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NOVEMBER 2024

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Crushing the Spirit of Division

with KELLY K

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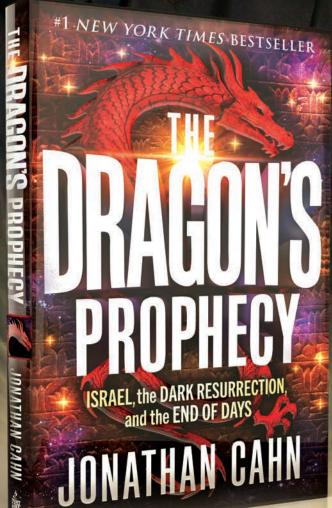




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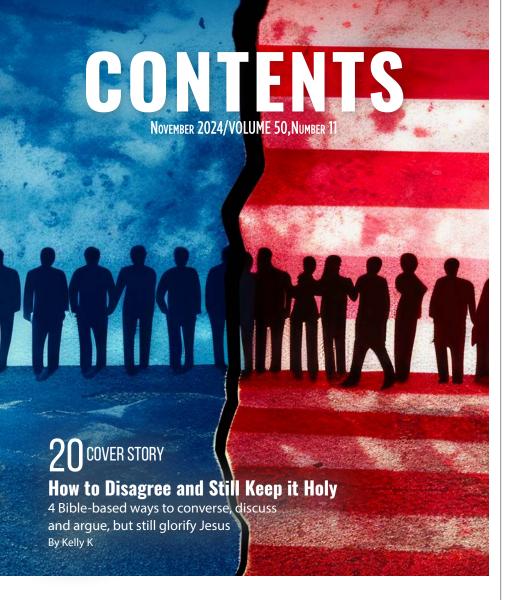
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DEAR CHARISMA



"The average person cannot ignore or deny the present track civilization is on, and the end coming soon is not going to be good." —Anonymous, by email

POWERFUL DRAGON PROPHECIES

When I heard Jonathan Cahn's article in the September Charisma, it felt like every tragedy and disaster of the past few decades suddenly fell into place like one long, frightening story ("Is This the Perfection of All End-Times Mysteries?" Charisma Magazine Online, September 2024). We're just about to the point where the average person cannot ignore or deny the present track civilization is on, and the end coming soon is not going to be good.

Anonymous, by email

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two days after your September issue of Charisma Magazine Online arrived, Jonathan Cahn's new book debuted, The Dragon's Prophecy. It quickly became both Cahn's and Charisma Media's first-ever book to premier atop the New York Times Bestsellers list, along with both Amazon and Publisher's Weekly bestseller lists.

TRUMP ELECTION PREDICTED IN 1890S?

I used to read Troy Anderson's stories in Charisma several years ago. Glad to see his report about Trump and the prophetic mysteries behind his election back in the pages of Charisma ("Was Trump's Rise Foretold 130 Years Ago?" Charisma Magazine Online, September 2024). His new book The Trump Code is a must-have on my list.

Helen Hunterton, Susquehanna, PA

ARE YOU TRUSTWORTHY IN GOD'S EYES?

No one seems to understand how to tithe and do it correctly. Scripture says 'first fruits,' but we still mess that up, too. Finally someone is cutting through the clouds, Greg Locke ("Are You Trustworthy In God's Eyes?" Charisma Magazine Online, September 2024). His whole notion of 'extravagant generosity' refocuses the topic right where it should be, all about Christlikeness and stewarding God's blessings.

Laverne Fitzgerald, Whitefish Bay, WI

CAHN'S DOCUMENTARY MOVIE

I heard about Cahn's new book, The Dragon's Prophecy, and it reminded me of his documentary two years ago, The Harbingers of Things to Come, and I hope there's a Dragon's Prophecy movie, too.

Harold Buhm, Little Rock, AR

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Simply Christ

Gospel Insight
with Keith Surface

Spiritual Gravity

There is a law which every human becomes an expert in at some point in their existence. From the infant to the elderly, from the drifter to the aerospace engineer, all of us are students of this law and continually gain new understanding on how to function under its domain. This law I speak of is called the law of gravity. Everything upon planet earth is affected and bound by its power. Nothing breaks this law, but we all learn to compensate and deal with it. An airplane may seem to break the law of gravity, but that is only an illusion. A 707-jet airliner will burn through roughly 13000lbs of jet fuel an hour as it struggles to stay airborne against the unrelenting pull of gravity. An infant must learn how to exert energy to compensate for gravity before he or she can even roll over or begin to crawl. Absolute "laws" such as the law of gravity are defined as "something to which there is no exception."

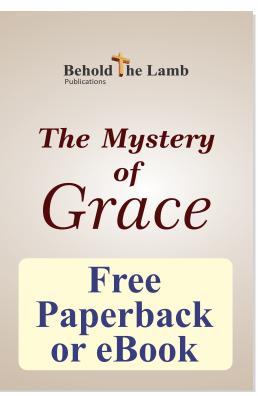
The word of God speaks of another such law which it calls "the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. This "law of sin and death" is not a commandment, but rather it is a

description of the dominion under which humanity has lived since the transgression of Adam. The Apostle Paul tells what this "law" is and when it gained its dominion when he says that "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: "Romans 5:12. The entrance of sin and death into the world changed everything. Its power became absolute. This is verified by the fact Paul reminds us of, saying; "for that all have sinned." If only "almost everyone" had sinned, this would not be an absolute "law." But because everyone other than Jesus Christ has fallen to sin's dominance, it is evident that this is an absolute "law." No one breaks this "law of sin and death." People just learn to compensate and deal with it.

All carnal religion is in some form is seeking to equip people to survive and excel under its unrelenting oppression.

The apostle Paul tells us about the workings of this "law" in the 7th chapter of Romans. Before coming to Christ, as Saul of Tarsus, he was an expert at compensating and excelling under its dominion. But just as a jet cannot stay airborne forever, Saul of Tarsus found that this "law" never stopped pulling him down into captivity. He wrote; "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Romans 7:21-23. Indeed, every human experience teaches us that the "law of sin and death" has an unbreakable dominion over the human existence. But then again, is this really true?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. When every experience of humanity has proven to us that this "law of sin and death" is absolute in its dominion, how can Paul say he was made free from "the law of sin and death"? The answer is simple. He had discovered that in Christ there was another "absolute law" which superseded the "law of sin and death." This greater "law" he called "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!"



