track to fame, but a summons to go lower. Paul made this plain when he said apostles were least in the body of Christ—a “spectacle,” mere “fools for Christ’s sake” (1 Cor. 4:9b-10a, ESV).

People assume apostles are admired and loved, but often the opposite is true. They often face persecution, disrepute and slander. Some critics consider them the “world’s garbage, like the dirt everyone scrapes off their sandals” (1 Cor. 4:13b, HCSB).

If all of that is not disturbing enough, Paul suggests genuine apostles “share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings” (2 Cor. 1:5a, ESV). Many of the men and women sent out by the Lord are persecuted, and some will suffer martyrdom. One who is not willing to die

“The apostolic role will endure until the church comes into its ‘full stature’ shortly before the Second Coming of Jesus.”

for the gospel clearly isn't an apostle.

Paul pulls back the curtain on the apostleship, and he flips the script. When he says, “God has appointed in the church first apostles” (1 Cor. 12:28a), he isn't saying this position is first in importance; he is saying it is the first to break ground.

In another Bible passage, we see that “the household of God” is being “built on the foundation of the apostles” (Eph. 2:19b-20a). Instead of identifying this with the pinnacle of the pyramid, Paul is stressing what's underneath. Apostles are foundation builders. They're like the rebar and concrete that enable other magnificent things to be constructed.

A building's foundation is vital. Without suitably curated concrete and beams, an edifice will topple. What happens on the ground determines a structure's strength and span. Foundations aren't what capture the spotlight. Most who admire architecture are interested in movement and form. They pay attention to doors, windows and facades. The architects always hide the underpinnings of the building under the more striking features.

We must recognize that apostles are the floor rather than the ceiling. They provide the foundations we build on rather than the capstone we build under. Most of the time, apostles set the stage rather than occupy it. Instead of being preoccupied with themselves, they are obsessed with spiritual environments, biblical culture and the well-being of the people they serve.

I'm all for operating in signs and wonders. Yet, the most distinguishing mark of an apostle is fruit-bearing. When Paul's adversaries demanded his credentials, they expected miraculous displays or clever wordplay. Instead, the Corinthian believers were his “letter of recommendation” (2 Cor. 3:2-3). Paul

didn't emphasize knowledge, power or authority; instead, he highlighted his ability to produce something sustainable in others.

As my friend and I lingered in our dialogue, I told him he was disregarding the leaders God is elevating in this era. Most world-changers aren't writing books or talking about their exploits online. They are spiritual mothers and fathers who are modeling, guiding and establishing things.

Heidi Baker is a missionary who established an outpost in Mozambique alongside her husband, Rolland. Over the last 25 years, the Bakers' teams have helped launch 10,000 churches, fed thousands of orphans and led 1 million people to Jesus. Before meeting Heidi, I didn't know what to expect. Although I've been around several leaders who could dominate a room, she wasn't like any of them. This godly woman was devoid of anything but Jesus. Her selfless compassion and love for the Lord overwhelmed me.

I also met a Chinese underground church leader a few years back. He took a Bible course I taught. While in my class, he honored me at every turn. I later discovered he oversaw congregations and equipped leaders in his communist nation. I taught him, but he was the one who should have been teaching me.

Thinking about world-changers brings another man to mind: Haik Hovsepian Mehr (1945-1994), the former general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Iran. He formed a network of fellowships in this violent Islamic state. While I was working at the Assemblies of God denominational bookstore in 1995, I met his brother Edvard. With tears in his eyes, he spoke to me about Haik's recent martyrdom. This Iranian preacher was willing to die to bring the message of Jesus to his enemies. A genuine apostle is always willing to pay the ultimate price.

Dangerous Extremes

I reiterated to my friend that I didn't have much of a stomach for sensationalistic storytelling and the foolishness that flies under the banner of the apostle. Nevertheless, what troubles me more is how religious skeptics elevate their suspicions above the Bible. Apostles still exist, but many are blind to their contributions because “human traditions” (Mark 7:8b, NIV) are allowed to override the plain teaching of Scripture.

Many Christians are so desperate to bypass what's wrong that they lean too far the other way. They end up overlooking vital aspects of what God is doing. During an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the great revivalist John Wesley (1703-1791) said there was a danger in regarding the extraordinary works “too much.” But then he acknowledged that the greater danger was “to regard them too little; to condemn them altogether.” In many ways, I think that is where we are now.

In my conversation with my friend, I noticed he had become silent. I had picked up a phone call and other obligations arose, so we had to cut our talk short. Two days later, I was surprised when I received an email from him stating: “I'm not sure I'm willing to go as far as you in accommodating modern apostles, but you've given me plenty to think about.”

