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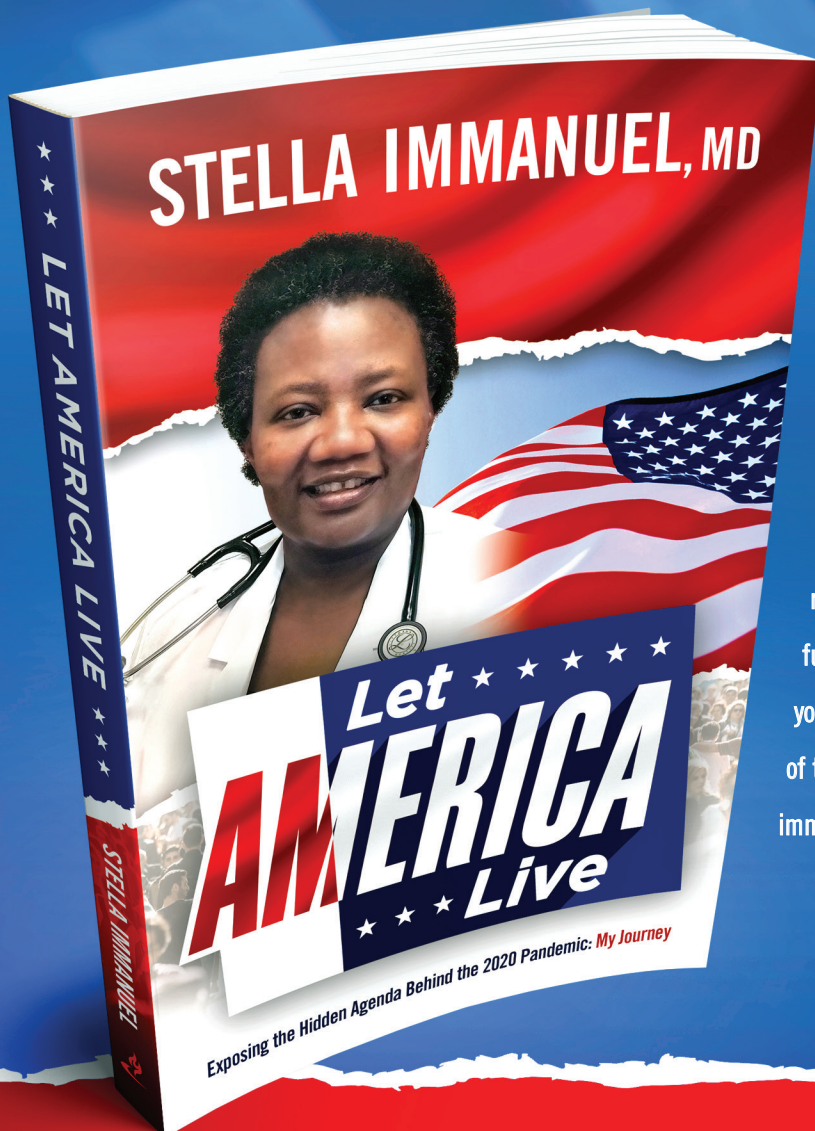


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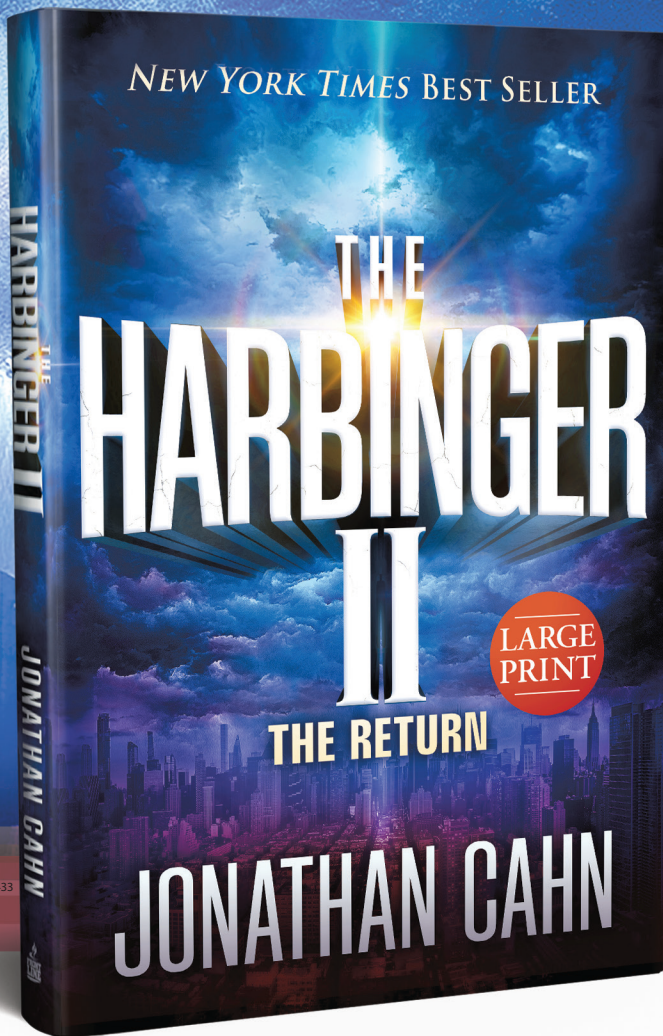
In Dr. Stella Immanuel's groundbreaking book *Let America Live*, you will discover the truth about hydroxychloroquine and the media's execution against the voices of reason so that a political agenda could be fulfilled. This riveting book will shake you as you realize what was hiding behind the curtain of the pandemic and motivate you to resist the imminent threats coming for your liberty.

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A beautiful message for such a time as this...

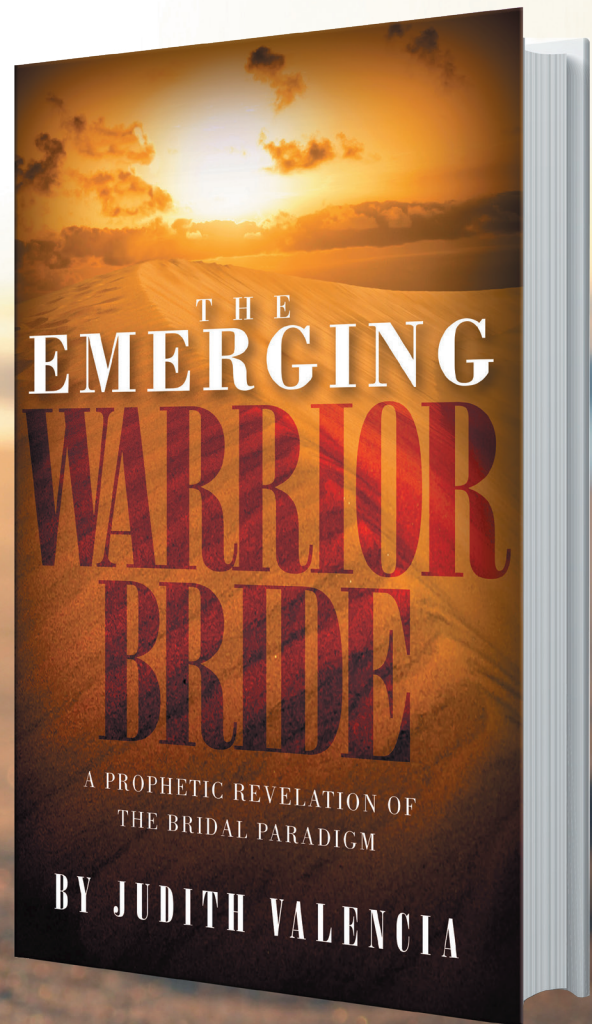
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"This book is written so beautifully. It captures your heart with the passion of Jesus. As you read it, it awakens your heart on a whole new level of just how precious and beloved you are to Him. It is a timely message as the time of His return draws nearer. He is coming back for a passionate Bride who is faithfully waiting for His embrace." Lynda Duke



"But the Lord has been training me by His Spirit in recent years."

—Becky Bodnarchuk

GEORGIAN BANOV IS A HERO

Thank you for the article on Georgian Banov ("The Apostle of Joy," *Charisma*, August 2021), he is a true hero of the faith. His escape from the horrors of communism to his baptism in the Holy Spirit and successful music career are inspiring.

James Partin, *Belle Isle, Florida*

FROM CHARISMAMAG.COM

I just finished reading your article on the "The Rise of the Righteous Rebel Alliance" (*charismamag.com*, Aug. 8, 2021) and wanted to say thank you so much for who you are and what you do! I loved the article, passed it to a close friend who listened and cried because it touched her heart. I am so grateful to have an excellent, Spirit-filled news source; you have been [a] source of hope and comfort and resources. YOU ROCK!!!

Ernest Leo Echelberger, *via email*

JESUS ARTICLES BY JOHNSON AND STRANG

I had to write a thank you to Jesus for the two articles in the August 2021 issue. I praise and thank our

good, gracious Messiah Jesus for Bill Johnson's well-written compassionate truth in "Born for Significance." I was raised in Methodist and Southern Baptist congregations and was taught these truths. But the Lord has been training me by His Spirit in recent years. This article was not just a timely reminder and encouragement but more like a big sweet bear hug from Poppa God to say "I see you, I feel for you and care for you... will you trust Me?" And Steve Strang's article starts with celebrating God's goodness. That's where it all starts and gloriously never ends.

Becky Bodnarchuk, *via email*

EXCITING ISSUE

I loved the story on Georgian and Winnie Banov. The feature was filled with the presence of God and was truly inspiring to my faith. Thank you for the story and for serving this generation of believers.

Marueen S., *Annapolis, MD.*

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

P.O. Box 6104, Harlan, IA 51593-1604.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: 10 issues \$24.97; 20 issues \$39.97. Canadian subscribers add \$24 per year, other countries add \$36 per year, payable in advance in U.S. currency only. If you have moved, received damaged or duplicate copies/missed issues, experienced billing problems, want to renew or need additional subscription information, call 1-800-829-3346. To subscribe, go online to charismamag.com. Contact customer service by email at cracustserv@cdfsfulfillment.com or write to *Charisma*, P.O. Box 6104, Harlan, IA 51593-1604. European subscribers can call England at 0870 745 5793. All foreign subscribers can call 515-237-3640.

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What Do You Seek?

Maybe Google doesn't know everything after all

One sunny Saturday afternoon in St. Louis, Missouri, near my 10th birthday, the doorbell rang, and my dad did two things I had never seen him do before: He got up from his recliner and answered the door.

My sister and I looked at each other in full-on shock and awe. The deeper surprise? He invited the man at the door into our home. Obviously, these events attached themselves to a long-term memory cell somewhere near a Halley's Comet image in my mind.

Our guest sold my dad a set of encyclopedias with an annual bonus book. He told me it was my birthday present. I wanted a Kodak camera to capture Kodak Moments.

Thus began my season as a Google boy: "Look up the Erie Canal. Tell me what you found." We did this nightly for a while. Thankfully, *Bonanza* and *Perry Mason* gave me a couple of nights off from my human Google duty. Today, I shake a little when I hear someone say, "Just Google it."

According to estimates, over 2 trillion global searches occur every year. I Googled it.

The search starts with a word, phrase or question. We call the words we use for searching "keywords." Keywords matter to marketers, researchers and people who cheat in trivia games. The study of key words has become an industry in itself.

Wouldn't it be helpful if we could Google spiritual truth? Sometimes I just want a quick answer from the Lord. At the crossroads, like a child, I want an audible voice.

When two disciples first met Jesus, He asked them a question that stirs conviction:

"The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, saw them following, and said to them, 'What do you seek?' (John 1:37-38a).

When we find ourselves mired in a search, His question reverberates.

In my devotion this morning in the book of Acts, I read again about Tabitha (Dorcas).

"Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which when translated means Dorcas); this woman was excelling in acts of kindness and charity which she did habitually" (Acts 9:36, NASB).

Tabitha worked with habitual acts of kindness and love. When she became ill and died, her friends sent for Peter:

"So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the room upstairs; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them" (Acts 9:39).

The widows showed Peter Tabitha's resume of tunics and garments to persuade him



"Thus began my season as a Google boy."

to pray for her. Leaders leave a legacy of helps. Now that's spiritual truth.

After reading these passages I searched the simple word "kindness." I called on the best keyword, Google-tool I've ever used: *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*.

I once carried *Strong's Concordance* and the Scofield Study Bible to every church service. I've used these books for almost 40 years. Neither is in great shape today. You may recall the hardback version of the concordance as broad and bulky. I used it as I listened to sermons, in small group discussions and for arm curl workouts.

I used the concordance as a tool to find every verse in the Bible with the keyword from a verse. It's amazing how one word in a verse can affect personal theology and behavior.

Today, we search the Bible for a keyword from our smartphones. I'm not sure how many people in the church want to do a word search these days. But I remember my charismatic church of the '70s had a building full of seekers who knew countless verses and Strong's word numbers.

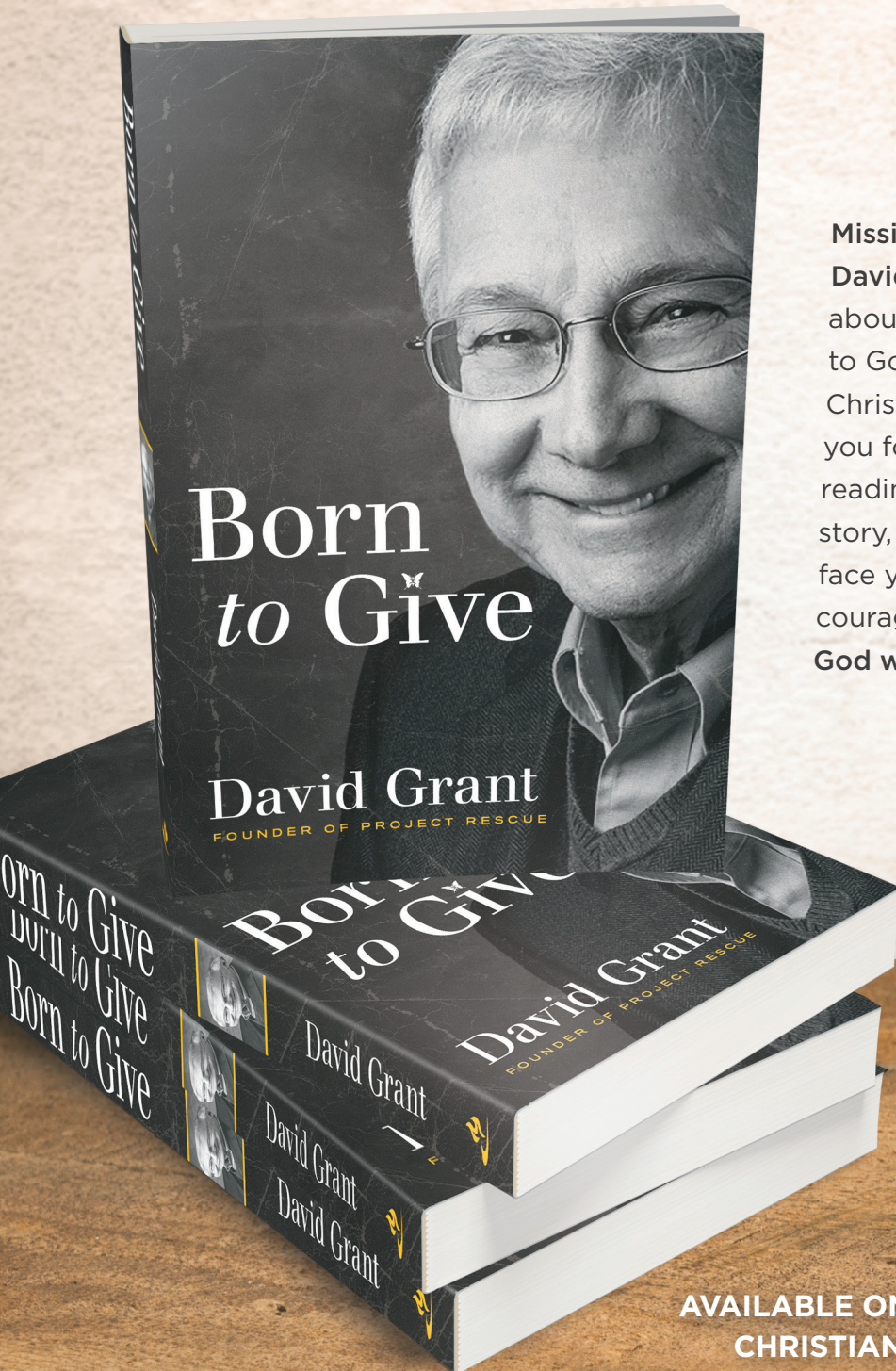
Thankfully, most of us do not need to do a word search for kindness. We know it when we see it. We know how to do it. We don't need to watch a YouTube video for further instructions about human kindness.

I want more of Tabitha's model of habitual kindness. Random acts of kindness appear in man's encyclopedia. Habitual kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Jesus is the answer to every search.

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FIRE IN MY BONES

BY J. LEE GRADY

Relax! This Pandemic Is Not the End of the World Some Christians call me naive because I don't buy their conspiracy theories

I get a new message in my inbox every day telling me why I should be terrified to walk outside. Network news is depressing enough, with reports of rising crime, inflation, unbridled government spending and, of course, another new strain of the coronavirus. But many Christians I know send me alarming reports describing conspiracies and sinister plots. These conspiracy theories usually go like this:

» The COVID-19 vaccine was engineered by the government (and/or pharmaceutical companies) to kill us.

» The coronavirus is not really a virus but is caused by radiation from new 5G cell-phone towers.

» Bill Gates and George Soros are using the vaccine to plant a microchip in our brains to control us and to create a new world order.

» People who take the COVID-19 vaccine become “magnetic.” One creative fearmonger in Africa made a video showing people holding keys and other metal objects against their arms, claiming the vaccines magnetized their skin.

» A secret group of politicians, business tycoons and Hollywood celebrities have banded together to worship Satan and abuse children sexually.

» During the darkest days of 2020, Pastor Dana Coverstone of Kentucky released videos claiming that God had shown him in dreams that the U.S. was about to descend into civil war. He advised people to stock up on food and alternative currencies.

Some Christians call me naive because I didn't buy these or other worrisome theories. Go ahead and criticize me if you want, but none of these frightful predictions have happened to me.

I know we are going through a stressful time. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an estimated 4.32 million deaths worldwide as of this writing. The lockdowns, masking policies, social distancing and closing of schools and businesses have triggered violence, anxiety and suicides—and the second and third waves of COVID-19 variants have pushed us all to our limits.

But I'm still sleeping soundly each night because I enjoy the peace of God. Here are four reasons why I'm not worried about the future:

1) History shows that bad times don't last forever. This isn't the first time the world has faced a pandemic. Be glad you didn't live through the Black Death of 1350, when 25 million people died—one-third of Europe's population. Between 20 and 50 million



“God is saying to us today, ‘Don't fear what everyone else fears.’”

died during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1920. Pandemics don't last forever. When you read history, you realize people bounce back after hard times.