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Those whose life is in Christ Jesus are made free from "the law of sin and death" and its dominion over mankind. As they live in Christ Jesus they do not struggle with either sin or condemnation. because Christ has delivered them from the bondage of sin and the condemnation that always accompanies it. Sin is washed from their heart and nature by the shed blood of Christ Revelation 1:5 and their old man of sin is crucified and destroyed upon his cross. Romans 6:6. Paul says we are "made free from sin, and become servants to God." Romans 6:22. The gospel of Christ does not teach us how to compensate for "the law of sin and death." It makes us free from it! As Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed!" John 8:36.



Does the Body of Christ Disagree as Disagreeably as the World?

isagreement over the day's issues will not shatter the unity of the church.

We can see each day the attacks on the Christian community, but almost as frequently are examples of contention and discord inside the church. Some American Christians come to faith out of such a disorderly lifestyle and worldview that they ardently desire Christian orthodoxy and philosophical consistency to guide their lives thereafter. So far, so good. Others are so nervous about the dominant secular culture in our nation that they for all intents and purposes insist that prevailing opinions, decisions on public policy issues and the wider cultural tides be provided or otherwise fully pre-ordained only by leading Christian figures, Christian television

programming and sufficiently boisterous attack-dog social media influencers presenting themselves under the "Christian" banner. I am not criticizing these groups, I am merely unhappy that American evangelical Christians, having made some good spiritual decisions in their lives, aren't willing to do more thinking on their own.

So, the question stands: can the body of Christ disagree without being as disagreeable as the secular world?

I see no reason why evangelicals should have to walk in lockstep on issues such as the culture skirmishes, the terrorist war on Israel, aid to Ukraine, how to address

Chinese and Russian expansionism, whether healthcare policy is OK, and certainly the 2024 presidential elections in a few days, out of fear that disagreement on public-policy issues will get someone cancelled on social media, turn a family dinner into a riot, and squash any unity within the Christian church. The fact is, it is OK for Christians to disagree on important political and social issues. By doing so, they have not sinned against one another.

The news media and the wider culture rarely examine events in light of what the Bible says or what God is saying. But as Christians, we should seek to understand the leading topics and questions of the day from the Bible's perspective. I believe we live in an upsidedown world, where the world calls right wrong and wrong is called right. Biblical stances especially on gay rights and abortion, among

many others, are ridiculed mercilessly, while speaking about them is labeled "hate speech" more and more every month.

Perhaps there is no sharper example of the lightning-rod type of public debate than the topic of Donald Trump over the past nine years. I have written about Trump and posed the question raised by many Christian leaders, whether God raised up an imperfect leader like He did throughout the Bible to lead their nation at a crucial time. I believe He did and I make that argument in my book, *God and Donald Trump*. Some prophets even prophesied that Trump would win two terms, against all odds. Then Trump lost his second bid for office in 2020. Since then, the Democrats have tried to litigate Trump out of the 2024 election and politics in general. There have been seven frivolous lawsuits that would never be brought against anyone else. Prosecuting or jailing

political opponents is what happens in third-world countries.

In a recent podcast I discussed this present political season and contrasted it with the fact there were no new wars during Trump's administration; that he advanced the cause of religious liberty, moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as promised, and appointed three conservative justices to the Supreme Court as part of his promise to overturn Roe vs. Wade. Did the debate on Trump's record proceed cordially?

Not even close. Especially from the other side of the political aisle. Yet we cannot wait for reasonable conversation to come from others with different political points of view, especially when some on that other side of the aisle only see enemies instead of worthy opponents and fellow citizens who have a different perspective. If we can't have order in our own house, we have no business expecting reasoned, fair, levelheaded debate from other points far afield in this season.

Let us build robust considerate conversations, may the debates continue. It is perfectly OK to disagree with others inside the body of Christ. Even Christians sometimes change their minds on things. And let's do so agreeably, fairly, with the mind and the light of Christ, and lead by example.

"If we can't have order in our own house, we have no business expecting reasoned, fair, levelheaded debate from others."

Stephen Strang has seen major changes in the church, the culture and technology since he founded *Charisma* magazine in 1975. In addition to being CEO of Charisma Media, he hosts a Strang Report podcast live on YouTube and Rumble at 4 p.m. EST every Tuesday and Thursday. His important recent book *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-Down World* is available wherever fine Christian books are sold including online at *amazon.com*.



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FIRE IN MY BONES



BY J. LEE GRADY

When We Were Inspired by Leaders Who Knew How to Disagree

"America could use a big

jolt of inspiration right

now to save us from an

epidemic of cynicism."

emember when being able to disagree was something we saw from various leaders in politics, business, entertainment? I was reminded of one of the very best example recently, midway through the movie Reagan, in a scene when Christian entertainer Pat Boone and evangelist George Otis Sr. visit Ronald Reagan when he's running for reelection for governor of California. As the men stand outside the governor's mansion in Sacramento, Otis gives a prophetic message from God to Reagan: "If you walk uprightly before Me, you will reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

That scene wasn't fabricated. It really happened. One eyewitness of that moment, author Bob Slosser, said charismatic preacher Harold Bredeson was also with Otis and Boone when they prayed

for Reagan that day in 1970. Otis recalled that after he gave Reagan the prophecy, Reagan simply looked up from the prayer circle and said, "Well..." as if he were filing away the profound words in his heart for a later time. Otis' prophecy was fulfilled in 1980. Ronald Reagan became the 40th president of the United States, and he is remembered most for

courageously confronting communism and helping to dismantle the Soviet Union.

Nobody is surprised that critics don't like Reagan. But while elitist film reviewers gave it low ratings, audiences gave it a 98% score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics today wouldn't dare give four stars to any movie that has wholesome values or that portrays Christianity in a positive light. But Reagan was doubly doomed by critics even before it was screened because several actors in the film—including Dennis Quaid, who plays Reagan like he was born for the role—have publicly endorsed the Republican ticket in the 2024 election.

The film depicts Reagan's life, with much of the story narrated by a Russian observer, Viktor Petrovich (Jon Voight), fascinated by the idea that God was on Reagan's side during the Cold War years. While the Petrovich character is a composite of several Russians who observed Reagan's tough diplomacy from a distance, he reminds us that Soviet communists struggled to understand what made Reagan so successful.