No one has all the answers, but if believers could get away from the stifling religion, politics and the narcissistic celebrity culture, we might find something marvelous in our midst. In this challenging era, the church needs a fresh infusion of grace. May the Lord help us rediscover the inexplicable beauty of mothers and fathers. Now more than ever, the church needs apostles. ◀

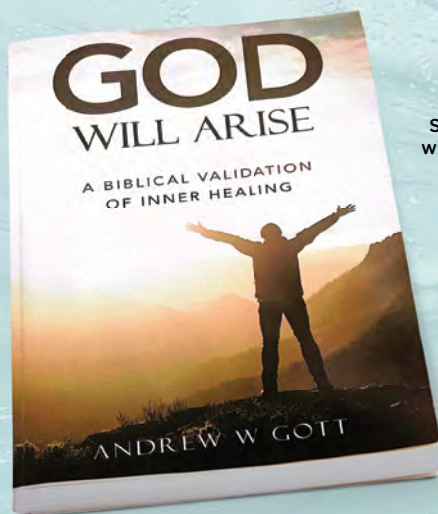
J. D. KING is an author, speaker and independent researcher. He was a supporting leader in the *Smithton Outpouring in the 1990s* and presently serves as a pastor at *Revive Church in Kansas City, Missouri*. King is the author of *Regeneration: A Complete History of Healing in the Christian Church and other nonfiction works*. You can find him online at jdking.net.

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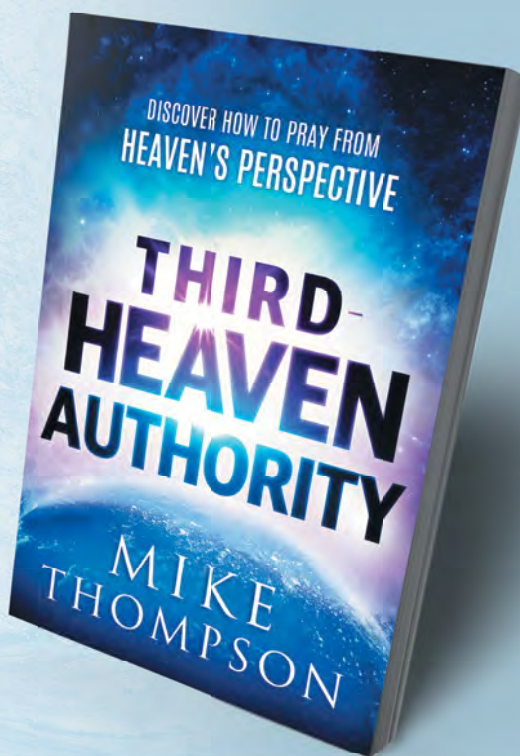
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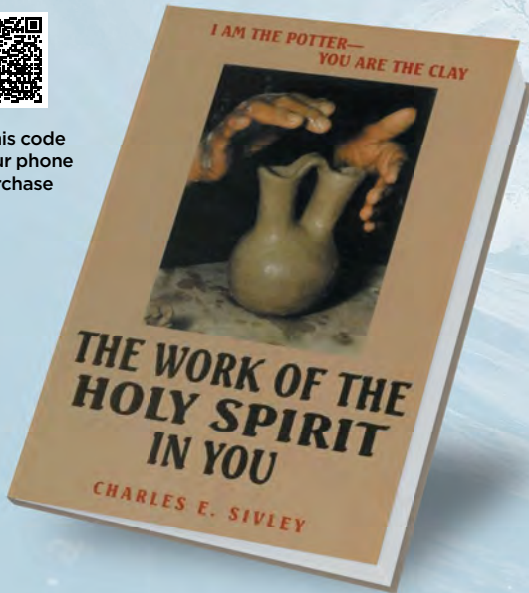
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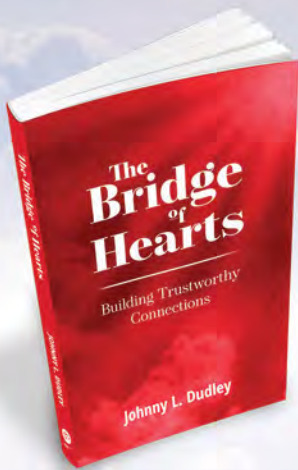