2) God has not given us a spirit of fear. The most common command in the Bible is “Do not be afraid.” Those exact words appear in the New International Version of the Bible 70 times. I've looked at the fruit of conspiracy theories, and it's not good. Why focus on something that only stirs up anxiety?

Focusing on the devil's work is depressing. I choose to keep my eyes on Jesus during this crisis.

3) God—not evil people—is on the throne. Since the pandemic began, I've been parked in Psalm 2 (MEV), which acknowledges that evil men have indeed conspired to rule the earth, but God will overrule them. “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord,” verse 2 says. But it goes on: “He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord ridicules them” (v. 4).

Regardless of what any of these people are plotting, the Bible says God will deal with those who oppose Him. No matter how much money or power evil men have, God will always have the last word.

4) My security is in the Lord. Don't let silly rumors steal your faith. God is saying to us today, “Don't fear what everyone else fears.” Our God is victorious! He's not worried about a pandemic. His throne is immovable

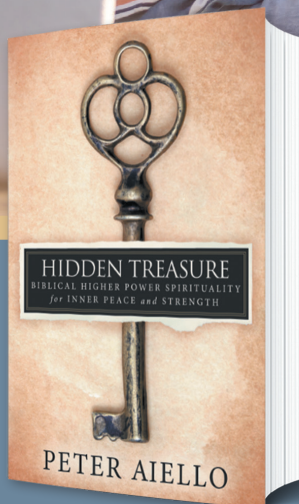
God is big enough and strong enough to take care of His enemies. He's laughing. He knows how things will end. Trust God—and get a good night's rest.

J. LEE GRADY was editor of *Charisma* for 11 years and now serves as contributing editor. He directs *The Mordecai Project* (themordecainproject.org), an international ministry that protects women and girls from gender-based violence. His latest book is *Set My Heart on Fire* (Charisma House).

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This book is about my personal testimony of how God taught me to surrender to Him through the instruction from the Bible. It told me to be anxious for nothing by casting all of my care on Him. *Hidden Treasure* shares my insights on Biblical spirituality and how to walk in the Spirit.

Peter Aiello

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A Strategy to Conquer Fear in Your Life

Learn to live by faith—and say goodbye to fear

Do you ever wonder what your life would look like if fear didn't exist? For example, what if you had the confidence to pursue every passion God gave you? Just imagine for a moment what that would look like. Well, God gives us a special gift called *faith* so we can do amazing things for Him. And I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and exercise that gift *full time*.

Faith gives us so much potential because it motivates us to move forward in the plans God has for us, but fear is a feeling Satan uses to keep our focus inward. It makes us feel anxious, causes us to dread the future, and it can keep us from saying and doing things that would reveal more of God's love to the world.

We need to learn to interrupt fear at its onset—before it begins to settle in our spirit. The choice is to either let Satan stop us in our tracks or to go forward in faith, believing God is in control.

When we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31b (NIV) says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" And Psalm 27:1 says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

These Scriptures are basically saying that if we believe God's Word, then we have already won the battle we're facing.

Jesus tells us in Mark 11:22 (AMPC) that we are to "have faith in God [*constantly*]." God doesn't want you to be fearful at any time. He wants you to be bold, confident, courageous and full of faith every day of your life—not just *until* you have a problem or *until* someone mistreats you. There's no *until*. And no one can stop God from answering a prayer that lines up with His Word and His will for your life.

It's important to understand that we won't always see the answers to our prayers right away. We can spend years praying for something to happen, and during that time, Satan will do everything he can to discourage us. He will try to convince us that God doesn't love us, that God's promises are for more worthy people or that we didn't really hear from God in the first place. But if we will choose to trust God continually, we can keep moving forward in His plans for us.

The truth is even if you don't see the fulfillment of every dream or desire of your heart here on earth, God will be pleased as you continue to believe in His perfect plan. And in



"With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation."

the meantime, your *faith* will fill you with hope, joy and peace.

Romans 15:13 (NIV) says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Now, if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always overflowing with hope. In fact, I was in agony whenever God made me wait for anything, so I would always try to make things happen on my own. And eventually it wore me out!

I remember lying on the floor, sobbing, saying, "God, I've tried everything, and nothing's working. I just give up!" At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, "Really, Joyce? You mean you're going to let Me take it from here?"

You see, when we're ready to let go, God is right there to fight our battles. We just need to learn to trust Him—and that comes through experience as we take each new step of faith.

Today, instead of trying to pray my problems away, I've learned to pray for things like strength and courage, and for the power to endure whatever comes with a good temper. With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation.

With God's help, we can remain stable in the face of fear, putting one foot in front of the other ... walking by faith *full time*. So imagine again what it would be like to pursue your God-given passions in life. Don't let fear stop you! Keep seeking God, stir yourself up with Scriptures on faith and boldly say, "God is bigger. He is working on my behalf, and I trust Him *constantly*."

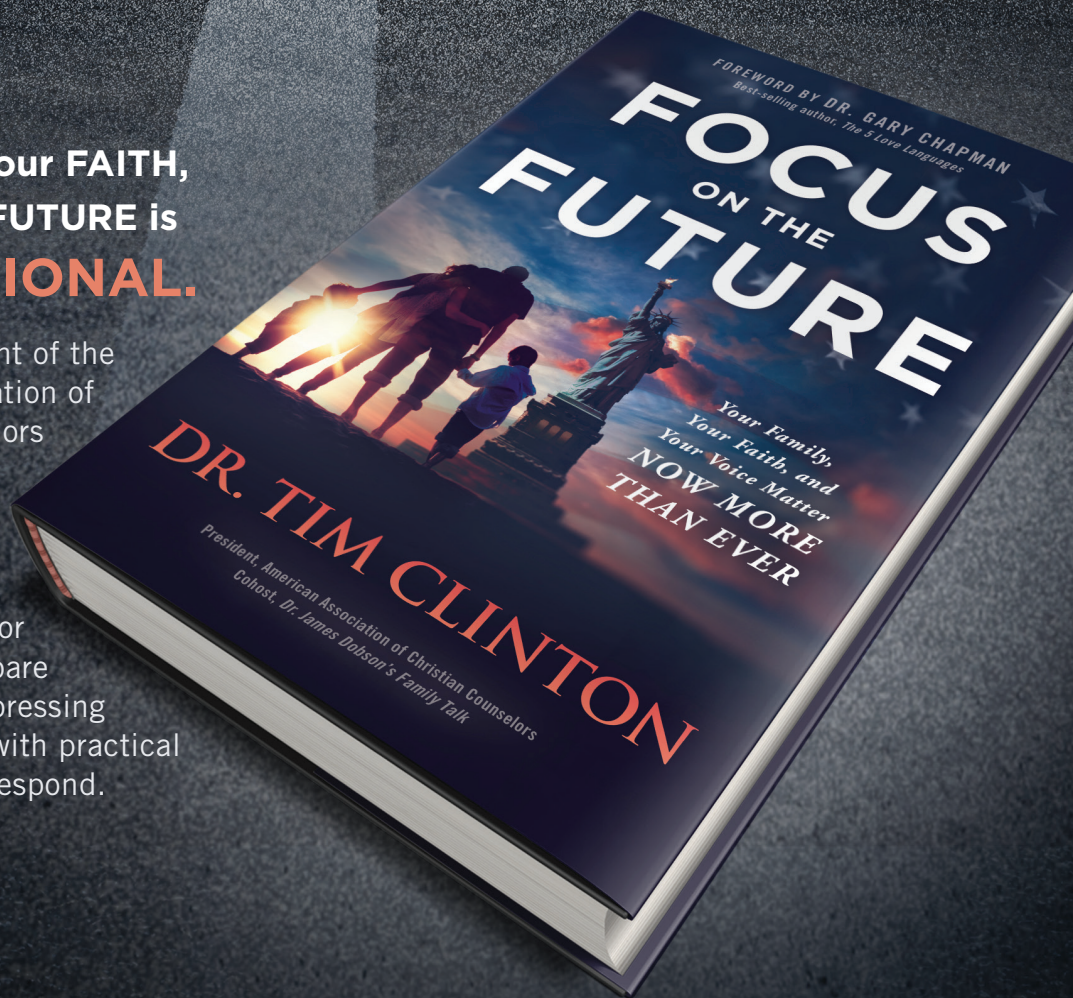
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The Nations Stand on the Brink

Some for ruin and others for revival

The Western world has lost touch with her soul, with her spirit. Many have strayed and became disoriented because of the religious church culture and the rise of atheism and agnosticism, which in our day has led to the demise of belief in Christ. When culture dismisses religion, the quest for the infinite still remains. Regardless of the decline in church attendance, a growing number of people are drawn to the supernatural. Until the final ascension into the heavenly realms, we can experience a foretaste of that world.

God chose prophets and commissioned them for ministry. In a unique way, the prophets had direct access to God. When prophets “stood in the council,” they had a face-to-face encounter with God. This motif of “standing in the council” is a repeated pattern throughout the Bible.

Abraham Heschel once said, “The prophet is a person, not a microphone. The prophet’s task is to convey a divine view, yet as a point of view. Their language is luminous and explosive, firm and contingent, harsh and compassionate, a fusion of contradiction. The prophet’s ear perceives the silent sigh. To be a prophet is both a distinction and an affliction. The prophet’s eye is directed to contemporary society and its conduct. Yet his ear is inclined to God. He is a person stuck by the glory and presence of God, overpowered by the hand of God. Yet, his true greatness is his ability to hold God and man in a single thought.”

In Deuteronomy 29:29, Moses declared the secret things belong to Jehovah our God, but the things revealed belong to us. The mysteries of God reveals contain still more mysteries. The Holy Spirit plumbs the depths and reaches the heavens as He prepares us to receive the secret things of the most High God. But remember, we are responsible for what the Spirit reveals.

“For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord. And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (Jer. 23:18, NKJV).

The prophet is a revealer, a revelator and at times a revolutionary. For that reason, he often finds himself standing alone, waiting for the future to become the past to prove that he has indeed stood in the counsel of God.

In January of this year, as I was waiting in prayer, I heard the Lord clearly say, “America will go through shock treatment, and this is My doing! The dragon has wounded the wings of the eagle, but she will fly again. For she will arise with healing in her wings. I will bind up the wounds and heal the fractures that have left her helpless and unable to soar.”



“The prophet is a
revealer, a revelator
and at times a
revolutionary.”

I saw five years of great difficulty for the U.S., but because God’s people were obedient, they were preserved. I also received a series of words and phrases that helped me understand that for some this will be the best of times, and for others, the worst.

» **Firewall:** The firewalls will fail on many fronts, and there will be a massive failure to keep information secure. There will be attacks upon transportation systems, communication networks, sewage, water and electric systems. The only firewall that will not fail will be the one that the Lord has placed around his people (Zech. 2:5).

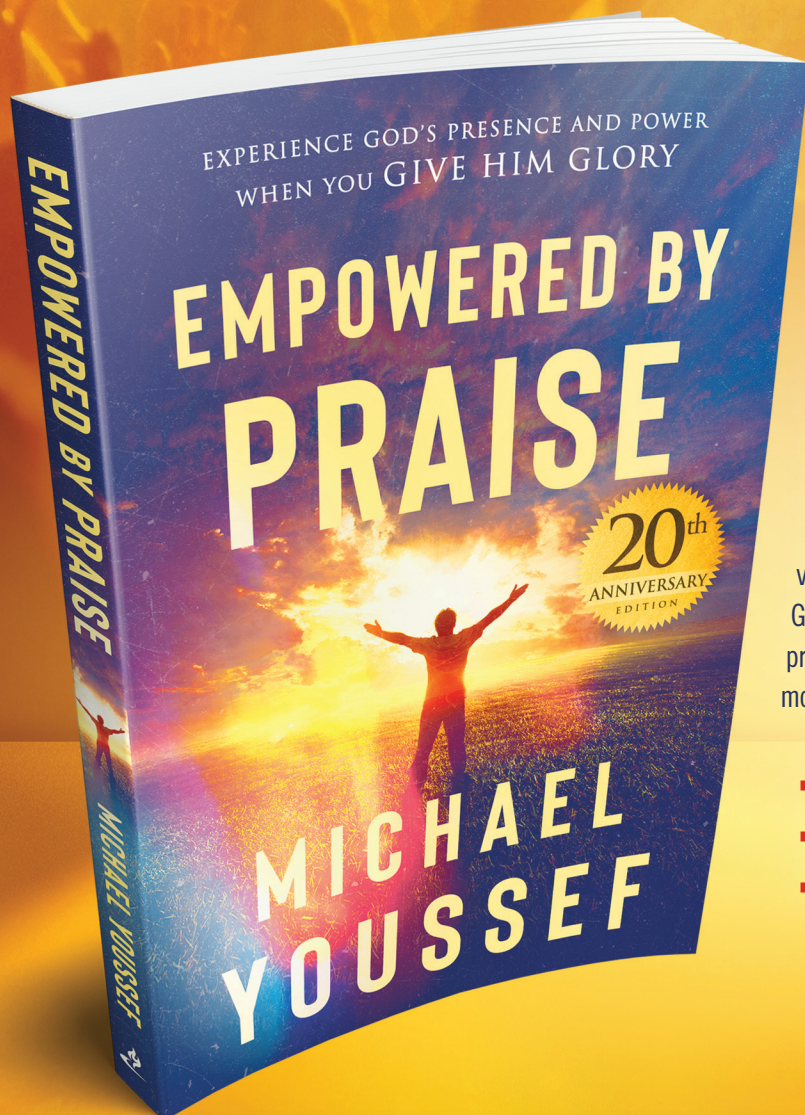
» **Recall:** There will be many recalls on food, electronics, medicine, elected officials in government, churches and church leaders. Some churches will have their candlesticks removed, never to be lit again. Others in the body of Christ will receive a recall to return to their first love (Rev. 2:4-7).

» **Resurgence:** There will be a resurgence of terror. A resurgence of the war on terror will also come, but in many ways, it will look much different than in the past. I heard the Lord say, “Prepare for a cold war. This war against sickness will cause a cold war against China.”

» **Brink:** We are on the brink of the greatest awakening the world has ever seen, one that will touch every facet of society. Everything that has been clothed by darkness will be exposed, and many around the world who have been asleep will suddenly awaken to the truth. God will open their eyes to decades-old deception, and they will turn to Christ.

CHARLIE SHAMP is the co-founder and president of *Destiny Encounters International*. He is an international speaker commissioned by heaven as a prophet to bring healing and revival in the nations. He lives in Moravian Falls, North Carolina, with his wife, Brynn, and their three children. (Note: Prophet Charlie Shamp submitted this column Aug. 1, 2021.)

WHAT IF YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF *PRAISE* IS COMPLETELY WRONG?



DR. MICHAEL YOUSSEF'S updated and expanded edition of his best-selling *Empowered by Praise* will guide you into a richer understanding and admiration for God. Once you learn how to praise God in a variety of forms, you will begin to experience God's powerful presence in your life. When praise is practiced according to the biblical model we experience:

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- The open door to God's power

**YOUR LIFE OF PRAISE WILL BE COMPLETELY ALTERED WITH
PERSONAL GROWTH AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION.**



Packed service at a recent ReAwaken America gathering

Purpose of ReAwaken America Tour Is 'Saving This Country and Saving America,' Says Gen. Mike Flynn

Charisma founder and CEO Stephen E. Strang joined the speaker lineup in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Scripture affirms that God specializes in the unlikely. Through the ReAwaken America tours, He is using the unlikely combination of a national security expert, Gen. Mike Flynn, and an entrepreneur, Clay Clark, in powerful ways with lasting impact.

Flynn, who says he originally planned the tour as a thank-you to the American people for standing by his family, says he and Clark decided to include much more. ReAwaken America now focuses on a push for election integrity, discussing the health

issues surrounding COVID-19 and promoting religious freedom.

The tours began in April in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the highly acclaimed Health and Freedom event. They are now crisscrossing the country in locations as diverse as Tampa, Florida and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Charisma CEO Stephen E. Strang joined the speaker lineup with content from his latest book, *God and Cancel Culture*.

Upcoming tour dates include San Antonio, Texas (Nov. 11-13); and Dallas, Texas (Dec. 10-13).

Somebody Cares New England Builds Bridges With Muskogee Nation in Oklahoma

A team of 23 volunteers from five churches made the trek from Haverhill, Massachusetts, to the Muskogee Nation in Oklahoma for a recent outreach coordinated by Somebody Cares New England. Volunteers partnered with the local church to bless the region through events that included three nights of tent meetings, water baptisms and a huge Saturday afternoon community outreach.

Director Marlene Yeo organized the first trip to Muskogee Nation in 2017 after a time of intercession in which the Lord gave her a burden for the First Nations people.

After the recent outreach, she connected with a friend, Chief Nigel Bigpond, who told her: "We were overjoyed when they arrived! When the trailer pulled in, we lined up along the long driveway, cheering and praising God for the blessing."



Weekly 'Prayer on the Square' for America in Newton County, Missouri, Persists for More Than a Year

A weekly prayer meeting calling believers to pray for our nation and held on the courthouse steps in Newton County, Missouri, has persisted for more than a year. Despite the abrupt change brought on the world by the pandemic, Mark Taylor, president of Sky-High Broadcasting and general



Newton County Courthouse in Neosho

manager of KNEO Radio, initiated the prayer gatherings last summer out of an awareness that "dark clouds" were developing over America.

Since that first meeting in August 2020, the meetings have continued each Monday night to lift the nation humbly before the Lord, seeking His guidance, wisdom and mercy in a time almost foreign to current generations.

Online Influencer Prays, Healing Happens Live on Screen

Pastor Jacob Coyne's 82,000 followers were watching

Pastor and social media influencer Jacob Coyne, from Vancouver, Washington, uses Instagram to reach people for Jesus, sharing from Scripture and praying during his livestream sessions for his 82,000 followers.

On July 27, after 20 minutes of preaching, Coyne provided an opportunity for people to virtually join him to talk and pray. Last to join Coyne's video chat was a teenaged boy named Genesis who had a dislocated shoulder.

He couldn't move his arm without excruciating pain,

which he described as a 9.5 on a scale of 10.

"Wouldn't that be awesome if Jesus healed you right now?" Coyne asked his new friend.

The teen replied, "Yo! That would be awesome!"

Live on screen, Genesis' shoulder visibly popped back into place. His face filled with surprise, as Jesus had just healed his shoulder and removed all the pain. He then felt a click and had full range of motion.

He was in amazement at the physical healing that had just taken place.



California Petition Triggers Potential Newsom Firing

By signing, thousands expressed their disapproval of Newsom's limitations on First Amendment rights



Governor Gavin Newsom

California residents have made their sentiments clear about Democrat Gov. Gavin Newsom and his draconian restrictions against their First Amendment rights. Efforts to remove the state leader began in 2020, led by Orrin Healie, retired sergeant of Yolo County Sheriff's Office.

Healie and the California Patriot Coalition partnered in the successful collection of 2.1 million signatures, triggering a recall election.