The movie is not revisionist history. Ronald Reagan did in fact grow up with a Christian mother who instilled faith and character in him from his earliest years in small-town Illinois, just as the film portrays. Reagan was in fact baptized while attending the First Christian Church in Dixon, Illinois. He did in fact read a Christian book at age 11 called "The Printer of Udell's," written by a Christian minister; the book shaped the course of Reagan's life.

A Christian preacher did in fact prophesy in 1970 that Reagan would become president. And when Reagan was almost assassinated in front of the Washington Hilton on March 30, 1981, just months after his landslide election victory, he really did rededicate his life to God. He wrote in his journal after the bullet went into his side: "Whatever happens now I owe my life to God and will try to serve

Him in every way I can."

We all know Reagan wasn't perfect, and the film shows plenty of his rough edges-including his failed first marriage and his bungling of the Iran-Contra affair during his second term. But Reagan focuses on this remarkable man's courage in the face of the threat of communism. It seems that the remarkable actor turned

politician was destined to hurl the rock that brought down the Goliath of Soviet tyranny.

Reagan inspired me in several ways. I realized that when our nation faced one of its most formidable challenges, God raised up a humble yet bold man to lead us. I saw that God spent years preparing Ronald Reagan for his difficult task, and He even sent Spirit-filled ministers to pray for him ahead of time. And I was reminded how desperately we need leaders today who carry the authentic fire of freedom in their hearts.

Critics are whining that Reagan is too positive, too patriotic and too inspirational. They say the film should have been more critical of the former president's flaws. I disagree. America could use a big jolt of inspiration right now to save us from an epidemic of cynicism.

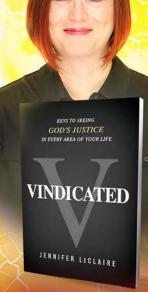
It is both encouraging and reassuring to be reminded that there are examples of bold, godly leaders who once showed us that it is, in fact, possible to agreeable disagree, and leave behind spirits of division and hopelessness.

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

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Living by Faith in the Face of Fear

o 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.

The good news is, when we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31 (AMPC) says, "...If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]" And Psalm 27:1 (AMPC) says, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation-whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and 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 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 our life.

Throughout the course of a lifetime, we spend a lot of time waiting. And that is often the case with prayer. 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 the meantime, your faith will fill you with hope, joy and peace.

Romans 15:13 (AMPC) says, "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope."

Now if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always bubbling up 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 it eventually 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.

Philippians 1:2 (AMPC) says, "And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents and adversaries, for such [constancy and fearlessness] will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of [their impending] destruction, but [a sure token and evidence] of your deliverance and salvation, and that from God."

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.

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's working on my behalf, and I trust Him constantly."

can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation."

"With God's help, I

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

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"Digging deeper,

either intentionally or

because of desperation,

always builds our faith

because God always

meets us there."

e cares about me. He knows what I am going through. He is for me and not against me. I am not alone. It's not too late for me. Maybe I am significant."

These were my thoughts the first time a person gave me a personal prophetic word.

It was 1996. For nine months, I had been in the middle of Brownsville Revival—quite literally. Because I was a columnist for the Remnant Newspaper and the editor of the Brownsville Revival Magazine, I had been assigned two of the best seats in the house. I was on the prayer team and so I did not have to wait in line outside for eight hours, rain or shine, with the thousands of others. My job as a host meant that I was to help the leaders, usually very high-level leaders, to first acclimate

and then process what they were seeing and feeling.

One ministry leader, visiting from Germany, was especially quiet throughout the week. He was the founding executive director European Coalition for Israel, which provides crucial Christian perspective to members of the European Union and United Nations. After a few days he suddenly turned to me and said that the Lord had shown him something he would like to share with me.

The first scene he described gave me direction regarding the need for me to draw one of my children in closer to me. It was so personal that I broke into tears because I was a single mom of three who was wholly dependent on God's help each day.

The second scene he shared illustrated past and present events. The elderly man, who had dedicated one of the ships in his fleet in Hamburg, Germany, to transport people of Jewish descent and all their belongings from Romania to Israel over the course of a year in the 1980s, said he saw me digging, by myself, in a dry desert that had very hard ground. After a long while of digging I hit water that bubbled up and spread around the world at an ankle-deep level.

The next part spoke of the future. The water dried up and

I was once again digging in the hard ground of the desert by myself. After a while a few people came alongside me while I dug. When more people joined me while I was digging, the ground moistened. The very soft-spoken gentleman continued, "You will dig until a geyser shoots up in the sky and water around you will rise, first ankle deep and then knee deep and then when it is waist deep it will spread quickly around the world."

He asked me if I knew what was in geyser water and I said, "Sulfur."

While I was thinking about how the water in the geysers smells like rotten eggs, he said, "Sulfur is for healing. People travel many miles to sit in healing waters of geysers that contain sulfur." The conservatively dressed gentlemen explained to me that the ankle-deep water was that Brownsville Revival. But a

> time would come when I would return to digging alone in the dry and hard ground of the desert.

> Afterward, one of the pastors traveling with him explained that prophetic words often come in twos or threes. The first builds faith for the prophecies that follow because the first will be so personal that there is no way the person giving the prophecy could have known the details or significance of the situation beforehand.

> "When that time comes, Renee, you will keep digging until you hit that

geyser!" the gentleman continued.

I believe that digging is different for everyone. Over the years the prophecy about the geyser has come to mind when things in my life and in the world at large look bleak. For me, digging has been stretching way beyond my comfort zone to walk through doors that suddenly and unexpectedly open for me through a series of events that only God could possibly orchestrate.

Digging deeper, either intentionally or because of desperation, always builds our faith because God always meets us there. In our own journey to dig deeper, we all need to take steps toward the maturity needed to be transparent about our frailties with trusted friends and loved ones who will hold us accountable to God's ways.

Renee DeLoriea is a contributor to Charisma Media. She lives in Nashville.

FREEDOM ISN'T FOUND, IT'S MAINTAINED.

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As Alexander Pagani states in The Secrets to Maintaining Your Deliverance, your freedom is not a one-time experience but rather a daily occurrence. If you want truly lasting freedom from demonic oppression, then you'll need expert guidance. The Secrets to Maintaining Your Deliverance goes beyond the initial experience of deliverance and equips believers with the tools needed to stand firm against demonic adversaries. Pagani's expertise and genuine passion for helping others shine through, making this book an indispensable resource for anyone seeking lasting freedom from demonic oppression. It's time for believers to stop letting the enemy rob them of their freedom! This book will empower readers with the wisdom to experience lasting deliverance. The path to victory starts here!