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MARCH

Mar. 1	Num. 28-29; Mark 8
Mar. 2	Num. 30-31; Mark 9
Mar. 3	Num. 32-33; Mark 10
Mar. 4	Num. 34-36; Mark 11
Mar. 5	Deut. 1-2; Mark 12
Mar. 6	Deut. 3-4; Ps. 36; Mark 13
Mar. 7	Deut. 5-6; Ps. 43; Mark 14
Mar. 8	Deut. 7-9; Mark 15
Mar. 9	Deut. 10-12; Mark 16
Mar. 10	Deut. 13-15; Gal. 1
Mar. 11	Deut. 16-18; Ps. 38; Gal. 2
Mar. 12	Deut. 19-21; Gal. 3
Mar. 13	Deut. 22-24; Gal. 4
Mar. 14	Deut. 25-27; Gal. 5
Mar. 15	Deut. 28-29; Gal. 6
Mar. 16	Deut. 30-31; Ps. 40; 1 Cor. 1

Mar. 17	Deut. 32-34; 1 Cor. 2
Mar. 18	Josh. 1-2; Ps. 37; 1 Cor. 3
Mar. 19	Josh. 3-6; 1 Cor. 4
Mar. 20	Josh. 7-8; Ps. 69; 1 Cor. 5
Mar. 21	Josh. 9-11; 1 Cor. 6
Mar. 22	Josh. 12-14; 1 Cor. 7
Mar. 23	Josh. 15-17; 1 Cor. 8
Mar. 24	Josh. 18-20; 1 Cor. 9
Mar. 25	Josh. 21-22; Ps. 47; 1 Cor. 10
Mar. 26	Josh. 23-24; Ps. 44; 1 Cor. 11
Mar. 27	Judg. 1-3; 1 Cor. 12
Mar. 28	Judg. 4-5; Ps. 39, 41; 1 Cor. 13
Mar. 29	Judg. 6-7; Ps. 52; 1 Cor. 14
Mar. 30	Judg. 8; Ps. 42; 1 Cor. 15
Mar. 31	Judg. 9-10; Ps. 49; 1 Cor. 16

APRIL

Apr. 1	Judg. 11-12; Ps. 50; 2 Cor. 1
Apr. 2	Judg. 13-16; 2 Cor. 2
Apr. 3	Judg. 17-18; Ps. 89; 2 Cor. 3
Apr. 4	Judg. 19-21; 2 Cor. 4
Apr. 5	Ruth 1-2; Ps. 53, 61; 2 Cor. 5
Apr. 6	Ruth 3-4; Ps. 64-65; 2 Cor. 6
Apr. 7	1 Sam. 1-2; Ps. 66; 2 Cor. 7
Apr. 8	1 Sam. 3-5; Ps. 77; 2 Cor. 8
Apr. 9	1 Sam. 6-7; Ps. 72; 2 Cor. 9
Apr. 10	1 Sam. 8-10; 2 Cor. 10
Apr. 11	1 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chr. 1; 2 Cor. 11
Apr. 12	1 Sam. 13; 1 Chr. 2-3; 2 Cor. 12
Apr. 13	1 Sam. 14; 1 Chr. 4; 2 Cor. 13
Apr. 14	1 Sam. 15-16; 1 Chr. 5; Matt. 1
Apr. 15	1 Sam. 17; Ps. 9; Matt. 2

Apr. 16	1 Sam. 18; 1 Chr. 6; Ps. 11; Matt. 3
Apr. 17	1 Sam. 19; 1 Chr. 7; Ps. 59; Matt. 4
Apr. 18	1 Sam. 20-21; Ps. 34; Matt. 5
Apr. 19	1 Sam. 22; Ps. 17, 35; Matt. 6
Apr. 20	1 Sam. 23; Ps. 31, 54; Matt. 7
Apr. 21	1 Sam. 24; Ps. 57-58; 1 Chr. 8; Matt. 8
Apr. 22	1 Sam. 25-26; Ps. 63; Matt. 9
Apr. 23	1 Sam. 27; Ps. 141; 1 Chr. 9; Matt. 10
Apr. 24	1 Sam. 28-29; Ps. 109; Matt. 11
Apr. 25	1 Sam. 30-31; 1 Chr. 10; Matt. 12
Apr. 26	2 Sam. 1; Ps. 140; Matt. 13
Apr. 27	2 Sam. 2; 1 Chr. 11; Ps. 142; Matt. 14
Apr. 28	2 Sam. 3; 1 Chr. 12; Matt. 15
Apr. 29	2 Sam. 4-5; Ps. 139; Matt. 16
Apr. 30	2 Sam. 6; 1 Chr. 13; Ps. 68; Matt. 17