The secretary of state's office found 1,719,943 signatures to be valid, more than the 1,495,970 necessary to trigger a recall election ... The recall election will present voters with two questions," per Ballotpedia.

"The first will ask whether Newsom should be recalled from the office of governor. The second will ask who should succeed Newsom if he is recalled. A majority vote is required on the first question ... [t]he candidate with the most votes on the second question would win the election, no majority required."

Christian Teacher Defiantly Resigns at Virginia School Board Meeting

Experienced fifth grade teacher Laura Morris denounced the system's "highly politicized agenda"

Loudoun County (Virginia) Public Schools teacher, frustrated with "highly politicized agendas" the school board pushes on its students, teachers and parents, defiantly turned in her resignation at an August school board meeting.

In an emotionally charged speech, fifth grade teacher Laura Morris, who has taught in Loudoun County for five years and has been a teacher for 10 years, told the board "you no longer value me or the teachers you employed in this county."

Morris described the training she was subjected to. She was told the current educational system is

fundamentally racist and that everything needed to change.

"School board, I quit. I quit your policies. I quit your training, and I quit being a cog in a machine that tells me to push highly politicized agendas to our most vulnerable constituents—the children."



Laura Morris

'They came in as agitators & bullies and one left as a SON OF GOD!'

What the enemy meant for evil in Portland, Oregon, God turned around for His good

MovieGuide® reports that during the antifa attacks on a Christian "Let Us Worship" rally in Portland, Oregon, Hold the Line founder Sean Feucht says an antifa member accepted Christ.

"Antifa stood 10 feet from me as we lifted our voices in praise, but we didn't back down," Feucht posted on Instagram. "One member who came to disrupt our service was saved by giving his life to Jesus."

Feucht shared on social media that antifa members in Portland showed up to "threaten, harass, bully and intimidate us. A mom and her baby were tear gassed. ... We kept worshipping and God moved powerfully!"

"They came in as agitators & bullies and one left as a SON OF GOD!!!! ... Thank you PORTLAND for showing America what a bold BOOK of ACTS church looks like!" Feucht wrote on Instagram..

As the COVID-19 pandemic rises and falls, Feucht and his "Let Us Worship" rallies have drawn intense criticism toward unmasked gatherings of believers such as these.

ENGAGE HEAVEN

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Healed of Multiple Sclerosis

Living Proof Modesto

Woman With Multiple Sclerosis Healed at Mario Murillo Tent Crusade

Only the power of God can heal, as a woman in Mario Murillo's Living Proof Crusade, Sacramento, California, found out during his recent crusade there.

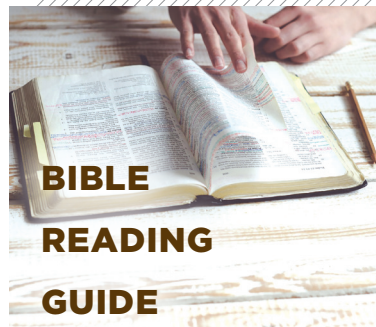
After a visit from Jesus earlier in the day at her home, the woman came to the tent crusade expecting a miracle. She received a supernatural experience and can now move in ways she couldn't before.

Multiple sclerosis is a debilitating disease that damages nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

"This afternoon, Jesus visited you and told you that every last symptom of this disease will disappear," Murillo said to the woman. "I rebuke multiple sclerosis in the name of Jesus. Somebody needs to rejoice in the Lord."

An overflow crowd watched as the woman regained total balance and coordination in her body. "Only Jesus Christ gets the glory," Murillo said.

Visit Mario Murillo's YouTube channel for the video of this healing, "Woman healed of Multiple Sclerosis at Living Proof Crusade" (dated Aug. 5, 2021).



BIBLE READING GUIDE

Follow our daily reading plan in each issue of *Charisma* to read through the Modern English Version Bible in one year. The plan is also available online at brg.charismamag.com.

"FOR THE WEAPONS of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." —2 Corinthians 10:4

Oct. 1	Zech. 10-12; Ps. 126; Luke 14
Oct. 2	Zech. 13-14; Ps. 134,147; Luke 15
Oct. 3	Ezra 5-6; Ps. 138; Luke 16
Oct. 4	Esth. 1-2; Ps. 150; Luke 17
Oct. 5	Esth. 3-6; Luke 18
Oct. 6	Esth. 7-10; Luke 19
Oct. 7	Ezra 7-8; Luke 20
Oct. 8	Ezra 9-10; Ps. 131; Luke 21
Oct. 9	Neh. 1-2; Ps. 133; Luke 22
Oct. 10	Neh. 3-4; Luke 23
Oct. 11	Neh. 5-6; Ps. 146; Luke 24
Oct. 12	Neh. 7-8; Acts 1
Oct. 13	Neh. 9-10; Acts 2
Oct. 14	Neh. 11-12; Ps. 1; Acts 3
Oct. 15	Neh. 13; Mal. 1-2; Acts 4
Oct. 16	Mal. 3-4; Ps. 148; Acts 5
Oct. 17	Job 1-2; Acts 6-7
Oct. 18	Job 3-4; Acts 8-9
Oct. 19	Job 5; Ps. 108; Acts 10-11
Oct. 20	Job 6-8; Acts 12
Oct. 21	Job 9-10; Acts 13-14
Oct. 22	Job 11-12; Acts 15-16
Oct. 23	Job 13-14; Acts 17-18
Oct. 24	Job 15; Acts 19-20
Oct. 25	Job 16; Acts 21-23
Oct. 26	Job 17; Acts 24-26
Oct. 27	Job 18; Ps. 114; Acts 27-28
Oct. 28	Job 19; Mark 1-2
Oct. 29	Job 20; Mark 3-4
Oct. 30	Job 21; Mark 5-6
Oct. 31	Job 22; Mark 7-8

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CHARISMA MEDIA

SUPER- NATURAL BOLDNESS

Pastor Mark Burns is calling on the American church to say yes to the Holy Spirit and stand boldly for Christ

BY C. HOPE FLINCHBAUGH



Pastor Mark Burns is shaking religious and political norms to their foundations. He has been unwilling to bow to the expectations of man and instead has pledged radical obedience to the voice of God. As a result, he has been thrust into the very heart of the national struggle for the soul of this country.

Many Americans first came to know Burns through the viral video footage of evangelical pastors praying for then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. How he ended up as a bold spokesman for Black conservatives—and where he sees God taking him next—is a story of supernatural occurrences and divine directives. As unlikely as it sounds, it may have begun when the Lord told him to stop the worship at his church.

Burns understands what it's like to start at the bottom. Born in Anderson, South Carolina, on Sept. 21, 1979, one of three children of Pastors Debra and Otis Burns, he was born again at a revival meeting at age 9. Even then, his parents recognized God's call on

his life, but in his teen years, young Burns strayed from the faith. Arrested four times for traffic violations, he had his car repossessed several times, which forced him to ride a bike to his job at McDonald's. He became the teenage father of three children—Jasmine, Desiree and John Mark Jr.—but his first marriage soon ended.

Burns' life appeared stuck at an impossibly low level. "I was arrested for traffic violations because my license was suspended for unpaid traffic tickets," Burns says. "It was very difficult to pay simple traffic tickets during those times. I really do know what it means to be on food stamps, Section 8 Housing and WIC [the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, a federal assistance program]."

Answering God's Call

Throughout his teenage struggles, Burns' parents consistently prayed for their prodigal to answer the call of God on his life.

"When I became a teen father at 17 and 18, I never left the church,"

“We were growing as a church and in members, but I felt like I was entertaining people.” —Pastor Mark Burns

he says. "I just made a foolish decision that deviated me from my purpose for a while."

Burns served six years in the Army National Guard at Fort Bend, Georgia. He tried college a few times but kept dropping out. Finally, as a young man of 24, Burns followed his passion as worship and praise leader in several churches, including his father's home church from 2004 to 2005.

In 2004, Burns married again. His new wife, Tomarra, brought two children, Jordynn and Dymond, into the marriage. Together, the Burnses had twins, Solomon and



Pastor Mark Burns in an interview with Breitbart news

PASTOR MARK BURNS MINISTRIES

Somarra, now 16, the youngest of their seven children.

After pastoring a Black mission church from 2005 to 2009, Burns started a new church, Harvest Praise and Worship Center, in Easley, South Carolina.

“I’m a praise and worship leader by heart,” says Burns. “I played keyboards in a worship band and directed a choir. I had high caliber musicians and singers. Praise and worship meant so much to me that I kept ‘praise and worship’ in the name of the church.”

Harvest Praise and Worship Center quickly outgrew its small building, and Burns moved his burgeoning congregation into an old 1930s movie theater—complete with balcony, stage and original movie screen—and renovated it for their meetings. He worked hard to enhance the music in the church, installing a smoke machine and robotic lights. Soon his 14-member praise team lit up the stage.

In 2009, Burns also began his own television show for Impact Network, the world’s largest independent Black faith-based television network.

“I was traveling, representing Impact Network for Pastor Wayne T. Jackson out of Detroit,” Burns says. “I felt I needed to support their vision to broadcast predominantly Black ministers and to preach on TV. My church members and family and cameras and I all traveled, and I recorded *Lift My Voice* and then aired it on Impact Network every Saturday.”

As Burns traveled around the country each weekend, his church in Easley grew to more than 1,000 members. Even with this apparent success, Burns saw a growing trend in his own church and others that bothered him.

“I began to see other churches doing the same thing,” he says. “From one church to the next, people were singing, shouting, hollering—but people’s lives were not impacted. I realized I was doing the same thing. Yes, we were growing as a church and in members, but I felt like I was entertaining people.”

Various pastors Burns met in his travels said they felt church had become just another club, and they

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Pastor Burns with Ben Carson in the Rose Garden

worked to make people feel good about going to that club.

“I became more critical of my own ministry than any other,” Burns says. [We had] musicians who were highly talented but didn’t live lives that were holy. There were arguments between musicians because one wanted to play a particular song.”

Dropping the Mic

On New Year’s Eve, 2014, Mark and Tomarra Burns led a small meeting of about 50 other musicians for a time of praise and worship on the stage that his church members fondly referred to as “the altar.” Every Sunday, people could come forward to soak in the presence of God or receive prayer.

As Burns sat at the keyboard that night, he heard God say, “Mark, stop praise and worship for one year. For one year, just teach one hour—and one hour only—to your people.”

He laughed it off at first, telling the Lord, “No, You’re not really saying

that. How can you build a church without a great worship team?”

At that very moment, his wife walked across the stage, bent down and whispered the confirmation of God’s direction: “The Lord just told me that we have to stop praise and worship for a year.”

Burns felt frustrated and angry at first, dropping his head over the keyboard and attempting to argue with God. At 11:45 p.m., he received another divine directive: “You make sure you pull everything off that altar—every keyboard, microphone, instrument off the altar—before midnight strikes.”

“I told everyone there what the Lord just said,” Burns says. “Immediately we pulled drums, organ, mics, off the altar—off the stage.”

Burns calls that evening his “Abrahamic moment.” Just as Abraham did with Isaac, he surrendered what he cherished and obeyed the word from God. He taught for one hour

each Sunday for one year, then two years and then three. The church membership dwindled until the congregation had to move back into the smaller building they had left.

Looking back, Burns compares his larger theater church to a beautiful shiny car with leather seats and a glossy paint job—but with no engine and no real power.

As Harvest Praise and Worship Center settled back into its smaller building, God directed Burns to begin his own television network, which he called the NOW Network. Before he started, he went to Wayne and Beverly Jackson of Impact Network and asked for their blessing, which they readily gave.

“They opened a door for me and taught me how to have a TV network,” says Burns. “Every major door the Lord has opened up for me has come through serving somebody else’s vision.”

Although church membership dwindled, the NOW Network grew to its reach today, broadcasting into 263 million homes and 83 countries on digital cable television, satellite, Apple TV, Amazon, Android App and Roku as well as online at nownetwork.org. As the network expanded, its finances increased until NOW began to undergird the church’s outreach into the community.

Harvest Praise and Worship Center has established a place in the Easley community for battered women to live until they can get jobs and get on their feet. The church reaches out to help numerous people in financial distress obtain jobs, change their credit scores, become homeowners, find apartment housing and receive a car as needed.

Leading in Politics

God used Burns’ business acumen to open the door for his relationship with Trump. It was 2015, and all Burns knew was that he and his wife were set to meet with a millionaire who was considering a run for president—a man with a television show that ended, “You’re fired!” The success of Burns’ NOW Network had

caught Trump’s eye, and he wanted to meet the young entrepreneur.

Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue, New York City, represented a whole new world for this 36-year-old pastor from the backwoods of South Carolina. When Burns escorted his wife into the luxury hotel lobby, he was stunned to see Dr. David Jeremiah, Franklin Graham, Paula White, Clarence McClendon and other Christian leaders. *Who am I to be among so many of God’s generals?* he wondered.

“I was more excited about meeting them than I was about meeting Donald Trump,” Burns recalls. “I wanted pictures with all of them!”

The Christian leaders were led up an elevator and into the famous boardroom, where place

wife was over there taking pictures and a video clip, thinking, *What a great memory.* I’m praying, ‘Lord, please don’t let them ask me a question. I don’t want to look stupid.’”

That’s when Burns heard a voice. “You belong here. I placed you here.”

In that moment, Burns’ whole posture changed. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him and gave him the boldness he needed.

“Mr. Trump, many of us Black leaders have caught flack just for coming to this meeting,” he said. “In fact, others were scheduled to come and elected not to come because of the hate they received from our own community. So clearly, Mr. Trump, there is a disconnect between you, the Republican Party and the African

“Burns compares his larger theater church to a beautiful shiny car with leather seats and glossy paint job—but with no engine and no real power.”

cards designated guests’ seats. Burns knew he wouldn’t have a place card, so he sat in a chair away from the table. Trump’s former attorney, Michael Cohen, struck up a conversation with him, and the next thing Burns knew, Cohen pulled out the chair directly opposite Trump’s chair at the head of the table and said, “Pastor, come here. You sit right here.”

At this point, Burns’ nerves almost took over. *I’m not up to the level of these godly leaders, he thought. How can I possibly be seated at the head of the table?*

Just then, Trump walked in, Bible in hand, and sat down. He told the group he believed Christianity was under attack, and Christians no longer had a friend in the White House. For the first 35 minutes, the ministers around the table talked, agreeing that Trump should run for president, and they would support him.

“I was nervous,” Burns says. “My

American community. What will be your plan to bridge that gap?”

The room fell silent except for the voices of three other Black pastors, who readily agreed with Burns’ question.

Trump immediately sat up and engaged in dialogue with the Black ministers. As the meeting came to a close, Jeremiah prayed that God would raise up a strong African American leader who would guide Trump through the African American community—words Burns could not ignore.

When Tomarra posted her video of the group praying for Trump on Facebook, neither she nor her husband realized it would receive more than 1.9 million views.

“My wife was recording just to document her husband in a group of powerful people,” Burns says. “It wasn’t a publicity stunt. We were ignorant.”

After the meeting, Trump asked Burns if he would be willing

All Black Opinions Matter Too

The mainstream media doesn't know what to do with Black conservatives

By J. Lee Grady

to help their mutual friend, Dr. Darrell Scott, put together another gathering—this one just for Black pastors and leaders. Trump wanted to revisit their earlier conversation and listen to the concerns from the Black community.

Burns agreed. Back home in South Carolina, he easily reached out to 50 associates who were part of his NOW Network, a hub of primarily Black television preachers and leaders who broadcast into millions of homes on cable and satellite television every week. He and Scott organized the first event in Atlanta, but Trump arrived late due to a schedule change. “You all follow me,” Trump told the assembled group.

“When we walked through the door, there were a bunch of cameras and records, and I thought, *What in the world?*” Burns says.

“Pastor, you’re on CNN!” people told him.

Burns was thrust onto the national stage in that moment and emerged as a leading voice in conservative politics and one of Trump’s most vocal supporters. He made appearances on Fox News, MSNBC, Fox Business, Newsmax and more. On July 21, 2016, he delivered an energizing speech at the Republican National Convention, where he told the audience that Trump wouldn’t pander to one race, then stirred the audience to break out in chants declaring, “All lives matter.” But before long, the media discovered an online bio page and accused him of lying about his years in the service and his education.

“I had just started preaching,” Burns says of the bio. “I was in the midst of working full time and trying to make something of myself. I was so young. A church member helped me write it. That bio was from an old website and unpublished. I tried to explain that to the CNN people. I said, ‘If you keep digging things up, you will see failures.’ I had seatbelt tickets. I’d been in situations with the law that were not

I don’t know anyone who disagrees with the statement, “Black lives matter.” It has been a rallying cry in street protests and in the halls of Congress since the murder of George Floyd in May 2020.

But if you listen to the mainstream media, you’ll notice a particular group of Black activists are being scolded for spreading their views. I’m talking about the growing number of African American conservatives whose opinions don’t line up with the liberal narrative. These people are anti-abortion, pro-family, flag-waving activists who defend the police, denounce socialism and refuse to view themselves as victims of systemic racism.

Apparently, in this politically correct world, not all Black opinions matter. They’ve been called Uncle Toms, traitors, puppets and much worse. They’ve even been told they aren’t Black because of their opinions.

One of the most vocal new Black conservative voices is Brandon Tatum, 34, a former police officer and social media commentator from Arizona who runs a successful apparel business. His support of President Trump in the 2020 campaign raised eyebrows and earned him scorn—especially after he made a video called “How I Switched from Democrat to Republican” that went viral last year.

A born-again Christian who is especially concerned about the lack of fathers in Black homes, Tatum doesn’t care who he offends when he questions the politically correct narrative of white privilege or when he defends police officers. He’s painfully blunt, but you can also feel his Christian compassion.

Tatum has spoken on dozens of university campuses and has 1.7 million subscribers to his YouTube channel. He blasts mainstream journalists for promoting the concept of white privilege. “Black people can succeed in this country,” Tatum says. “At the end of the day, the color of your skin doesn’t matter. The content of your character matters. How hard you’re going to work, that’s what matters. ... If you bust your tail in this country, you can be successful!”

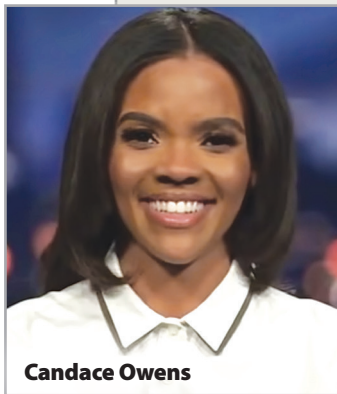
Tatum is part of a small army of Black conservatives who are upsetting the status quo by questioning the belief that all African Americans are Democrats. He and 32-year-old Candace Owens co-founded a foundation and movement called Blexit, which urges Blacks to reject the Democratic Party’s platform and change the narrative that surrounds minority communities.

The growing list of outspoken Black conservatives includes Kaaryn Walker, president of Black Conservatives for Truth; South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott; speaker Anthony Brian Logan; pro-family activist Jesse Lee Peterson and author Voddie Baucham, a Baptist pastor whose 2021 book *Fault Lines* is a blistering denouncement of critical race theory.