THE SECRETS TO MAINTAINING YOUR **DELIVERANCE** ALEXANDER PAGANI ng Author of The Secrets to Deliverance

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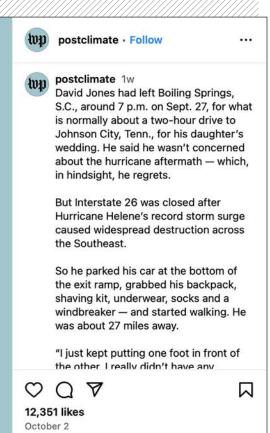
Compiled by Charisma Staff

Spirit-Led Names and News

Instagram post of David Jones' amazing trek to be with his daughter



When he walked his eldest daughter, Elizabeth Marquez, down the aisle, she had no idea about the turbulent voyage. During the reception, Jones mentioned his trek in his toast, and gave the couple the driveway marker he felt protected him during his journey.



Faithful Father of the Bride

Determined dad trudges 30 miles through hurricane debris to walk daughter down the aisle

hen David Jones, 64, of Boiling Springs, South Carolina, set out for his daughter Elizabeth's wedding in Johnson City, Tennessee, he knew the standard two-hour drive might take some extra time. Hurricane Helene had just swept through the southeastern states, leaving destruction throughout the area. But he didn't anticipate traveling seven hours by car and another five and a half hours on foot.

Jones told WJHL that he was diverted multiple times on Interstate 26 before reaching the Tennessee state line around 2 a.m. that Saturday. There, a state trooper told him he could go no further; historic flooding had made area roads impassable.

But that didn't stop Jones, a two-time marathoner, who set out to walk the remaining 30 miles with only his cell phone flashlight to guide him. He scrambled through piles of debris, describing it as "a tangled mess and dead-end roads and all kinds of things." He even dodged a backhoe doing cleanup work and became entrapped in the mud. When the backhoe operator didn't see him, Jones says, "There was a lot of prayer at that point."

Those prayers—and his fatherly determination got Jones to the wedding on time, and he was able to walk Elizabeth down the aisle as planned. But he says he's no hero, insisting, "It's just what any dad would do."

Bands from Rival Schools Unite for Touching Tribute

ollege football rivalries run deep-but not as deep as the grace of God. That was the message communicated by North Carolina State and Wake Forest when the schools' teams met on the football field just over a week after Hurricane Helene ripped through the southeastern U.S. The hur-



ricane, which made landfall in Florida as a Category 4 storm, had a huge impact on Western North Carolina, destroying entire towns and claiming the lives of more than 150 residents.

At halftime, the marching bands from both schools came together to share a joint rendition of "Amazing Grace," a tribute to all those affected by the hurricane. In the end, Wake Forest's Demon Deacons topped the Wolfpack 34-0, but as *Today* show co-host Hoda Kotb said in her report on the combined effort, "The real winners were the marching band members [and] everyone in the stadium that got a chance to see that beautiful moment unfold."

Extraterrestrial Truth

Revealed at last in Rungs of Disclosure

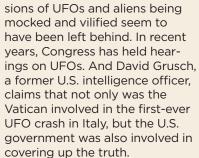
re demons behind the rumors of alien spacecraft? Are there extraterrestrials on earth today?

If so, what does the U.S. government know about them?

Author, lecturer and filmmaker L. A. Marzulli has spent much of his career focusing on questions such as these, expanding into multiple areas and contexts for the supernatural and its intersection with our daily lives. In his latest book, Rungs of Disclosure: Following the Trail of Extraterrestrials and the End Times, he takes time to dig into the truth about extraterrestrials and how their presence relates to the last days.

The general public has long

had an interest in the supernatural, but the days of discus-



FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF

L. A. MARZULLI

If you want to know more about these questions and believe you can handle the answers, check out Rungs of Disclosure.

Survival of Biblical Proportions

Wilderness expert Bear **Grylls Launches New** Chosen Wilderness Show

ritish adventurer and outspoken Christian Bear Grylls recently announced a partnership with streaming megahit The Chosen. His new series. The Chosen in the Wild. features adventures similar to his reality show Running Wild. It will showcase cast members from The Chosen, including

Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus, along with Dallas Jenkins, the Biblebased show's creator, director, co-writer and executive producer.



"I'm really proud to announce a partnership with The Chosen," Grylls says, explaining that in the new series, "I get to take cast members away on many Running Wild-type adventures, get to know their stories, see the real people, what they're like, their background[s], and the journey through The Chosen, their faith, and kind of how it's changed them."

He says the episodes filmed so far are "amazing," adding that "It's a different dynamic. They're really powerful, and [there's] a lot of emotion, and each of their stories has been really inspiring."

"This new series allows you to see THE CHOSEN cast & creators like vou've never seen them before ... and thank you @dallasjenkins for your vision to make great things happen," Grylls said in a social media post featuring the new series.



Show of Force?

Isaiah Saldivar knows that when it comes to deliverance, pressure yields no progress

vangelist Isaiah Saldivar travels the country preaching revival and repentance. In his journeys, he's noticed a critical need in the church today: Few people are talking about casting out

"Many people are hesitant to pray for someone who is demonized simply because they don't know what to do or where to start," Saldivar says. The reason behind his new book, How to Cast Out Demons, is straightforward: to give people simple, practical steps to the process.

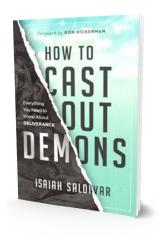
He also emphasizes a key factor: Deliverance doesn't come via coercion.

"The demons recognize free will," he says. "They recognize whether somebody wants it or doesn't, and if

you're forcing deliverance on somebody, if you're forcing them to get delivered, it's not going to work."

Instead of applying pressure to the person in need of deliverance, Saldivar recommends helping the person renounce their sin, ask for forgiveness and tell the demons to flee. Whether that sin is witchcraft, lust or another area of need, renunciation breaks the legal right of the demons to be present.

Check out How to Cast Out Demons for much more on the deliverance process and how you can help others turn from darkness to light.







First Responder for God Former NYPD cop battles forces of darkness

ormer New York City police officer Chris DeFlorio made a career out of fighting crime. But after 20 years in the New York Police Department, he now uses his skills in an even greater battle: assisting those who believe they're facing demonic forces.