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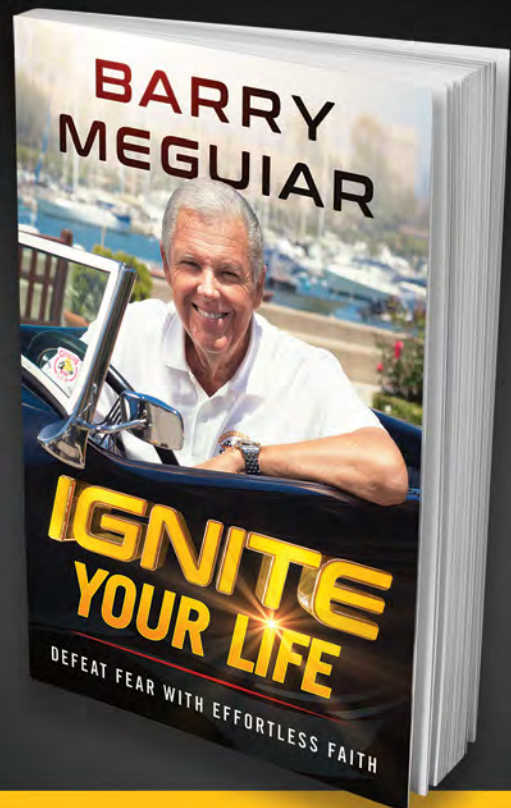


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A Tribute to My Friend and Mentor

When Jamie Buckingham died in 1992, he had been the conscience of the charismatic movement for 25 years. One of his platforms in his later years was *Ministry Today* magazine for pastors and leaders. His passing was a blow for those of us who loved him, and it forced us to find a new leader who would speak with authority to leaders in the charismatic community.

I reached out to Jack Hayford, who was already respected for the success of his Church on the Way and for speaking at many important venues. I'd known Pastor Jack, as we called him, since 1977, and he had written for the first issue of that magazine.

He agreed to fill in for 18 months as senior editorial adviser to help us out. That 18 months morphed into 18 years! The role gave Pastor Jack a platform to speak to leaders, and we worked with him over the years by sponsoring conferences and publishing several of his books.

But his role with our organization and with me personally went well beyond that of an editorial adviser. We developed a deep bond. Even though we were 2,000 miles apart, we saw each other regularly, and over the years, our families became friends. My wife and I considered him as giving spiritual oversight to our entire publishing/media organization. We talked over strategies and goals for Charisma Media with him, and he helped us discern God's will on how a publishing house can also have a leadership role in the body of Christ.

Over time, I found I could call on him to deal with tough situations. He counseled me personally about an unpleasant problem in my local church. Twice I flew to California just to talk to him face to face about difficult circumstances for which I needed counsel. We had that kind of relationship, so his passing comes as a big blow to me personally.

Even though his health had declined in the past few years, we were stunned when he died on Jan. 8, 2023. This issue was almost ready to go to press, but we decided to move our articles

to another issue and devote much of this issue to his memory. Other articles in this issue tell his story, much of which I was a part of, especially The King's Seminary and later, The King's University. I remember when he first told me how the Lord gave him the vision to establish a seminary. I was honored to be invited to serve on the founding board.

During those years, I saw Pastor Jack go through many transitions, such as turning over the pastorate of The Church on the Way to his son-in-law, Scott Bauer, who died suddenly at age 49 of a brain aneurysm. I remember when he took over the leadership of his denomination, the Church of the Foursquare Gospel, at a time it needed his strong, steady guidance. I knew his wife Anna well and flew to her funeral when she died of

cancer in 2017, and I remember him telling me a year later when he decided to marry Valarie Lemire.

Seeing him behind the scenes, navigating big issues and often dealing with difficult people, let me see how consistent he was. A man of vision, he never wavered in his faith and had a mentoring role with many other leaders. He always took time to focus on those

relationships, just as he did with me, and offer wise counsel.

He died as I was finishing my new book that releases in May, *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-World*. I had already quoted some of his writing in the book but decided to add this dedication:

I dedicate this book to the late Jack Hayford, who exemplified the Spirit-led life and was an example of integrity in the Pentecostal world more than anyone I've known. He was the editor of the Spirit-Filled Life Bible, wrote more than 500 songs, including "Majesty," and influenced me more than anyone else in the past 30 years.

Some national ministries have placed ads in this issue to publicly honor him. Charisma Media did too. We interviewed numerous well-known leaders to pay him tribute. I wanted to add here my personal thoughts of how he impacted Charisma Media and me. Due to his influence on my life, I'll never be the same. I pray I can have a fraction of that kind of influence on those around me.

"A man of vision, he never wavered in his faith and had a mentoring role with many other leaders."

Remembering Beloved Pastor Jack Hayford

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