Their opinions have cost them a lot. Any Black conservative knows that if they speak out for what they believe, they will be written off by today’s “cancel culture” censors.

There’s a growing number of Americans of all races who realize the mainstream media has used spin, manipulation and negativity to divide our country. Yes, we want racial justice. Yes, we want police reform. But we don’t want to burn down our cities to avenge the mistakes of the past, and we know socialism isn’t the answer.

Black people are not slaves to anybody or to any political party—and it’s racist to insist that people of color can’t have biblical or conservative views.



Candace Owens

criminal, but I'd not paid tickets. You can't talk about that without talking about grace of Jesus: 'While we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us.'

Although the media and protesting hecklers worked to catch him off guard, Burns navigated the storm and, in the end, Yahoo News named him as one of the 16 people who shaped the presidential election of 2016. *Time* magazine called him "Donald Trump's Top Pastor."

Burns himself ran for office in South Carolina's 4th Congressional District in 2018, attempting to take Rep. Trey Gowdy's seat. After a 45-day run, Burns lost.

"I got my foot in the water," he says of the brief campaign. "It was a great experience."

Speaking the Truth

So what is Burns' message for 2021? He tells audiences everywhere that colors do matter—and the colors that define America are

red, white and blue.

"Antifa and BLM [Black Lives Matter Inc.] put guns to people's heads, forcing Americans to believe the way they want them to believe," he says. "There are street preachers in America who've been attacked. LGBTQ [adherents] physically assaulted them for preaching Jesus Christ."

Burns believes the Constitution protects same sex-marriage but draws the line at the LGBTQ community leveling assaults against Christians. In fact, he calls on Christian leaders to denounce the Equality Act in particular because he believes if it passes, religious institutions will no longer be protected in the United States.

As for the issue of violence, Burns has a message he wants all Americans to hear.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was not violent in protesting racism," he says. "Somebody has to be John the Baptist. Somebody has to be the

firestarter and speak up and say that BLM is not love, but it is hate and contrary to what Jesus tells us. The greatest commandment is to love your God with all your heart and mind and soul. The second greatest is to love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Burns believes the church is America's only hope. He tells Christians to stand boldly for the faith handed down to the saints so we will see an awakening take place in our nation.

Burns says, "CRT is critical race theory, and we know what all this means because everybody is talking about it. They talk about it. They talk about it some more. These are minority groups, but they are *talking* about it.

"As Christians, we need to talk," he adds. "You may not have the privilege to speak to the president, but you can speak to school board members. Just think—if every top 10 to 20 parents show up together at the schoolhouse



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and demand that CRT is not taught, then the media has to deal with it. Cellphones are lit all over, and the world will know that this place is standing up against CRT.”

Burns cites Mordecai’s words to Esther, “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esth. 4:14, NIV).

“Pastors across our nation were born at this time, not the day of Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts or Azusa Street,” Burns says. “We were born in *this* time for such a time as this. God made it clear to Esther. God said, ‘I will deliver’—yet God is the only person who will fire you and still let you keep working. We are allowing our government to organize one of the greatest forms of child abuse and allowing children

to have gender reassignment at early ages. We are allowing it to happen.”

He tells pastors, faith leaders, prayer warriors and laypeople to stand boldly for the faith, encouraging them to start on a local level in their own churches and communities.

“For years, pastors have been the moral authority of this nation,” Burns says. “When we spoke in the past, the country listened. Now, that is not the case. We’ve been challenged from every side. We do not rise up violently. We organize, speak up and speak to our pastors and community. Challenge the local school boards, the state government and ultimately let your voice be heard by the governor of your state. Stop being cowards. Be bold! Invoke the power of God that we say we have.”

Will he run for office in the future? It is currently his intention to run for Congress in South Carolina in the 2022 election.

“It started with being willing to

sacrifice my church,” Burns explains. “Had I not done that, and removed everything from the altar, I’d still just have a nice-sized church, but that’s all I’d be doing.”

“Now the Lord has given me a fight, and we are reenergizing churches across the nation to be bold and not be silent when it comes to policies that are directly against the Word of God,” he says. “That’s where I am now.” ◀

READ MORE: Find additional stories of how God is moving through politics at politics.charismamag.com.

C. HOPE FLINCHBAUGH has written more than 250 stories for preschool, kindergarten, first- and second-grade school readers for the Association of Christian Schools International. The author of three novels and two nonfiction books, all traditionally published, she has also written more than 75 magazine articles for children and adults.

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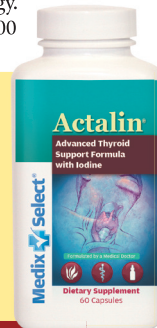
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Awaken the Dawn

The revelation of God's deep love for us provides a vital key
to solving our identity crisis

BY DAVID BRADSHAW

One night, at a critical time in my life, God spoke to me in the most profound way about our ministry. It was early 2017, and the night before, I had made the huge announcement that we were hosting four days of 24/7 prayer and worship at the National Mall in the fall of that year. I shared our plan to set up 50 tents for 50 states and invite thousands of musicians and singers to lead us in around-the-clock worship and prayer. The announcement was broadcast live from a church in Washington, D.C., and was viewed not just across the U.S. but around the world.

The paperwork for the permits had been signed, so it was official. We were planning to do something that had never been done—something that came with an incredibly high price tag—and we were committing to do this in front of tens of thousands of people.

In all honesty, after making this announcement, I started to panic.

As I lay in bed that night, I could feel the weight of what we had just committed to. I felt exposed and vulnerable. I had literally signed my name on the dotted line of what God had asked me to do, and now I was at His mercy. It was a test of my faith on a grand scale. I even had some close friends and leaders questioning the plan. Others had sacrificed for this too, and we needed God to come through and provide.

In the middle of the night, after having gone to bed with these thoughts buzzing in my mind, I was jolted awake. I went from a deep sleep to wide awake with my heart racing in a second.

I heard an audible voice.

It sounded like my natural father's voice, and He said only one word: my name, "David." In one of my most profound moments of insecurity, God spoke identity to my heart by simply calling my name in the middle of the night. That's all He said. That's all I needed to hear.

Ironically, I was scheduled to speak the next morning at our church, Awakening Community Church, about the Father's love. I had the whole message prepared. But as I stood up before the church that morning, I broke down in tears. God spoke the one thing I needed to hear more than anything else, and it was not strategy; it was affection.

Identity Crisis Solved

This is the only time I've heard God speak with my natural ears. Most people I know have never heard God speak audibly. But whether or not you hear His voice out loud, the fact is this: If you are in Christ, the Father loves you as He loves His own Son, Jesus (John 17:23). This defines your identity.

When it comes down to it, we are all in a frenzy to find our identities, and mostly we are looking in all the wrong places and making all the wrong choices. We find our identities in the places we get a sense of self-worth, and the multitude of things that are fueling most people's sense of identity—sexuality, careers, power and position, the list goes on—are falling short. Many people are experiencing an identity crisis at their cores because they just don't feel successful or fulfilled. Jesus answers the crisis. Hosting Jesus' presence is largely about discovering Jesus' personality, and this leads to His shaping our identities.

I'm convinced the encounter I had with the Father that night was not just for me. I believe He was establishing a culture for this movement of worship, prayer and gospel proclamation in our cities and college campuses. I believe that all our extravagant songs, prayers and proclamations are meant to pour out from a river that is flowing on the inside of us. That river is flowing because we have discovered that the one seated on the throne in heaven is a Father who is smiling at each of us individually and personally. Knowing this will wash



away all our shame. This revelation is the answer to our identity crisis.

Loved Like Jesus

I believe answers to the most existential questions of life are found in a statement from Jesus in John 17. It is particularly important because it is one of the few places in the Scriptures where we see God talking to God about us. Jesus is praying to the Father right before going to the cross, and you and I are the topic of the conversation. Jesus says in John 17:23 (NIV), “I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

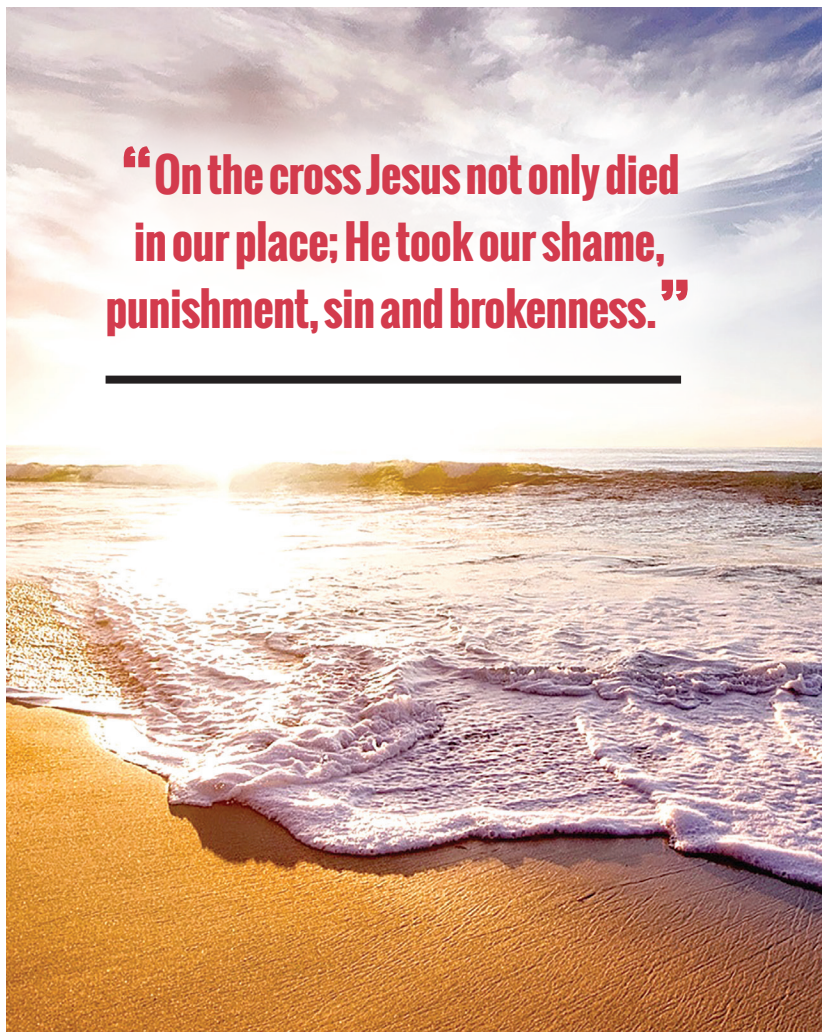
Jesus says that God the Father loves us in the same way and to the same degree that He loves Jesus. There is literally nothing more powerful than the love God has for God, which is the love the Father has for Jesus. If it were not in red letters, it would be impossible to believe God feels the same way about us as He does about Jesus. But it is true, and it is the defining reality of our lives.

John said that we love God “because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). As we are pursuing Jesus, every one of us has the urgent need in the depths of our beings to know that we are enjoyed by God, even in our weaknesses and despite our failures. We need a regular reintroduction to the goodness of God. The struggle to believe this is one of the most important battles you’ll face in your life, no matter how long you have been a follower of Jesus.

We are trying to love Him, but God flips the script and says, “This is not so much about your learning to love Me but about your learning to first receive My love for you.”

When we look up at God, it is not His power and sovereignty that shock us most profoundly. The greatest surprise and wonder of God is that we look up and see that He has a smile on His face as He looks at us.

In the midst of His fearful,



“On the cross Jesus not only died in our place; He took our shame, punishment, sin and brokenness.”

glorious presence, there is a smiling Father.

Embrace His Affection

Our natural thinking does not expect or embrace God’s affections on this level. We naturally reject it. We expect to hear a rebuke as the main topic of conversation when we are approaching God. However, if you are hearing only rebukes in your heart after you’ve turned to Jesus, you are not hearing accurately yet.

Repentance is absolutely required, but repentance is not pulling yourself up by the bootstraps and fixing yourself. It is turning from the sin that is bringing nothing but death and giving yourself to Jesus alone. It is total and complete surrender.

This is the core truth: God likes you, and He passionately desires you, even in your weakness. Today is the day to return home like that prodigal

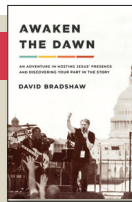
who finally came to his senses. When that son in Luke 15 who had squandered his father’s money and lived a reckless life finally decided to return to the father’s house, do you know how the father responded?

Jesus said that while his son was still a long way off, the father saw him, ran to him and kissed him. He ran. This is a picture of our loving God—He is the God who runs to you.

Even before He created humans, He was love. He has been defined as love for billions of years, and the love of God is what flowed among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has always been love; therefore, He must be a plurality—three persons and yet one. God didn’t become a loving Father after He created us; He has always been a Father with a family within His being. We were actually created to be participants

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in this love flowing within God's person, and it is intensely personal. You are breathing because God wants to share Himself.

The reality is that we are dealing with a generation of people who are wrestling with an orphan mindset, perhaps more than any previous generation has, at least in America. When you have an orphan mindset, you invariably hurt other people because you are trying to protect yourself. God wants to heal your heart so you can actually love others without self-preservation. That is why the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of adoption:

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom. 8:15, ESV).

Becoming Love

In His final words before going to the cross, Jesus said this: "I made known to them [all who believe in Jesus] your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26).

I really want you to catch the magnitude of this. Jesus asked the Father to cause us to love Him *like the Father loves Him*. How does God feel about God? How does the Father feel about Jesus? There is no end to this shoreless ocean. We are invited into this kind of love. It's no wonder God intends to fill the earth with singing.

The Cross Has Spoken

You may be wondering, *How can God love us so much in the midst of our brokenness and in light of our sin and failure?* First, it is His character to love. He is more merciful than any of us. Having said that, there is one

profound reason we can have this relationship of love and enjoyment: the cross of Christ.

On the cross Jesus not only died in our place; He took our shame, punishment, sin and brokenness. He took it all. It is finished. All who have surrendered their lives to Jesus and trust in Him are as holy as Jesus is because of what He accomplished at Calvary.

We don't have to be good enough to receive God's love—we can't be. The cross silences human pride. It is the ultimate expression of love and justice. Because of Jesus' death and Resurrection, you and I are now in the family of God as His children forever. God had the final word in Jesus' work on the cross.

The Kiss of the Word

There is one practical key that is perhaps the most important of all to receiving the love of Christ. It is expressed in the Song of Solomon.

The Song of Solomon, or the Song of Songs in some Bible translations, is an eight-chapter love song written by David's son Solomon. Many people skip this poetic book because of all its pomegranates and palm trees. But at its core it is a picture of love between a man and his wife. Marriage is probably the greatest analogy Scripture gives to show us what God's relationship with His people looks like. Paul said marriage speaks of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32). This is why seeing Jesus as the eternal bridegroom helps us better understand God's love for us.

In the first chapter of the Song of Solomon, the bride says, "Let him kiss me with the *kisses of his mouth!* For your love is better than wine" (v. 2, emphasis added). The Song of Solomon is an allegory of Christ's relationship with the church, and it's important to understand that this verse is not in any way referring to a physical relationship with Jesus. It is analogous to the Word of God touching our hearts when it is communicated by the Holy Spirit.

The Word is a kiss from God on your heart. Allowing the Holy Spirit to touch your heart with the Word of God is the greatest tool for growing

in love. That's when you discover that Jesus' love is "better than wine." Wine speaks of the pleasures of the world, not all of which are sinful. God's love communicated to your heart is better than any pleasure the world could offer us. It is the highest form of pleasure. That is why David, the great theologian of joy, said, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore" (Ps. 16:11, ESV).

How do we receive God's kiss on our hearts? This happens when we take the time to meditate on the Bible and use the Word to engage in a conversation with Jesus. This is called praying the Bible, and this is how it works.

Find key verses that speak of God's heart and what He has done through Jesus. Study them so that you don't miss the context. But just as importantly, turn them into a conversation with God directly. Ask God questions about the verse. Pray each phrase back to Him. Use your own language to express what the verse is saying back to God in a dialogue. You may even want to sing it. Commit out loud to obey anything the text says to do. Write in a journal what God is revealing to your heart from the passage. Do this regularly. The Holy Spirit thrives in communicating God's affections to you, and if you pray His Word, He will reveal Himself more and more to you over time.

Seemingly small encounters with God really matter; they are real, and they do change us. The greatest supernatural event that is taking place is not tents that host God's presence being set up around the world; it is that broken people are discovering who God is and are beginning to love God the way God loves God. *Jesus, You have won us over. We are freely Yours forever.* ◀

DAVID BRADSHAW is the founder of *Awaken the Dawn*, a national organization mobilizing a new Jesus movement in America with a call to worship, prayer and evangelism. He and his wife, Ashley, live in Fredericksburg, Maryland, with their five children.



Decrypting the Relational Connection Cipher

Cutting-edge science and ancient biblical truth align in God's divine design

BY DR. TIM CLINTON

We all deal with shame at times, but this emotion has a deeper impact on some of us than others. For more than a few people, shame stays for long periods and proves profoundly harmful. It can also trigger other negative emotions and even lead us into destructive behavior. Yet God has already prescribed throughout Scripture the antidote we need, a solution supported by science.

Dr. Curt Thompson, a board-certified Christian psychiatrist, has studied this force of shame with the benefits of interpersonal neurobiology. He teaches that shame has a unique neurobiology.

You've probably never thought about this when you were feeling shame or helping someone through a season of shame. Yet we have to remember what we are learning today about relationships and the wiring of the brain. All strong emotions, particularly unhealthy ones, have their own neurobiology, their own tracking and their own ways of working in the brain. This is good news because we can use the insights we gain to set people free.