"I worked with the NYPD for 20 years, and, in that kind of work, you see the worst evil that you can imagine," he tells CBN News. "You're seeing a lot that most people, thankfully ... don't have to

DeFlorio's interest in this area began when, as a brand-new Christian, he was called to the home of a woman who was threatening suicide. When he saw her pacing back and forth, his newfound faith compelled him to tell her, "Ma'am, God loves you, and this isn't what He would want for you."

She turned and told him, in an unearthly voice, "God doesn't even know who you are."

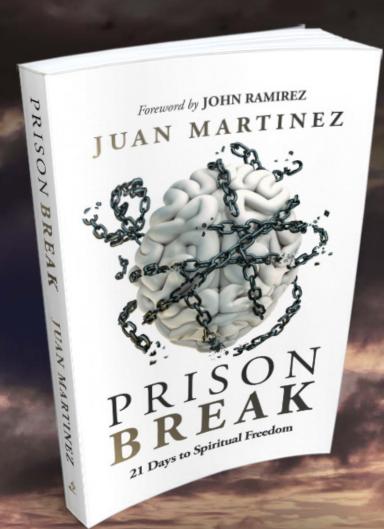
The voice and her "jittery" eyes something he now says he has seen many times—helped convince him he was dealing with the forces of darkness. He and his wife, a former New York City EMT, ended up praying for the woman. That's what they still do in the demon-fighting ministry they later founded, continuing to battle the forces of evil.

A life with

CHRIS

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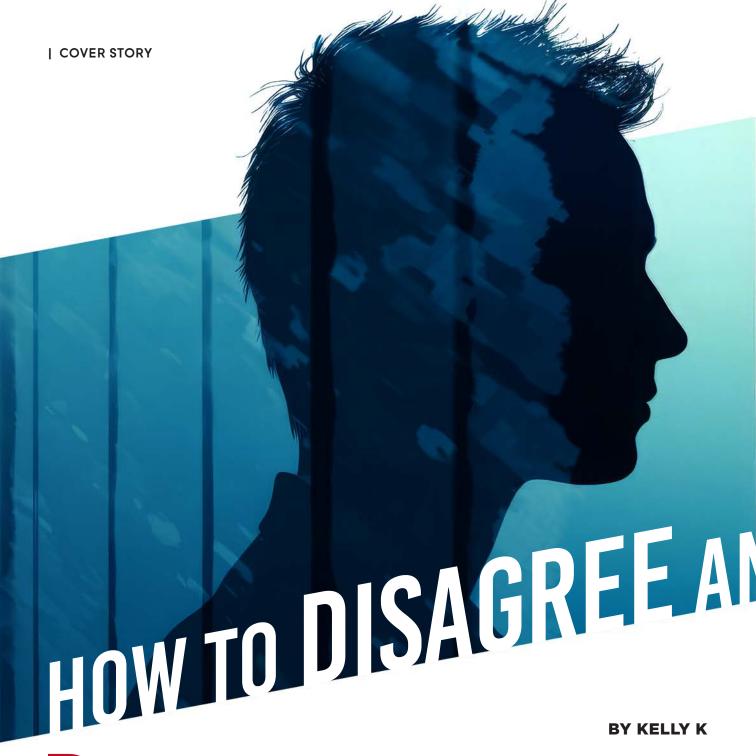


Are you shackled by your sins? Pastor Juan Martinez's *Prison Break* reveals how you can achieve true freedom in every way possible: emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Your past traumas will be healed and **true** freedom will be obtained in Jesus Christ. If you are searching for real change, then why wait?



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isagreements are inevitable. Whether we're at a social gathering, discussing politics, or debating hot-button topics like climate change or vaccines, differing opinions will arise. In today's "speak your mind" culture, it's easy to become embroiled in heated arguments. But as Christians, we're called to a higher standard in our interactions with others.

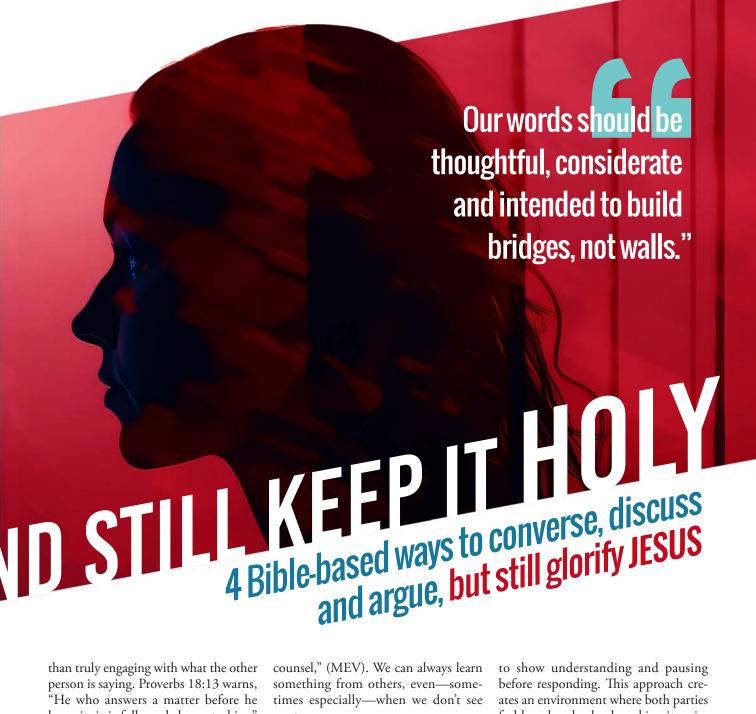
The Bible provides guidance on how we can navigate disagreements in a way

that honors God and maintains our witness. Here are four principles that are both biblically sound and conveniently applicable to everyday living, for disagreeing but being able to keep it holy.

1. Hear First, Then Speak.

One of the most overlooked aspects of healthy disagreement is the importance of listening. We often enter conversations with the goal of making our point, but the Bible encourages us to listen to hear first, then speak second. James 1:19 instructs, "My beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger," (MEV). It is important to hear others before we respond, especially in moments of tension and conflict.

Listening well means giving the other person our full attention, being fully present in the moment and genuinely trying to understand their perspective. Too often, we listen with the intent of formulating a rebuttal before the other person is event finished speaking, rather



"He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him," (MEV). When we fail to listen, we risk responding in ways that are unhelpful or even hurtful because we haven't fully grasped the other person's point of view.