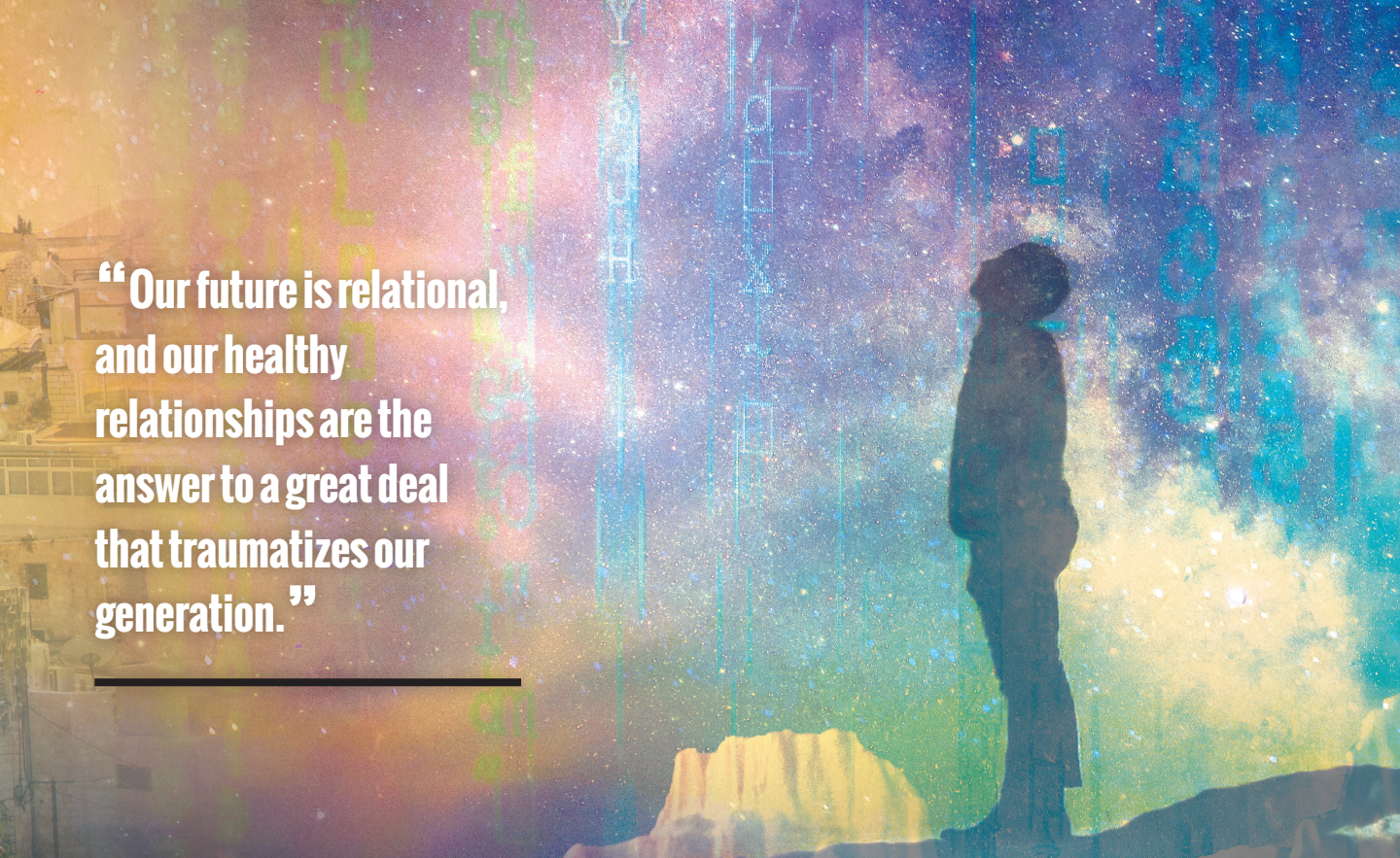
To understand this unique neurobiology of shame, I'll need to get a bit technical for a moment. From a scientific perspective, the mind does the job of regulating the flow of energy and information that moves

from neuron to neuron through the magnificent organ we call the brain.

Amazingly, as one reviewer of Dr. Thompson's book noted, "there is a biological correspondence between toxic shame and the brain." This kind of shame creates "an observable pathology of disconnection in the brain." It cuts off one section of the mind from another. In other words, toxic shame creates in the biology of the brain exactly what it is creating in the life of a shame-filled person: brokenness, disconnection and exclusion.

Now, "the bad news is that shame is stubborn" and not easily erased. It can be deeply rooted in the brain by childhood experiences that have left their imprint biologically. Since these early experiences "are foundational," it can be "difficult to undo the foundation."

Yet now comes the great insight of the new science. Since the brain and the mind are separate but influence each other, we can deploy the mind to help rewire the brain. Remember, we are learning that the brain is more flexible throughout life than we have believed before. So now we understand that healthy practices can help rewire the brain. What kind of practices exactly? Biblical practices. Powerful spiritual practices like "Christian fellowship, bearing one another's burdens, confession of sin, loving and accepting one another in authentic relationships"—all things Christians are meant to be



“Our future is relational, and our healthy relationships are the answer to a great deal that traumatizes our generation.”

doing anyway. Now we know that these have tremendous therapeutic value, that they can make a huge difference in healing lives.

Our Relational Future

It may sound odd for me to say it this way, but our future is relational, and our healthy relationships are the answer to a great deal that traumatizes our generation.

It wouldn't have been necessary to say such a thing in most previous generations. Relationships seemed almost automatic. Usually, families were large. Members of such families, even extended families, lived together most of their lives. Then there was the tribe or the village. You needed to be in community to survive. You needed to band together, and out of this essential closeness came vital relationships. Communities were tight. Love and laughter, storytelling and music, dancing and celebration were all part of the rituals of life. Life was too dangerous to be a loner.

In short, in many ways people were more connected in earlier generations because the opportunity for relationships was abundant. Given what we now know from interpersonal neuroscience, we can see why people at least appeared healthier. They had meaningful interactions with other human beings from the moment they were born. They lived in a tight-knit relational world, and they belonged to a loving group of people. To put it in modern terms, their brains

were encouraged to grow. Strong, positive relationships fired their neurons. All the factors of healthy brain growth were present, from loving touch to play to verbal interaction. Yet keep in mind, relationships were the key.

Now, why have I taken us back into history? It is because even though today we are armed with the insights of modern brain science and can start realizing the vital power of our relationships anew, the truth is that we are also living in a relationally challenged world. We have enemies, so to speak, that we must face if we are going to have the relationships that heal us, fulfill us and make us healthy, godly human beings. In short, we have a battle to fight for a relational life and a relational future.

The Rewiring of Social Media

We are all grateful, I'm sure, for the blessings of modern social media. I doubt any of us want to see it done away with. So many good things come into our lives from digital technology and the social media that springs from it. But when we understand how vital relationships are, how they can help to heal the trauma of our age, then we also have to be concerned about what social media is doing to us and what a challenge our digital lives are to our relational lives.

Modern interpersonal neuroscience is giving us astonishing insights that can help us fight against one of the great perils of our age. You see, as we've been learning

here, “the brain is a social organ.” It is the reason people want to connect, and it is also the reason social media has such appeal to us. We are made for relationships, and so we seek relationships however we can get them, even digitally through social media. The problem we face, though, is that like all human interactions, social media is rewiring our brains. It is shaping us as we use it, and this may not be a good thing. Let me explain.

Dr. Dan Siegel, psychiatry professor at the UCLA School of Medicine, explains that when you are actually with another human being, you experience him or her fully. You make eye contact. You note facial expressions. You take in, even subconsciously, the person’s posture, tone of voice and intensity. Even his or her timing and gestures are signals that your brain is processing to understand, relate to and communicate with that person. Psychologists often speak of these seven signals in human relationships and communication, so you might want to memorize them: eye contact, facial expressions, tone of voice, postures, gestures, timing and intensity.

Now, while social media can bring people a bit closer together in some ways, the truth is that it lacks *all* of these seven signals of up-close human interaction. When you are just texting or writing an email, you are using only the verbal part of your brain.

You aren’t receiving and sending these seven signals that are part of our normal interactions with each other.

Since we know all human interaction develops the brain in some way, the question is this: What is social media doing to our brains?

It would be going too far to say that modern social media is making us robots, but this is an image that might help us understand how social media is rewiring our brains—toward words and logic, away from the human, the emotional and the physical.

Away even from self-knowledge. Hmmm. Sounds to me like the robots I’ve seen in the movies!

The Convergence and the Crisis

In all that we’ve seen here about



how we are made for relationships and how relationships even serve to wire our brains for good and bad, two conflicting facts are creating a major social crisis in our age.

1) God created us as social beings.

Scientists tell us that the brain is a social organ. We are learning that our relationships help make us who we are. We are, as we have long been told, social beings.

2) Social media is capable of rewiring our brains and impacting our personalities. Relying on texts, emails and posts for relating to other people emphasizes only one part of the brain—the logical and verbal.

The other part of our brain is not challenged as it would be if we were actually with people. So the parts of us that are emotional, physical and self-aware weaken and grow distant, as the brain scientists indicate. This moves us away from being genuinely able to relate to the world and others in a full and meaningful way.

Now, if we hold these two facts in our hands—we are social beings, but social media moves us away from deep

relationships and experiences of the world—what would we expect to find happening around us? What feeling would we expect people, the young and social media-minded in particular, to be consumed with? The answer is loneliness.

It only makes sense. And this is precisely what we do find. Indeed, it is one of the mounting crises of our age.

Researchers are confirming this almost daily. Among the most “wired” online age group—Millennials, meaning those born between 1981 and 1996—life ought to be good. They are well-educated. They are among the most prosperous of all their age-mates throughout history. They should be feeling the joy of starting families and moving up the career ladder. But a growing number of them don’t feel this way. A recent poll revealed that “30% of Millennials say they feel lonely.” This is the highest percentage of any generation living today.

Not only do 3 in 10 Millennials say they feel lonely, it gets worse. Some 27% “said they had ‘no close friends,’ 30% said they have ‘no best

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friends,' and 25% said they have no acquaintances," while 22% stated they had no friends at all. So not only are Millennials—the most social media-engaged age group—feeling lonely, but a considerable portion of them also find they don't have close, meaningful relationships. "In comparison, just 16% of Gen Xers" (the age group between Baby Boomers and Millennials) "and 9% of Baby Boomers say they have no friends."

So why would a quarter of an entire generation say they lack friends? And perhaps more importantly, what is going to happen as Millennials age, since experts tell us that loneliness tends to increase the older a generation gets?

Allow me to stick with the negative news a bit more to illustrate the good

and five close friends (62%), but 1 in 5 regularly or often feels lonely."

Adding to this, while most Americans see their neighbors weekly (39%) or daily (28%), 37% say these interactions are friendly, polite greetings that do not usually lead to more meaningful connections. In other words, Americans see and greet their neighbors, but their neighbors seldom become friends of any depth.

An interesting part of Barna's research reveals that when it comes to friendship, opposites don't attract. People tend to be friends with folks who are like them, not different. Americans' preference for befriending people who are like them "is true for religious beliefs (62% similar, 38% different), race or ethnicity (74% vs. 26%), income (56% vs. 44%), education level (63% vs. 37%), social status (70% vs. 30%), political views (62% vs. 38%) and life stage (69% vs. 31%)."

I should add that this same Barna report states that "evangelicals are less likely than most to have friends who are different than them." This is especially true when it comes

to blessings that it brings, the insights of interpersonal neuroscience promise wonderful things.

We see how vital relationships are for happy lives. We understand that our brains can change—not just in our early days but throughout our lifetimes. We also find that habits of the mind and body can bring health to the brain and thus to our lives.

Yet we also have to realize that we are living in a society that is increasingly disconnected, increasingly damaging itself through social media and increasingly feeling lonely and friendless. This is tragic both because it is painful and because of something the new brain science is teaching us: Relationships are the key to healing trauma.

Community—particularly Christian community with its devotion to prayer, confession, openness, vulnerability, service and investment in others—is more and more being understood as a bulwark against the traumatizing culture in which we live.

There are tremendous opportunities for Christian churches here. At a time when society is suffering relational wounds and loneliness, when technology and social trends are rending the fabric of our relationships, churches can offer the very relational interactions that brain scientists tell us are the keys to healing and restoration. Of course, social scientists are speaking just at a psychological level. But we Christians know that we have not only the mental benefits of our faith and practices to offer but also the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We really can be the healing force we are called to be in our traumatized generation. We can make the difference our age needs and that we believers in Jesus long to be in our time. ◀

TIM CLINTON, EDD, LPC, LMFT, is the president of *The American Association of Christian Counselors*. He serves as the executive director of the *Global Center for Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery at Liberty University*, is co-host of *Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk* and is recognized as a world leader in mental health and relationship issues.

“It would be going too far to say that modern social media is making us robots, but this is an image that might help us understand how social media is rewiring our brains—toward words and logic, away from the human, the emotional and the physical.”

news I want you to know. You see, it isn't just the Millennials who are feeling alone. Americans in general report a crisis of friendship.

Recently, one of our nation's largest health insurers, Cigna, reported the results of a study revealing that most Americans feel "lonely, left out and not known." Similar studies by the Barna Group showed that "the majority of adults has anywhere between two

to friends who share their religious beliefs (91% similar), friends who have the same ethnicity (88% similar) and friends who share their political views (86% similar). In short, when it comes to friendship, evangelicals in America just aren't reaching out to people who are unlike them.

Where does all this lead us? If we are considering the future and both the challenges and the

LET

The Houston physician and charismatic minister, whose video with America's Frontline Doctors went viral, shares her heart in exposing the dark spiritual agenda behind the opposition to alternative treatments for COVID-19

AMERICA

LIVE



BY STELLA IMMANUEL, M.D.

I stood there in the bright sunshine on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, head held high and hands clasped confidently in front of me. On either side of me stood other doctors, each of us wearing our white lab coats, each from a different state, trained in a different specialty and with different ethnic and religious backgrounds. A few cottony clouds graced the blue, majestic sky, and behind us a fountain bubbled, symbolizing life and joy—much of which had been drained from our country in the crazy months following the appearance on the world scene of a treatable virus called COVID-19.

Like the other professionals with me, I was proud to be in the capital that July day in 2020 preparing to address the nation because in the midst of a flurry of health-related lies being disseminated in our country regarding the virus, its prevention, and its cure, we—a credible group of board-certified, practicing physicians—were finally going to present the truth. But even we didn't know how far-reaching our press conference would be.

The Professionals Speak Out

Congressman Ralph Norman of South Carolina bravely introduced our group, which had just held a conference dealing with the reality behind COVID-19 and what those of us on the front lines recommended doing about it. Now, as both physicians and private individuals, we were going public with our professional opinions—opinions that were backed by verifiable results.

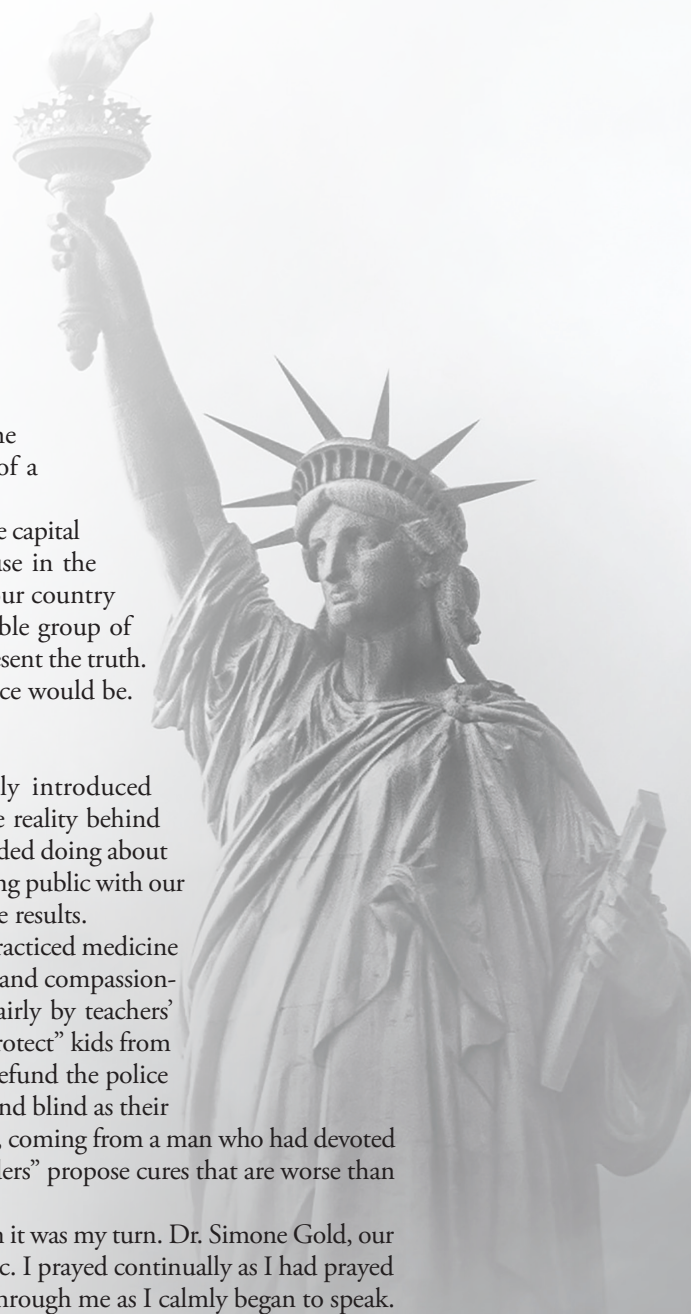
Dr. Bob Hamilton of Santa Monica, California, who had practiced medicine for 36 years by that time, stepped up first and spoke forcefully and compassionately about how the nation's children were being treated unfairly by teachers' unions that insisted on nonscientific rules and guidelines to "protect" kids from a virus that posed little harm to them. He exposed efforts to defund the police and shut down charter schools—a political agenda as warped and blind as their harmful COVID-19 response. His words were clear and urgent, coming from a man who had devoted his life to helping people get well, only to see our nation's "leaders" propose cures that are worse than the problems presented by the illness.

Dr. Hamilton's brief, powerful message wrapped up, and then it was my turn. Dr. Simone Gold, our de facto leader, smiled and gestured for me to step up to the mic. I prayed continually as I had prayed throughout the day, and the peace and power of God rushed through me as I calmly began to speak.

Sharing My Personal Experience

"Hello. I am Dr. Stella Immanuel," I said, speaking to the nation for the first time. "I'm a primary care physician in Houston, Texas. You know, I actually went to medical school in West Africa, Nigeria, where I took care of malaria patients, treated them with hydroxychloroquine ... so I am actually used to these medications. I am here because I have personally treated over 350 patients with COVID—patients who have diabetes, patients who have high blood pressure, patients who have asthma, old people. I think my oldest patient is 92. And the result has been the same: I put them on hydroxychloroquine; I put them on zinc; and I put them on [azithromycin]—and they are all well. For the past few months, I have taken care of over 350 patients and have not lost one—not a diabetic, not somebody with high blood pressure, not somebody with asthma, not an old person. We have not lost one patient.

"And on top of that, I have put myself, my staff, and many doctors I know on hydroxychloroquine for prevention because by the very mechanism of action, it works early as a prophylactic. We see ... 10 to 15 COVID patients every day. We give them breathing treatments. We only wear surgical masks. None of us has gotten sick. It works. So right now, I came here to Washington, D.C.,



to say, ‘America, nobody needs to die.’”

With each word and sentence I spoke, I felt the Holy Spirit welling up in celebration and support of our message. He is the Spirit of liberty, not of death, lies and torment such as the American people were experiencing at the hands of so-called medical “experts” and politicians. No! Our God is a God of freedom! He gave us freedom so we would seek His wisdom and answers in all areas of life—including in the realm of infectious diseases and physical ailments. As I continued to declare the truth over America, I could almost hear the lies snapping off peoples’ minds like broken rubber bands. In that moment, freedom was once again emanating from our nation’s capital.

“I’m upset,” I continued. “Why I’m upset is that I see people who cannot breathe. I see parents walk in; I see a diabetic sit in my office knowing that this [virus] is a death sentence, and they can’t breathe. And I hug them and I tell them, ‘It’s going to be OK. You’re going to live.’ And we treat them, and they live. None has died. So if some fake science, some person sponsored by all these fake pharma companies comes out and says, ‘We’ve done studies, and they found out that it doesn’t work,’ I can tell you categorically, it’s fake science. I want to know who is sponsoring that study. I want to know who is behind it because there is no way I can treat 350 patients and counting and nobody is dead, and they all did better.”