Active listening not only helps us understand the other person's perspective but also diffuses tension. When people feel heard, they are less likely to become defensive or combative. Listening shows respect and demonstrates that we value the other person, especially when we disagree with them. Proverbs 1:5 reminds us, "A wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise

times especially—when we don't see

In addition to listening more, we should also be careful with our words. Proverbs 10:19 tells us, "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise." Sometimes, saying less can be more effective than filling the conversation with arguments and rebuttals. We must choose our words carefully, ensuring that they are thoughtful, respectful and in line with God's Word. What better way to begin hearing first, than by speaking less?

In practice, listening well means asking questions for clarification, summarizing the other person's points ates an environment where both parties feel heard and valued, making it easier to navigate disagreements without

Ultimately, the key to listening more and speaking less is humility. We must be willing to set aside our desire to win the argument and focus instead on building understanding and maintaining peace.

2. Discretion and Wise Judgment

In a world where opinions are freely shared, we often feel compelled to jump into every debate. Whether it's a heated Facebook discussion or a casual chat with a friend,



we sometimes believe it's our duty to correct those we disagree with. However, the Bible encourages discernment when choosing which battles to engage in. Not every disagreement is worth our energy.

Proverbs 26:4-5 gives us a valuable lesson in wisdom: "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his

folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit," (MEV). This passage may seem contradictory at first, but it emphasizes the importance of discerning when and how to engage in a disagreement. If addressing the issue will only result in pointless quarreling, it's often best to let it go. On the other hand, if a serious matter is at stake, responding thoughtfully can bring clarity and prevent harm.

Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:23-25 also encourage us to avoid foolish and ignorant disputes that generate strife. "But avoid foolish and unlearned debates, knowing that they create strife. The servant of the

Lord must not quarrel, but must be gentle toward all people, able to teach, patient, in gentleness instructing those in opposition. Perhaps God will grant them repentance to know the truth," (MEV). This passage reminds us that as believers,

our goal should not be to win arguments but to foster understanding and teach in kindness. It's vital to assess whether the matter is truly significant before engaging in debate.

Choosing which disagreements to engage in also involves recognizing when others are not open to changing their minds. Proverbs 9:7-8 warns us, "He who reproves a scorner gets shame

Humility also involves recognizing that we may not be as informed as we think we are."

for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man gets hurt. Do not reprove a scorner, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you," (MEV). If someone is entrenched in their views and unwilling to listen, it's often better to walk away in

peace than to push further and invite animosity.

We should approach disagreements with discernment, asking ourselves whether engaging in the debate will lead to a fruitful exchange or whether it will only breed contention. Not every issue needs to be addressed, and we must act on God's wisdom to determine which battles are worth fighting.

3. Grace, Because He **First Gave Us Grace**

Even when we believe we're right, how we present our views is just as important as the con-

tent of our argument. The Bible is clear that we are to be gracious and kind in our interactions, even when we're in the midst of a disagreement. Ephesians 4:1-2 urges us to "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called. With all humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another in love," (MEV). When we argue with

> others in a way that is combative or condescending, we step outside of the love and humility that God calls us to exhibit.

> Even if we have the best arguments and are factually correct, we lose credibility if we fail to demonstrate Christ's love through our words and actions. Responding with gentleness can diffuse a situation and help the other person feel heard and respected.

> Being gracious also means avoiding insults, name-calling or ridiculing the other person's viewpoint. Even if their opinion seems outrageous to us, our goal should never be to tear them down but to engage

with respect and kindness. Colossians 4:6 encourages us, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you should answer everyone," (MEV). Our words should be thoughtful, considerate and intended to

build bridges, not walls.

It's also essential to maintain a calm and composed demeanor when the other person is not. Disagreements can't escalate if at least one person remains calm and courteous. As we exhibit Christ-like character in our interactions, we may inspire others to do the same. Even if we don't change their mind, we can leave a lasting impression through our conduct.

In essence, being gracious in disagreement involves controlling our emotions, using kind and respectful language, and treating others with dignity, even when they disagree with us. Our goal should always be to reflect Christ in every conversation, allowing His love to guide our words and actions.

4. Humility and Common Ground

Humility is the vital ingredient of Christian character, essential when navigating disagreements. Philippians 2:3 encourages us, "Let nothing be done out of strife or conceit, but in humility let each esteem the other better than himself," (MEV). When we approach disagreements with a spirit of humility, we acknowledge that we don't have all the answers and that others may have valuable insights to offer.

Pride can quickly turn a healthy discussion into a heated argument. Proverbs 13:10 states, "Only by pride comes contention, but with the well-advised is wisdom," (MEV). When our goal is to prove we're right, we create division and conflict. But when we approach the conversation with humility, we open the door for meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding.

Humility also involves recognizing that we may not be as informed as we think we are. Even if we've studied a topic extensively, there's always more to learn. Others may bring different perspectives and experiences that can deepen our understanding. By staying open to learning, we allow God to teach us through others, even in the midst of disagreement.

In addition to humility, seeking common ground can help de-escalate conflict and build connection. Often, disagreements become more heated when both parties focus solely on their differences. However, finding areas of agreement, no matter how small, can create a sense of camaraderie and reduce tension.

The disciples didn't always agree on how to carry out God's work, yet they still referred to each other as brothers and co-laborers in Christ (Gal. 2:11-16; Acts 15:30-41). This shared identity in Christ helped them maintain unity, even when they disagreed on specific issues.

Remembering we share common hopes, values and dreams smooths the path forward to treating others with love and respect, even in disagreement. Whether it's acknowledging shared goals or simply affirming the other person's good intentions, finding common ground can soften the conversation and foster a spirit of collaboration rather than competition.

Be Agreeable, Choose to Be Christlike

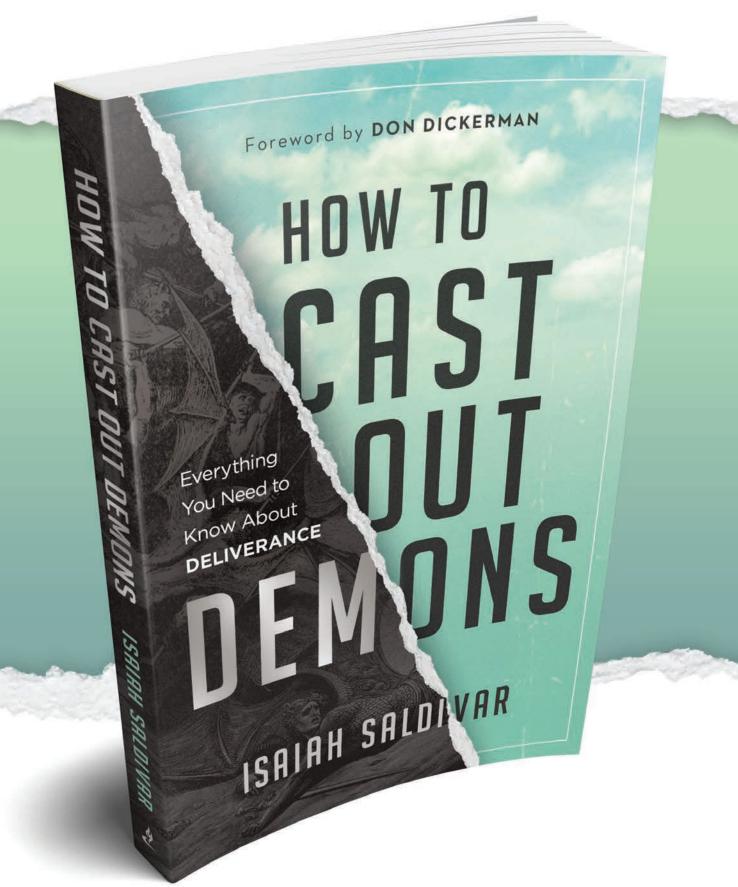
Disagreements are part of life. It is as simple as that. We all have them, we will run into them on any given day. But as followers of Christ, we are called to handle them with grace, humility and love. By choosing our battles wisely, being gracious in our approach, listening more than we speak, and staying humble, we can navigate disagreements in a way that honors God and preserves relationships. Romans 12:18 reminds us, "If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men," (MEV). While we may not always agree with others, we can strive to disagree in a way that reflects the character of Christ and promotes peace.

KELLY K is a husband, father, pastor, author and full-time evangelist based in Oklahoma. Thousands have come to know Jesus through the messages of love, forgiveness, repentance and salvation Kelly shares with enormous passion and wisdom through his social media platforms, which reach nearly one million followers. Before coming to Jesus, Kelly K. was a musician and tour manager for some of the biggest rock bands in the world. After a near-death car crash while out on tour, Kelly gave up everything and turned to Jesus, never looking back. His new book, Tough Topics: 25 Biblical Answers to Controversial Questions, releases in March 2025 and is available for pre-sale at amazon.com.

What if the most beautiful kind of faith is the type that has been tested and tried?

As the visionary and cofounder of Daystar Television Network, Joni Lamb has had a remarkable journey. In her new book, Through the Storm, Joni candidly opens up about the relentless challenges she's overcome of establishing and growing the network to the personal struggles she's faced. But even in the midst of each obstacle, she unwaveringly sought the Lord to find rest in His goodness and mercy.



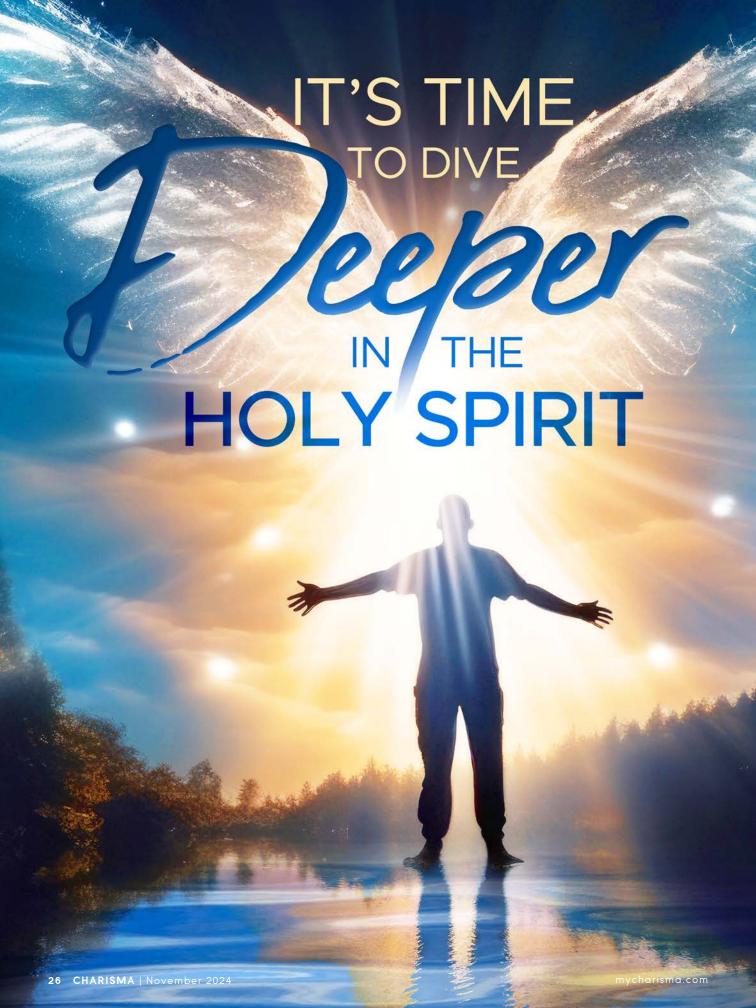


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The call to cast out demons is not for a select few; it is for every believer.

Can people today really cast out demons? The answer is **YES!** Revivalist Isaiah Saldivar's *How to Cast Out Demons* removes the mystery behind the spiritual act and provides practical training for all believers—including you! If you're tired of sitting on the sidelines, then be a part of the most significant deliverance revival the world has ever seen.





BY CHRIS GARCIA

ntimacy with the Spirit of God is spiritual, not mechanical. Some of the most powerful, intimate moments of our lives are beyond human understanding and logic. They are beyond words. Our relationship with God is often like that. The beauty of God's presence and glory cannot be described or understood from a natural perspective, as if we could figure Him out. Rather, the beauty of God's presence and glory is to be tasted and seen. It is to be experienced.