When you speak the words of God, they flow freely out of you, and they tend to gain momentum, like a river growing wider and faster as it travels to the ocean. I felt this surge inside myself and continued: “I’m a true testimony. So I came here to Washington, D.C., to tell America nobody needs to get sick. This virus has a cure. It is called hydroxychloroquine, zinc and [azithromycin]. I know you people want to talk about a mask. Hello? You don’t need [a] mask. There is a cure. I know they don’t want to open schools. No, you don’t need people to be locked down. There is prevention, and there is a cure.”

“I am convinced that there exists an evil, diabolical conspiracy of widespread cover-up and misinformation to mislead Americans—and people around the world—concerning the truth about COVID-19, including where it came from and how to treat it.”

Moment of Destiny

By this point I knew I had stepped boldly into the moment for which God had created me before time began. What I didn’t realize was how far and wide that message would spread within just minutes and hours. I was told later that the Frontline Doctors press conference was one of the most viral videos in all history. God used it as a hammer blow to the false narrative of politically correct “science,” which sought to enslave the American people through fear, misdiagnosis and crippling guidelines and public health policies.

For me personally, and for all of us who stood there that day, the effect was profoundly transforming. Within minutes I went from being an unknown physician to a national spokesperson for truth, as did my colleagues. God had prepared me for that moment, and as my life suddenly changed and the enemy fought back hard against our message and our very lives, I felt God’s peace and preparation taking me through to victory—just as He had done throughout my life, and just as He will do with our nation.

It may seem as if the press conference was in some ways a “suddenly,” but I believe God had prepared me in advance for how to effectively deal with the pandemic by raising me up spiritually and positioning me exactly where I needed to be when the COVID-19 virus caused the world to spiral into chaos. You see, I am not only a physician. I am a Bible-believing Christian, an ordained minister of the gospel, and the founder of Fire Power Ministries church in Katy, Texas. I simultaneously run a private clinic in Houston and am a licensed physician practicing in the state of Texas. Regardless of who may or may not like it, in my life there is no separation of church and state; I practice what I believe, and I believe what I practice. I am a woman of both science and the Spirit. Both have played a role in helping me successfully combat the virus.

A Matter of Life and Death

The message I shared in the nation’s capital in the summer of 2020 and that I continue to share whenever I have an opportunity is incredibly urgent. So urgent, in fact, that it’s a matter of life and death—your life and the lives of your loved ones, as well as those of our entire nation and planet. All people alive, and those yet to be born, are unquestionably affected by the information I am making available.

Part of my message has to do with the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine, an antimalarial drug and prophylactic (preventative) that has been safely used for decades to treat everyone from infants to the elderly. In fact, in West Africa, where I grew up, taking the preventative “Sunday-Sunday medicine,” as the locals call it, is common. Plenty of my countrymen are familiar with the concoction of readily available drugs in the “quine” family, hydroxychloroquine among them, which are taken to ward off malaria. Even the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes this use of hydroxychloroquine, as stated in their article “Medicines for the Prevention of Malaria While Traveling: Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil™).”

But even with my history and

FOR MORE STUDY...

This book offers a firsthand account of the media's silencing and opposition to those who counter the leftist agenda surrounding COVID-19.



familiarity with hydroxychloroquine, I had no idea when I stepped up to the mic that day in Washington, D.C.—and, unwittingly, onto the national stage—that my recommendation of it as a safe and effective treatment for the COVID-19 virus would incite such an immediate and controversial reaction. And there was more than controversy surrounding my claims; there was great contempt for them and for me as well.

Even before my moment in the spotlight, there was an inexplicable resistance, not just in our country but also around the world, to hydroxychloroquine as a coronavirus treatment. And while I do have an incredible number of supporters, for which I am most grateful, I'm certainly not the only vocal proponent of the drug. The public contempt and pushback I've received has come from seemingly everywhere: political leaders and commentators, social media influencers, both real and imagined, so-called experts and internet trolls, and even from many of my fellow doctors and medical industry colleagues, many of whom *know* I am speaking the truth!

This explosion of controversy points to the power of that watershed day in July 2020 when we spoke out for truth on the Supreme Court steps. Having the world's spotlight turned on me—along with its accompanying criticism—has changed my life. And yet I wouldn't change a thing. If given the chance, I would declare my message all over again, even louder than before. This is because lives are tragically at stake, and hydroxychloroquine has the potential to save those lives. It could potentially bring an end to the death toll COVID-19 has exacted on our nation since early 2020. My unconditional belief in the suitability of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for the coronavirus is the inspiration

behind my message and at the heart of its cry to the American government and powers-that-be: *Let America live!*

Why the Cover-Up?

To be clear, my advocacy of hydroxychloroquine comes with strong medical support. What I've said about it and continue to proclaim is based on more than 28 years as a medical practitioner. In other words, it's based on both hands-on experience and actual success. To date, my team and I have treated with hydroxychloroquine more than 7,000 coronavirus-infected or symptomatic patients at my Houston clinic and online via telemedicine, and of that number, only eight precious souls, all of whom were in advanced stages of the disease, have died. Yes, you read that correctly: Out of the 7,000-plus virus-affected patients I've treated, 99% are alive and well—and their recovery is directly attributable to a prescribed cocktail heavy on hydroxychloroquine. We have also put more than 20,000 on prophylaxis with *most never getting the disease* despite their exposure to it. A few who did get it had mild symptoms.

These results beg the question, why have the United States government and the CDC made a concerted effort to conceal the truth about hydroxychloroquine, arguably the virus' most effective treatment? Not only have government-sponsored and political organizations been trying to pull the wool over our nation's collective eyes concerning hydroxychloroquine, going so far as to mock, discredit and even villainize those who, like me, have become vocal advocates of it, but also I am convinced that there exists an evil, diabolical conspiracy of widespread cover-up and misinformation to mislead Americans—and people around the world—concerning the truth about COVID-19, including where it came from and how to treat it.

For this reason, I felt compelled to carve time out of my schedule treating patients six days per week and ministering to my congregation on Sunday to “tell the truth and shame the devil,”

as the saying goes. I feel I must expose to the public what too many of our nation's leaders and experts have refused to reveal. What is their motive in withholding such precious, potentially life-saving information from the American people? I reveal what I believe that motive is in my new book, *Let America Live!*, which was written for the singular purpose of making you, the reader, fully aware of what is going on—in the medical industry, in the political arena and in the spiritual realm—as it pertains to COVID-19 and how its emergence has amplified and exposed the intense reality of the end-times narrative in which we are living, perhaps more than any historical event that preceded it.

For all that I share, I invite you to draw your own conclusions. In the book, I unapologetically present my personal opinions and beliefs as an evangelical Christian who lives by the Bible and believes in the power of prophecy and the reality of God-given dreams. I share some things that undoubtedly will make you think and search your Bible for answers regarding our present reality. I also share pertinent medical data, all factual and true.

I hope you will read it to learn what I believe is going on behind the scenes in our country. But whether you pick it up or not, remember this: Much, if not all, of what you are hearing in the media about the coronavirus is not true. You do not have to get it; you do not have to die from it if you do get it; and you do not have to wear a mask every time you leave your house to keep from getting it. You can *live, America*, in spite of the pandemic—if you will follow the course of action set out by reputable doctors who have experience in the prevention and treatment of it. ◀

STELLA IMMANUEL, M.D., is a successful physician with an active practice in Houston as well as the founder of Fire Power Ministry in Katy, Texas. She devotes her life and resources to teaching believers everywhere to identify the sources of spiritual weakness, deception and defeat to learn strategies of warfare to enable them to get and maintain their freedom.

| WORSHIP MUSIC

THE STORIES BEHIND OUR FAVORITE WORSHIP SONGS

The power of praise is unparalleled. These songs have defined us, and their origins make them richer

BY RENEE DELORIEA

Pentecostals and charismatics have an inseparable bond with worship. Expressive, heartfelt and Spirit-led worship is a cornerstone of the Spirit-led experience. Some songs have come to define who we are over the years. “So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus/ Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.” These lyrics form the chorus of Jack Hayford’s iconic worship song “Majesty.” Hayford’s “Majesty” is just one of those heart-stirring anthems.

Music mixed with the presence of God is a powerful force indeed! Music can move us beyond our pain. It can lift us higher in our praise of God, ignite a larger fire in us for evangelism, take us deeper into worship, increase our faith to press toward a miracle and inspire us to proclaim victory over darkness. Let’s examine the story behind some of our favorite worship songs as we seek to embrace them in the Spirit and, in turn, tap into even more of the life-creating power they produce.

“Loved on, song is life-begetting. It is a natural means of uniting together, a beautiful means of praise and worship, and a powerful means of challenging darkness and declaring the truth,” Jack Hayford wrote in an online article titled “The Power of Song.”

“Song is a powerful instrument because it is so basic to worship. When it is worked out in the experience of our daily life, it becomes a manifestly powerful means of sustenance, triumph, creativity, deliverance and ongoing growth and development in the way of the Lord.”

In his book *Majesty*, Hayford describes a road trip in Great Britain with his late wife, Anna, that prompted him to write the song “Majesty” in 1977. As they drove northward from the south of Wales through England and up into the northern part of Scotland, they stopped at many castles and saw many royal symbols celebrating the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth’s succession to the throne. He sensed that in such regal surroundings, a person would grow up believing they were put on this earth to influence the world in a magnificent way. He also sensed the majesty of Jesus Christ and the royalty that joint heirs with Christ have as sons and daughters of God Almighty.

One day as the couple drove through the beautiful countryside, “Majesty” flowed into Hayford’s heart, and he asked Anna to write down the opening lines and melody as God brought them forth. When the two returned to their home in California, he completed the song that became a classic and has

inspired worshippers around the world to sing, “Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King” for nearly 45 years.

Holy Combination

Sometimes a song grows in the songwriter’s heart for years before its birth. Such was the case with “Revelation Song” by Jennie Lee Riddle. The Holy Spirit planted the seed for this song in her heart when she heard “I Hear Angels” by Gerrit Gustafson soon after giving her life to Jesus in 1988. Over the next 10 years, she often sang Gustafson’s song to her children as a lullaby, multiplying her passion for all creation to see and hear the glory of the Lord.

Eleven years later, while singing those familiar lyrics—“I hear angels singing praises/ I see men from every nation, bowing down before the throne”—to her fourth child, she asked the Holy Spirit to help her write a song, a song that portrayed His glory, an anthem already sung by God’s creation. She gently put the baby down to play and strummed the four guitar chords she had taught herself the day before.

As Riddle meditated on Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Revelation 4, the Holy Spirit brought images to her mind. She paired descriptions of those images with what she felt was a heavenly melody, singing the holy combination time and again in the weeks to come.

Now, 25 years later, many worship leaders cast vision for their congregations when they first introduce “Revelation Song” by sharing Riddle’s testimony. Week after week, her anthem remains at the top of the charts for songs most downloaded by worship leaders worldwide. Countless voices rise in unified praise every Sunday: “Clothed in rainbows of living color/ Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder.” The song’s awe-inspired text, combined with throbbing chords, allows worshippers to envision all creation joining the angelic chorus at the throne.

Powerful Proclamation

Suffering from a degenerative eye condition, Henry Smith had trouble finding work after graduating from seminary in 1978 when he wrote, “Give Thanks (With a Grateful Heart).” He based the song on 2 Corinthians 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich.” Though poor in funds and weak in eyesight, Smith used his song to encourage gratitude and the powerful proclamation of the strength and riches

“There seemed to be no way out of the situation, save for the hand of God.”

—Darlene Zschech (“Shout to the Lord”)

believers have because of Christ’s work on the cross.

The story of how this song traveled around the world from Williamsburg, Virginia, to become one of the most popular praise and worship songs of all time affirms the miraculous. A U.S. military officer heard Smith perform “Give Thanks (With a Grateful Heart)” in church. Moved, he shared the lyrics and melody with a congregation in Germany, where he was stationed. From there, the song spread across Europe and became a standard hymn.

Imagine how shocked Smith must have been when his song showed up on *Integrity’s Hosanna! Music* audio cassette and on Don Moen’s *Give Thanks* album nearly a decade later. When he contacted Integrity about his authorship, representatives from the music publishing group told him they had been trying to track him down and offered him a writer agreement.

“Shout to the Lord” becomes even more inspiring and eye-opening when we discover how it flowed out of prayer during an overwhelming time in Darlene Zschech’s life. In an interview with *St. Augustine Magazine*, she said that in 1993 she was feeling crushed by the weight of a heavy tax bill. “There seemed to be no way out of the situation, save for the hand of God.”

Desperately seeking peace from on high, she turned to Psalm 96 while plucking the keys of the piano her parents gave her as a child. Zschech remained focused on the Scriptures but now sang along. As she repeated the words, she noticed her depression disappeared, and her joy returned. She realized an incredible truth: God had given her a worship song.

As she sought comfort and shelter, Zschech received the lyrics, “My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength/ Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.” Her

song inspires us to praise God through our own struggles and “Shout to the Lord, all the Earth, let us sing.”

Personal Revelation

Current praise and worship hit “Way Maker” also came to life during its songwriter’s time of struggle. Long-time Nigerian gospel singer/songwriter Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu, known as Sinach, found herself in a season of change when she wrote it, concerned about the doors God had closed. In an interview with CNN Africa, she describes the season before He gave her the song as a time of transition when “I had to latch on to His presence and seek His face.”

Sinach also says as she was writing “Way Maker,” a friend called her with a prophetic word: “You are going to write a song that will change the world.”

“Which one?” she inquired.

“This one!”

After giving her the song, Holy Spirit also brought her a personal revelation that would call her to action. “God said to me, ‘You see, I am Your way maker and that promise keeper,’” she explains. “And He said, ‘My Word will bring light to every situation.’”

Sinach and her team responded quickly to that promise, uploading to YouTube a recording of her singing “Way Maker.” Released from Lagos in 2015, the song snowballed around the world and had approached the level of a cross-denominational worship standard when Michael W. Smith’s daughter introduced him to it in 2017. When Smith released his version in 2019, the song, already known as a global anthem of hope, became the go-to comfort song for the American church during the pandemic.

Sinach says she takes great delight in the way other artists have extended and expanded the song’s reach. “The joy of a writer is that when you write a song,

the whole world will sing it, because the song is really not about you,” she says. “If the song goes ahead of you to announce you before you even show up, that means the song is successful.”

Inward Connection

But not all songs are born during an author’s time of personal struggle. When Paul Baloche wrote “Open the Eyes of My Heart,” he was seeking God for a richer personal worship experience. As he taught at worship conferences, he noticed that the bulk of the teaching focused on external forms of praise and worship such as singing, shouting, clapping and kneeling.

God showed him the missing piece: an emphasis on inward connection with outward expression. “You can teach externals, but unless something is happening from the inside out, it’s really just a form. It’s like a cloud without rain,” Baloche said in a 2011 interview for *praisecharts.com*.

God also used a favorite pastor’s prayer to impact the songwriter. “Lord, just open up the eyes of our hearts as we open up Your Word,” the pastor told God before he preached. That prayer took Baloche to Ephesians 1:18a, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.”

The external expression of his heart-cry came forth one morning during ministry time at his church, when he sang these repeated words: “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart.” That simple, sincere prayer became the lyrics to the song originally released in 2000 on Baloche’s album *Open the Eyes of My Heart*.

In a similar way, fiery evangelist and songwriter Keith Green was asking God to tenderize his heart when he wrote, “Oh Lord, You’re Beautiful.” At a live recording of the song prior to his 1982 death in a plane crash at the early age of 28, Green told the audience the story behind the song:

“On Monday night this week, about midnight, I wrote a letter to the Lord. I didn’t know where to mail it, so I put it in my Bible. And I asked him, ‘Lord, You’ve got to

do something about my heart. You know, a lot of time's gone by since I met you. And it's starting to harden up, You know.

"It's kind of natural. I want to have baby skin, Lord. I want to have skin like a baby on my heart. It's starting to get old and wrinkled and callous. It's not because of anything I'm doing; it's because of a lot of things I'm not doing."

"And I stayed up till about 2 in the morning writing this song."

Countless believers blessed by "Oh Lord, You're Beautiful" in the late '70s and early '80s consider it—and Green himself—an unforgettable exclamation mark in their ongoing journey with the Lord.

Songwriters often search the Scriptures until the Holy Spirit highlights a verse or passage. In other cases, they set aside sabbatical times to collaborate on songwriting. Learning what passages of Scriptures or times of fellowship helped birth a particular song informs us in a way that moves us to further embrace it and expands its holy reach into our hearts.

Stories of praise and worship songs multiply when they become a part of our own personal stories. The *rhema* word God brought to us. The presence of God that captivated us. The pain He healed in us. The conqueror He revealed through us.

These stories also multiply through the stories of our corporate breakthrough. We embrace these songs and their stories as we embrace our stories of forgiving one another. These songs spur us to unite with one another in unity and love. They allow us to share precious moments in His presence and deepen our faith that in Him, all things are possible.

True worship lifts our spirits and imaginations into heavenly spaces. Hayford is correct. Let us come and magnify Him! ◀

READ MORE: Learn more about Spirit-filled praise and worship at worship.charismamag.com.

RENEE DELORIEA is a freelance charismatic writer based in Nashville.

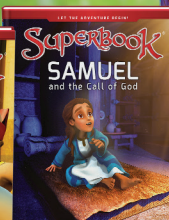
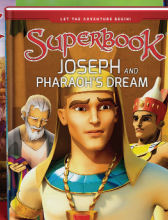
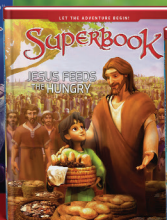


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WHAT IF A *CHRISTIAN* COMMITS

SUICIDE?



We would never want to encourage anyone to kill themselves. But if a believer does this, will God extend mercy?

BY DR. TONY G. MOON

Over the last 14 months, three Christian acquaintances of mine have ended their own lives. They chose this means of gaining relief from the heavy burdens they faced. The first was a student at Emmanuel College. The second was a police chief who left behind a wife and two school-age children. The third was an elderly retired banker whose wife had recently died.

How do we handle the tragic reality that real Christians sometimes commit suicide? It is a heart-wrenching and mentally torturous experience for close survivors, especially for those who are believers themselves. The common presumption in the church that suicide is always a divinely unforgivable sin doesn't help.

All my life as a person of Christian faith, I have heard preachers, teachers and other believers suggest that anyone who commits suicide automatically and immediately goes to hell. This notion leaves many believing loved ones desperately grasping for hope with respect to the afterlife of their Christian deceased. But is it true that suicide is always a sin that God will not forgive? This is a tough theological question, so I begin by looking at Scripture.

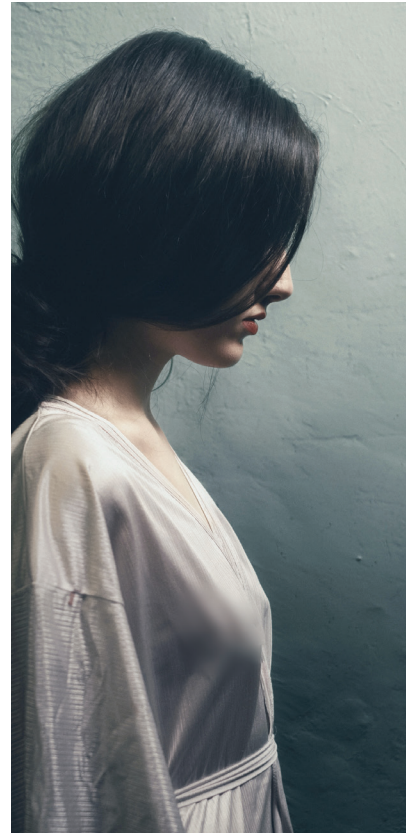
Suicide Stories in the Bible

There are six suicide accounts in the Bible, five in the Old Testament and one in the New: Abimelek (Judg. 9:50-56), Samson (Judges 16:23-31), King Saul and his armor bearer (1 Sam. 31:3-5; 1 Chron. 10:3-5, 13-14); Ahithophel (2 Sam. 17:23), King Zimri (1 Kings 16:18-19) and Judas Iscariot (Matt. 27:1-5; Acts 1:18-20, 24-25).

In the Old Testament stories, two had been gravely wounded in battle and likely would have died anyway. One was technically a case of euthanasia (mercy killing) or assisted suicide: Abimelek ordered his armor-bearer to finish him off. One motive for perhaps as many as four of them was to avoid public humiliation and torture by the enemy. One was probably an act of loyalty to and solidarity with his military commander. Samson's suicide was part of a revengeful but heroic military act that killed 3,000 of the Israelites' Philistine oppressors. The narrators describe the deaths of the two kings as a result of God's judgment for sin—the Lord used human agency to bring about dire circumstances, which eventuated in them taking their own lives.

continued »

“Quoting the sixth commandment by itself doesn’t necessarily settle the question about where Christians who take their own lives spend eternity.”



In the New Testament, Judas Iscariot hung himself because of a sense of remorse about betraying Jesus after realizing his treachery resulted in Jesus being sentenced to execution by the Jewish Sanhedrin.

After a careful study of the Old Testament stories, three main points stand out:

1) There is no negative value judgment about these acts of suicide in and of themselves.

2) There is no indication that the souls of these men went to hell because, in Old Testament theology, the souls of all human beings, when they die physically, go to the same gloomy place in the underworld called *Sheol* in Hebrew.

3) Perhaps significantly, God answered Samson’s prayer for physical strength to bring the pagan temple down on the Philistine revellers and himself (Judg. 16:28-30).

The New Testament yields some insight into the *eventual* afterlife of Samson. In Hebrews 11:32, he is listed among the heroes and heroines of Old Testament faith. (See also verses 33-34, where one or more descriptive phrases probably refer at least in part to him.) It appears that the writer of Hebrews expected to see Samson in heaven.

Matthew 26:24, Mark 14:21, John 17:12 and Acts 1:25 contain statements made by Jesus and early Christians in Jerusalem about Judas Iscariot. On the basis of just a casual reading, these don’t seem to reflect well on his eternal destiny, perhaps especially the passage in John’s Gospel. But I caution against assuming that

they are declarations about Judas going to hell.

According to an early Christian, traditional interpretation of other New Testament texts like Ephesians 4:8-10, 1 Peter 3:19-22 and 4:6, the souls of the righteous dead were evacuated from *Sheol* (*Hades* in the Greek New Testament) into God’s presence when Christ resurrected and later ascended to heaven. So those statements in the Gospels and Acts might reflect the situation before Christ’s Resurrection and ascension when *all* the souls of the dead still went to *Sheol/Hades*. In other words, Judas joined the rest of dead humanity there. (Jesus, however, like some Jewish rabbis by New Testament times, taught that the unrighteous suffer conscious torment there; see Luke 16:19-31.) Or those statements could simply refer to how Judas’ life ended so tragically: a traitor who was overwhelmed by feelings of guilt that drove him to a self-inflicted, violent death.

Christian Suicide and Church Tradition

Since the early church father Augustine in the fifth century, the conventional view in the Christian community was that all people who commit suicide transition into an eternity of separation from God. On the other hand, by the time of Augustine, there had developed a long tradition in the church of honoring as martyrs, even canonizing as saints, Christian women who killed themselves during times of persecution in order to avoid the shame of sexual assault by pagan soldiers, slaveowners and prison workers.

Augustine himself was inconsistent. He argued that Samson’s suicide was morally justified because the Spirit of God told him to do it (which is not exactly what Judges 16 says). Moreover, he suggested that the Spirit led those Christian women to kill themselves too.

Augustine was the first Christian writer to interpret “murder” in the Old Testament’s sixth commandment as, in part, prohibiting suicide. (“You shall not murder,” Ex. 20:13, Deut. 5:17). Not one Jewish rabbi or Christian teacher before him had penned such. The Old Testament Law itself provides exceptions to the sixth commandment in cases of self-defense, armed conflict, “holy war” (military crusades commanded by God, as in Deuteronomy) and some 22 capital crimes against the state. Augustine was reacting against the fact that, since the second century, there had been many believers who actively courted execution by Roman government authorities, seeing martyrdom as the supreme act of Christian discipleship and witness.

Murder is a serious sin, and suicide

is self-murder. But quoting the sixth commandment by itself doesn't necessarily settle the question about where Christians who take their own lives spend eternity. So the question remains: What happens to Christians who commit suicide?

Do Christians Who Commit Suicide Go to Heaven?


On three main biblical grounds, I believe there is afterlife hope for believers who kill themselves.

» There is good reason to believe that the soul of Samson, probably the most famous Old Testament suicide, is in the Lord's presence (Heb. 11:32-34).

» The Bible teaches that God is fair. He knows all about the difficult circumstances, the psychological, mental and emotional state of mind, and the apparent spiritual condition of loss of faith and hope that sometimes lead Christians to commit such a horrible act. We know we can trust the Lord to do what's right. Deuteronomy 32:4 declares: "All His ways are just. ... Righteous and upright is He." With the church triumphant in heaven in Revelation 15:3, we can worship Him in song as the one whose "ways" are "just and true."

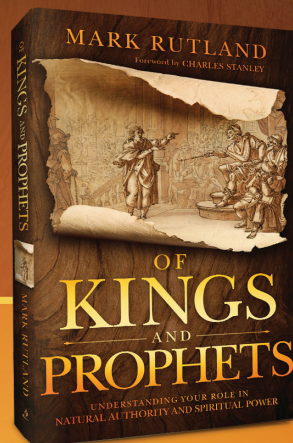
» I choose to lean heavily on the pervasive biblical theme of divine grace. God is revealed in Scripture as profoundly compassionate and empathetic. According to Exodus 34:6b, the Lord is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in goodness." (See the same refrain in Neh. 9:17; Ps. 86:15, 103:8 and Joel 2:13). "His compassions do not fail. They are new every morning" (Lam. 3:22b-23a). He is "rich in mercy," and the "riches of His grace," which He has revealed supremely through Jesus Christ, are "surpassing" (Eph. 2:4,7).

Most of us can only try to imagine the deep despair, intense emotional pain, loneliness, hopelessness and excruciating physical agony that sometimes incite even Christians to kill themselves. But I believe the Lord understands. I believe He forgives. And I believe He receives them into His presence. A pastor with whom



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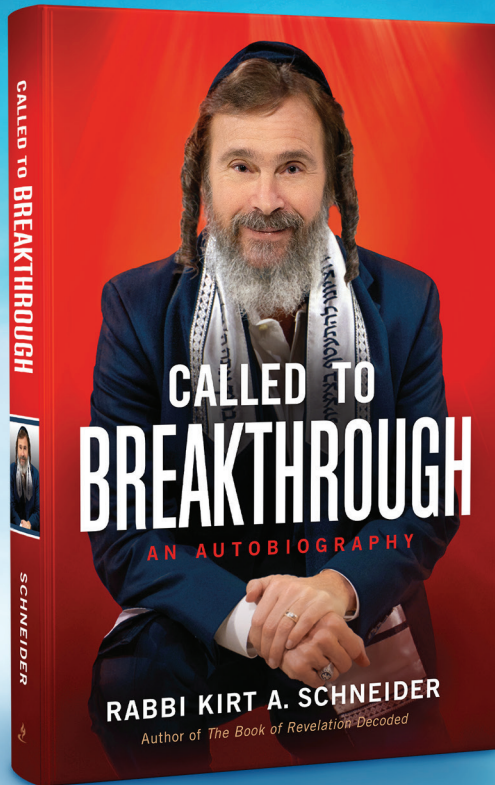
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I recently discussed this issue put it this way: "I don't know, but I believe in the mercy of God."

The Emmanuel College student I mentioned earlier was a devoted Christ-follower, a prayer warrior and a passionate witness for Jesus. Sadly, she struggled for years with deep-seated emotional trauma, severe depression and serious medical issues. I knew her well. Obviously, she lost faith and hope as far as *this* life is concerned. Yet I think there is a sense in which her act of suicide was an act of faith, an act of casting herself upon the "amazing grace" of God. I believe she expected Jesus, whom she loved with all her heart, to receive her. And I believe He did.

Of course, pastors and other ministers and church leaders must be careful. We don't want to say anything in our preaching, teaching and counseling ministry that could be misconstrued as an endorsement of suicide or as an encouragement to take one's life. But thankfully, we can offer Bible-based, Spirit-filled hope to survivors who deal with the awful aftermath.

(The following book was a major study and reflection resource used for this article: G. Lloyd Carr and Gwendolyn C. Carr, *The Fierce Goodbye: Hope in the Wake of Suicide* [InterVarsity Press, 1990]. I highly recommend it. It provides a strong, largely Scripture-based case for hopefulness about the afterlife fate of believers who enact a "fierce goodbye.") ◀

READ MORE: To find stories about the issue of suicide, visit suicidetragedy.charismamag.com.

DR. TONY G. MOON has served as a pastor, church planter and conference official in the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. He taught Bible, ministry and Pentecostal history courses for 37 years at the IPHC's Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia, where he served as professor of Christian ministries.

Suicide is never God's will. If you have been thinking about ending your life, please call the National Suicide Hotline at 800-273-8255. You may also contact a counselor at the International Pentecostal Holiness Church Clergy Care website: iphc.org/gso/clergy-care.

SIMPLY CHRIST



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A SOUND MIND

The 1st chapter of Romans records three great judgments which God sends upon a nation when that nation forsakes him. These judgments are preparation for the eventual wrath of God. God will not destroy a righteous nation, but when a nation rejects him, God will destroy their righteousness.

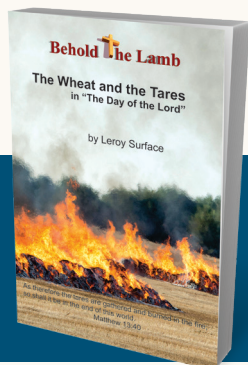
The first judgment is described this way: ***“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.”*** Romans 1:24. There is no doubt this has happened to America. The flood gates of uncleanness have broken wide open. Pornography fills the lives of believer and unbeliever alike. Marriage has been forsaken and polluted both within and without the church. We have become a nation of people who live to follow every lust of our own hearts.

The second judgment is even worse. The scripture says, ***“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.”*** Romans 1:26-27. When a nation is given over to vile affections these perverted affections claim the children of the preacher along with the children of the politician. Such is the case in America today. School age children are being swept into perverted activity by the thousands. The nation, its entertainment, its courts, and its politicians vilify anyone who dares stand and speak against such things. We truly have been *“given over to vile affections.”*

The third judgment has taken us like a mighty storm. The scripture says, ***“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*** Romans 1:28-32. Can anyone who knows God see the events of the past few years and not see that our nation has been given over to a reprobate mind? Vulgarity, maliciousness, and indecency is in full display at every level of society. Violence and theft are exalted and justified, while anyone who stands for the truth of God is presented to be a hate-filled closed-minded bigot. It seems there is no soundness of mind anywhere.

Even in fundamental Christianity *“strong delusion”* has taken hold. I hear conspiracy theories from church people on a regular basis. People send me emails calling Franklin Graham a heretic for simply encouraging people to get a COVID vaccination. Others tell me *“The Democrats released COVID upon the world!”* People tell me *“those who hear prophetically”* know that Donald Trump will be President before the summer is passed. The things are so delusional they remind me of the apostle’s words *“...for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* II Thessalonians 2:11-12.

In the midst of a nation, and much of a church, which has been given over to a reprobate or delusional mind, the people of God still have a promise from God. The Apostle Paul said, ***“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*** I Timothy 1:7. The answer in such a time as this is still *“stir up the gift of God, which is in thee...”* I Timothy 1:6. If you are a child of God, he has given you the *“mind of Christ.”* I Corinthians 2:16. It is a sound mind! Do not be led around by politicians on either side, by radio or television personalities, by self-proclaimed prophets, or even by friends who have everything figured out. ***“Stir up the gift of God that is within you!”*** Seek God and walk in soundness of mind!



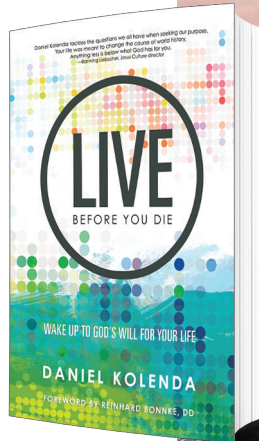
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Live Before You Die

Daniel Kolenda
Charisma House

Few people can speak more authoritatively on living a full life than evangelist Daniel Kolenda. The president of Christ for all Nations calls every believer to live out God's purpose for their lives, equipping the Body of Christ to launch their lives like a rocket. Readers will discover practical keys to unlocking the doors God has prepared for them.



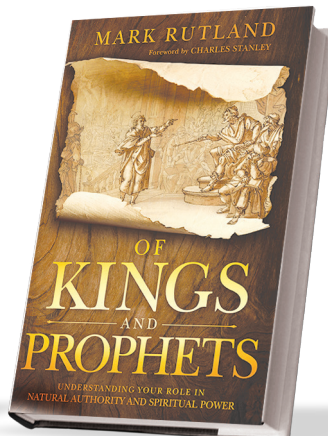
Daniel Kolenda



Let America Live: Exposing the Hidden Agenda Behind the 2020 Pandemic: My Journey

Dr. Stella Immanuel
Charisma House

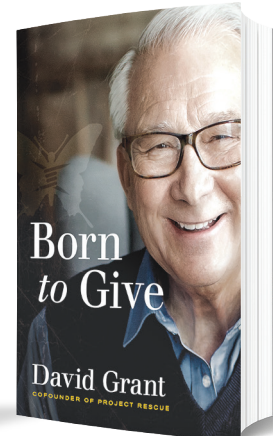
Dr. Stella Immanuel isn't pulling any punches! In this hard-hitting book, Immanuel explains the hidden agenda behind the COVID-19 lockdown and social restructuring known as "the great reset." She also discusses the persecution she received simply for successfully treating her patients.



Of Kings and Prophets

Mark Rutland
Charisma House

Are you ready to step in to your prophetic assignment? *Of Kings and Prophets* explains that the prophetic mantle does not exist in a vacuum. The function of the prophet is to bridge the gap between the heavenly authority of God the Father and the disconnected leaders of the earth. To whom is God calling you to be a prophetic voice?



Born to Give

David Grant
Charisma House

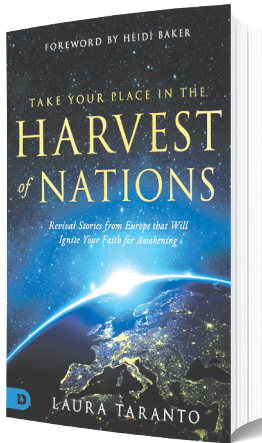
In *Born to Give*, Grant tells his own riveting story of a young boy who gave God his life in an offering pan. Grant became a servant to the nations, ministering throughout Southern Asia and Europe, and to victims of sexual slavery. *Born to Give* is a refreshing story that will lead readers to place their lives and resources in God's miracle-working hands.

PODCAST



Hear more about the dialogs that inspired Steve Strang's new book, "God and Cancel Culture."

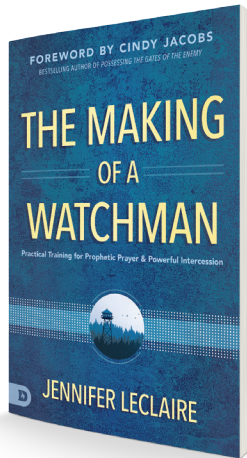
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Take Your Place in the Harvest of Nations

Laura Taranto
Destiny Image

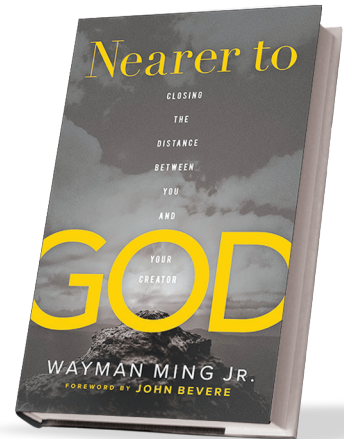
Take Your Place in the Harvest of Nations invites the reader to take a journey with some of the anointed young leaders whom God is raising up in the earth. God is moving in the nations, and He has ordained for you to take a strategic place in the end-time harvest.



The Making of a Watchman: Practical Training for Prophetic Prayer & Powerful Intercession

Jennifer LeClaire
Destiny Image

God is raising up intercessors who will stand in the gap for their generation. It's time to answer the call and take our place on the wall! Jennifer LeClaire explains the biblical role of the watchman anointing and teaches readers how to activate their prophetic and intercessory gifts.



Nearer to God: Closing the Distance Between You and Your Creator

Wayman Ming Jr.
Chosen

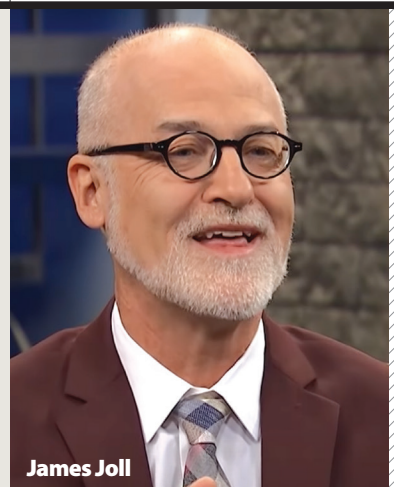
Social distancing is difficult. Spiritual distancing is deadly! Author Wayman Ming Jr. leads readers to identify the forces keeping them from experiencing the intimacy with God for which He created them. Turn your everyday moments into God-encounters—and come up higher.

Charisma Courses

Powerful Prophetic Intercession

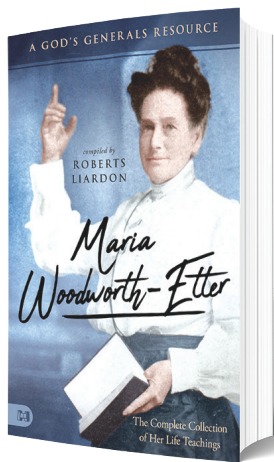
James Goll

James Goll's e-course, *Powerful Prophetic Intercession*, states, "God is inviting us to His ministry of intercession as a chosen and appointed watchman who will remind the Lord of His promises that have not yet been fulfilled." The course explains the prophetic part of intercession with topics such as "Prayer that Brings Birth," "Accessing God's Revelatory Ways," "God's Prophetic Calendar" and "Proclamation: Decreeing a Thing." Learn how to stand in the gap toward God's righteous judgments. Intercession has never been more fully explained and so gently communicated and transforming of the heart.



James Goll

PODCAST Stay current by listening to interviews with today's headliners conducted by Charisma's founder, Stephen Strang. **Download at CPNSHOWS.COM**



Maria Woodworth-Etter: The Complete Collection of Her Life Teachings

Compiled by Roberts Liardon
Harrison House

Born out of the pain of losing five of her six children to death, Maria Woodworth-Etter's miracle ministry grew to biblical proportions. In this new book, Roberts Liardon compiles her recorded teachings and gives us an insight into the heart and mind of a woman who shook her generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Brandon Lake

"Too Good to Not Believe"

Bethel Music & Brandon Lake
Bethel Music
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"All the miracles I've seen/ Too good to not believe."

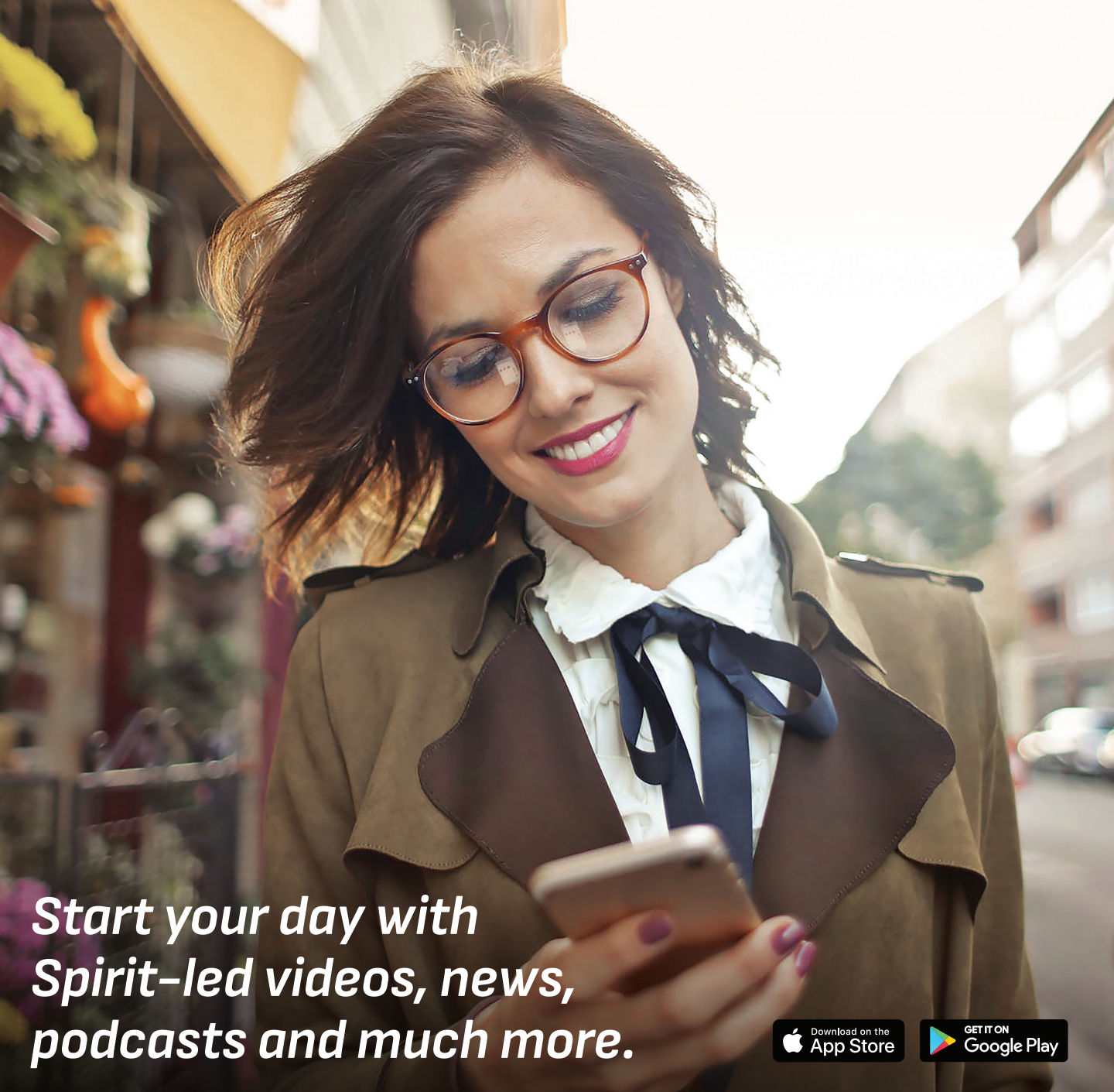
Through these lyrics Brandon Lake points listeners to engage in the present in a spirit of faith and in the confidence of the miraculous. At a moment when many believers are discouraged, depressed and disheartened, "Too Good to Not Believe" achieves what modern charismatic worship does at its best, drawing the listener into a transformative moment of encountering God.

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THE SEVENTIETH WEEK OF DANIEL: CHRIST? ...OR ANTICHRIST?

The 70 weeks prophecy which was brought to Daniel by the angel Gabriel is undoubtedly one of the most important prophecies ever given unto man. Rightly understood, it reveals the promise and purpose of Christ to all generations.

Yet, in our generation, it has been twisted to hide the great promise of Christ and instead exalts a theological figure called "the antichrist."

*"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to **finish the transgression**, and to **make an end of sins**, and to **make reconciliation for iniquity**, and to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to **seal up the vision and prophecy**, and to **anoint the most Holy.**"* Daniel 9:24 KJV

As the 70 years of captivity were about to finish, Daniel was seeking God for understanding of what would come next. The angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel and began to tell him of another 490 years ("seventy weeks" of years) which were determined on the Jews and Jerusalem. Before these 490 years passed, the six things listed in bold type in the text above would be accomplished.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Daniel 9:25 KJV

"The Messiah the Prince" is the subject of this entire prophecy. This verse gave the Jews understanding of the exact year the Messiah would appear in ministry. The 490 years would begin with a decree to "restore and to build Jerusalem." From the year of that decree until the Messiah appeared would be 483 years. We can prove the year the decree was given by subtracting 483 years from the year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus of Nazareth at John's baptism. Every Jew was expecting their Messiah that year because they understood the prophecy, but they refused to believe Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ.

"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." Daniel 9:26 KJV

The "threescore and two weeks" plus the "seven weeks" in verse 25 actually marked the end of 69 weeks, or 483 years. When the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus at the Jordan River the 70th week of this prophecy began. Jesus was crucified

in the middle of this 70th week, which was when He was "cut off, but not for Himself." This verse does not introduce another prince to come. This entire prophecy is about the coming of "the Messiah the Prince." The "people of the prince that shall come" were the Jews, of whom John said, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" John 1:11. The word "destroy" in this verse was translated from the Hebrew word "shâchath," which is defined by Strong's Hebrew dictionary as "to decay, that is, (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively)," and should have been translated as "corrupt." The Jews "corrupted the city and the sanctuary" before Titus and the Romans could come in like "a flood" in 70 A.D.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Daniel 9:27 KJV

The purpose of this message is to show who the word "he" refers to in this verse. For eighteen centuries, from Christ until the late nineteenth century, great men of God understood the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy to be the ministry of Jesus Christ. Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Augustine and Eusebius all agreed this verse speaks of the ministry of Christ. Reformers such as John Wycliff, Martin Luther, and John Calvin agreed. Almost every commentary written before the twentieth century, including Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, Jamieson Fausset and Brown, John Wesley and Albert Barnes taught the 70 weeks prophecy was fulfilled and finished in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

It was with the advent of the modern versions of the bible in the late nineteenth century that many began to pervert the simplicity of this prophecy, and give the 70th week to "The Antichrist" instead of "The Christ." To do so is a horrible error that blinds multitudes to the purpose of Jesus' death on the cross, and actually makes God out to be a liar. If the 70th week is about "The Antichrist" and "The Great Tribulation," then God's promise that Christ would come before 490 years "...to **finish the transgression**, and to **make an end of sins**, and to **make reconciliation for iniquity**, and to **bring in everlasting righteousness**, and to seal up the **vision and prophecy**, and to **anoint the most Holy**" Daniel 9:24 was a lie. If these six things were not fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, we are, as Paul said, "of all men most miserable" 1 Corinthians 15:19; we are lost and perishing without hope.

There are two “*cunningly devised fables*” which have been created from the perverted view of Daniel 9:27. The first is the doctrine of “The Antichrist.” The Apostle John is the only one who spoke of “antichrist” in the scriptures, but he never mentioned “The Antichrist.” Jesus warned of the coming of “*great tribulation,*” but He did not mention anything at all similar to the modern doctrine of “*The Great Tribulation.*” Both of these doctrines were created from the imaginations of men to explain Daniel 9:27, which begins with the words “*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.*” This cannot possibly speak of one called “The Antichrist,” or a seven year “great tribulation.” According to John there were “*many antichrists*” I John 2:18 with “*the spirit of antichrist*” I John 4:3, but never “The Antichrist.” The word “*antichrist*” in the scriptures was never used in connection with a political figure or a world leader. Clearly John was speaking of false teachers, and false prophets, who were filling the churches at the end of the first century and perverting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Great Tribulation? Or “The Great Tribulation?”

*“For then shall be **great tribulation,** such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And **except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:** but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.**”* Matthew 24:21-25

Jesus is the only one in the New Testament who spoke of “*great tribulation,*” but never “The Great Tribulation.” His description is simple; great loss of life and the arising of false Christs and false prophets. This will take place during the sixth trumpet during the 3½ years before the second coming of Jesus to earth. Concerning the loss of life, 1/3 of all living will be slain worldwide Revelation 9:14-15, and 2/3 of the inhabitants of Israel will also perish Zechariah 13:8-9. Concerning the false Christs and the false prophets, they are even now making their voices heard in much of the church, preparing for that horrible day which is very near. Those who have been deceived by the lie have taken Daniel 9:27 as an outline and filled it out of their own imaginations. They have turned the time of “*great tribulation*” spoken of by Jesus into a great doctrinal fable called “The Great Tribulation.” They have taken the ministry of Jesus in the 70th week and given it to an imaginary figure called “The Antichrist.” They can tell you step by step what “The Antichrist” will do, and many have become very wealthy doing so with their many books and movies. They have given an erroneous explanation of what Gabriel described in 52 words, and of which Jesus spoke 98 words. They have given us a religious population that is more excited about the coming of “The Antichrist” than they are the return of Jesus Christ.

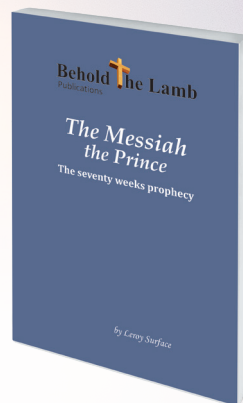
“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week...” The Messiah the Prince is the only one these words can possibly speak of. He did not “make a covenant,” but

He “confirmed the covenant” which God gave to Abraham, saying, “...and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” Genesis 22:18. The Apostle Paul said Christ is that seed of Abraham Galatians 3:16.

“...and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...” When Christ died in the exact middle of the 70th week, the veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom, indicating that God Himself had brought an end to the sacrifice system. The blood of Christ was shed once for our sin, and the scripture records, “Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin.**” Hebrews 10:18.

“...and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate...” Only days before His death on the cross Jesus spoke with broken heart to Jerusalem, “...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate**” Matthew 23:37-38. Jesus explained what desolation is in the next verse; “*For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*” Matthew 23:39.

“...even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” Daniel 9:27. The word “consummation” was translated from a Hebrew word which means “complete destruction.” The same Hebrew word was translated “consumption” in both Isaiah 10:23 and Isaiah 28:22; “*I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, **even determined upon the whole earth.***” This speaks of the time of “*great tribulation*” Matthew 24:21 of which Jesus forewarned, in which 2/3 of the “house of Israel” will perish Zechariah 13:8, but 1/3 will “*look unto Him whom they pierced*” Zechariah 12:10 and be saved just before Jesus Christ returns to destroy those who fight against Jerusalem.



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This Thanksgiving, Let's Celebrate Our Nation's Christian Heritage

Our Pilgrim forebears gave us more than turkey and cranberry sauce

As we approach the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving, it's good to remember what happened in November 2020 in a profound—and perhaps prophetic—way during the 400th anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact. I told this significant story in my newest book, *God and Cancel Culture*.

In some ways what happened then was more significant than the more famous first Thanksgiving, which happened after the first harvest, because it gave us the basis for our form of government. The Mayflower Compact, signed before the Pilgrims came ashore, was based on the consent of the governed and on their profound faith in God.

When the governor of Massachusetts shut down all the festivities planned to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the landing in 1620 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two bold women decided the event could not go unnoticed.

Michele Bachmann, former Minnesota congresswoman and co-chair of the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, and Jody Wood, a descendant of the Pilgrims and director of New York City Intercessors, decided they could not let this significant anniversary go unrecognized. In three short weeks the two women organized a private three-day event, including a global broadcast, from the first place where the Pilgrims met, prayed and voted.

As we reported on *charismanews.com* at the time, the two women invited charismatic leaders to participate, including Kevin Jessip, president of Global Strategic Alliance and co-chair of The Return, a global prayer and repentance movement, and Jon Hamill, co-founder of Lamplighter Ministries, both Pilgrim descendants.

I have a personal interest in the Pilgrims because my family has a historical connection to that era. I am a direct descendant of both William Brewster, who helped found Plymouth Colony and served as its senior elder and spiritual leader, and the French Huguenots, who came to the New World in 1688 after some of the worst religious persecution in European history. As persecution rears its head in our day, I feel strengthened to stand because of the example of my brave ancestors.

Few Americans will recall that the Mayflower Compact was the first document to establish self-government in the new world and represents an early, successful attempt at democracy. It shaped the colonists' view of themselves and paved the way for future colonists to seek permanent independence from British rule. The



“As persecution rears its head in our day, I feel strengthened to stand because of the example of my brave ancestors.”

inclusion of all the passengers as signers also expressed a principle that would anchor the U.S. Constitution: All men are created equal.

Hamill, a descendant of Richard Warren, one of the signers of the original Mayflower Compact, said it this way: “The move of the Holy Spirit was with them. In fact, when they wrote the Mayflower Compact ... they said, ‘in the presence of God, and one of another.’ They honored the presence of God, knowing that God had sent them apostolically across the waters to found a nation in freedom, to found a nation in covenant with Christ.”

It's obvious how low we have fallen culturally, morally and politically in 400 years, even as technology and knowledge advance at astounding rates. Yet Mike Bickle, whom I also interviewed, still sees what is unfolding today as part of God's plan as foretold in Psalm 2, a message he first preached 40 years ago, long before the growing persecution we now see in our nation.

As darkness deepens, Bickle believes, a beautifully prepared bride will come forth, a great harvest of souls will come in and the miraculous power of God will break out around the globe. As Thanksgiving approaches, we can thank God for this Christian heritage that formed the basis of our country and know that no matter how bad things may look, prayer has a powerful impact.

“God's not going to let our country go down,” MyPillow's Mike Lindell told me for the book. “We are one nation under God. The most important thing that everybody can do is pray.”

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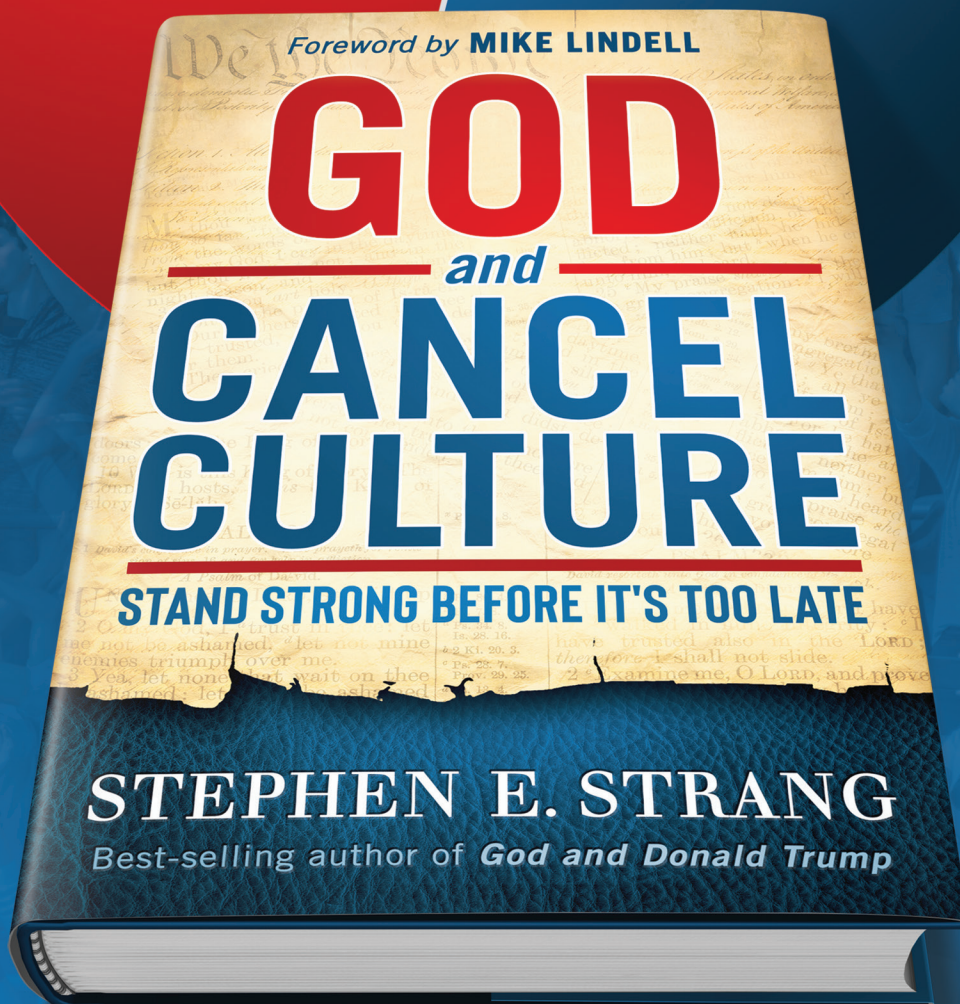
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