Fast Start, Slower Progress

There was a time in my life when I was so very close to God. As a young teenager, I had extraordinary visitations from the Holy Spirit, and praying was as easy as breathing. I felt such peace and refreshment in my life with the Lord. I would spend hours on end reading and meditating on the Word of God, praying in the Spirit,

and worshipping in the presence of Christ.

Passion for God raged like a fire deep within my being. Love for God, the lost, and the church were the beat of my heart. But slowly I grew distracted and careless in my walk with the Lord, and I stumbled often, yielding to fleshly impulses and creating strongholds. The complacent, lukewarm waters of life began to quench the fire that once consumed me. This resulted in a 10-year dry season.

I used to pray, "God, bring me back to the place where I once was! I want to go back to where I was!" My cries often were met with silence, and frustration would well up within me. Proverbs 13:12 (NIV) says, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick," and that is how I felt. Through all my praying, the only thing that kept coming to me was to be faithful in the wilderness and that this was only temporary. I didn't realize it at the time, but God had no desire to "bring me back." He wanted me to go beyond my past experiences into greater glory.

I still loved God, served Him, and even ministered, but my heart was like a bag of dust. I so desperately needed refreshing. Sometimes, even while serving God, you can forget Him. You can preach about Him without ever being with Him. You can minister to God's people without ever ministering to Him directly. I have been there. The vast majority of believers are stuck in this state. They have just enough of God to make them miserable with their sin and just enough of the world to make them apathetic to the things of God. In this dry season the Spirit taught me to remember Him. It's easy to forget the Lord when you have lost fellowship with Him. But once you regain it, you are flooded with the familiar embraces of His lifegiving presence.

Do you feel distant? Draw near. Do you long for refreshment? Draw near! Throw yourself at His feet. Sometimes that drawing requires patience and trust. But if you do your part, He will do His

screen. It was as if he had never really seen himself. To my surprise and disbelief, he hadn't! Many of the kids were mesmerized by their own image. It was as if they were responding to a magic trick or something. They may have seen their reflection in a pond, a stream, or perhaps a metal pot but never in an actual mirror.

When we think of a mirror, we think of "a polished or smooth surface (as of glass) that forms images by reflection" or "something that gives a true representation." But in biblical times mirrors weren't perfectly clear. Back then mirrors were often made of polished brass or copper, so they created dim reflections, and you had

perfect clarity. This transformation is progressive; you go from one degree of glory to the next. Your responsibility is to behold.

You are not going to see everything up front. You will see glimpse by glimpse.

Running the Race on God's Circuit

Believers get frustrated often because they want to see the Lord through the lens of their own feelings, past experiences, or preconceived thoughts about what God is like. But there is only one real way to look intently at Him, and it is through the lens of Scripture.

You can see God only in the mirror of His Word. As you reflect on that mirror by ingesting His Word, and allowing Him to reveal it to you, you will see Him with greater accuracy and clarity, and you will be changed into what you behold. Be intentional in looking, and as you keep looking unto Christ through the Word, you will see more of Him from glory to glory!

You were meant to bear the image of God and reflect His glory on this earth. But in order to properly reflect Him, you must reflect on His Word. With each small glimpse into His person through His Word, you will reflect more of Him.

Seeing God's glory is not a physical seeing; it is a spiritual perceiving of His presence and goodness. It is being aware of God's glory in your life. It is not receiving a vision or image of His face, though visions can be part of a believer's life. Rather, it is reflecting upon Him and lifting your heart to Him. You are called to behold His glory, which you do through the Word. As you lift the Scriptures to the Spirit, He will reveal Himself more and more!

He desires to take you from one degree of glory to the next. Consider again what 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, that we are being transformed "...in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit." The Lord, who is the Spirit, causes you to increase from one degree of knowing Him to the next degree of splendor. Nothing you can do or say can bring you closer. The great news is that if you are a child of God, you have been invited and are continually being invited!

⁶⁶As you lift the Scriptures to the Spirit, He will reveal Himself more and more! 99

part. He can be trusted!

It is faith that He is after. We must not be moved by what we see or feel but by whom we believe in. When you desire to know God, you will gain everything that comes with knowing Him. Intimacy is incubated in the womb of daily, consistent fellowship with God. The door is faith in God-believing "that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6). Draw near even when you don't sense Him right away. If you sow to what pleases Him simply because He is worthy, you will reap of His life and presence throughout your day!

The Picture Coming Into Focus

In 2011, I had the opportunity to visit Fond Parisien, one of the poorest regions in all of Haiti and possibly the world. I saw poverty in that area that would break even the toughest hearts. At one local orphanage, the poverty was so intense the children didn't even have adequate clothing. During that visit I was ambushed by little children wanting to greet me. I took out my small camera and began taking pictures and videos of the kids as they clapped and sang.

One kid was especially curious about my camera. As I showed him how it worked, he just stared at himself on the

to look intently, often with a light, to see yourself. Knowing this adds a great deal of context to Paul's words to the church in Corinth: "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, and I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see as through a glass, dimly, but then, face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know, even as I also am known," (1 Cor. 13:11-12, MEV).

On this side of heaven, we are going to see and understand things dimly, but a time is coming when we will see Christ face to face in all His glory and radiance. My favorite scripture of all time is 2 Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

When we turn to Christ, the veil of spiritual blindness is removed. And we with unveiled faces behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord and are transformed into the likeness and image of the One we behold—Christ. You become what you behold. But you must understand that just like the ancient Corinthians looking in those primitive mirrors, you need to look purposefully and with the light of God's Word. Right now you are not meant to see God's fullness with

We cannot live off of yesterday's manna. We must be endowed with the fresh oil and presence of Christ speaking and revealing Himself to us now!

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they had to follow the cloud of God's glory by day and the pillar of His fire by night. God had to teach them to be a people of His presence. Where the presence moved, they moved; where the presence camped, they camped. Finally, the resting place of God's glory was in the temple, and then it was tabernacled within Christ, the living and greater temple.

Today His glory and fire live in a new tabernacle: your body. You are the dwelling place of God, and His glory resides in you by the Holy Spirit. Great is the mystery, hidden from ages and generations, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory! (See Colossians 1:26–27.) The same God, the same One who invites us, wants to move and camp and lead you from one degree of glory to the next! Hallelujah!

Again, nothing you can do or say can cause you to move closer; it is only by His Spirit. This reality demands two very important responses from you: humility and dependence.

Humility, because you are sustained by God alone.

And dependence, because it is the Lord who takes you from one degree of fullness to the next.

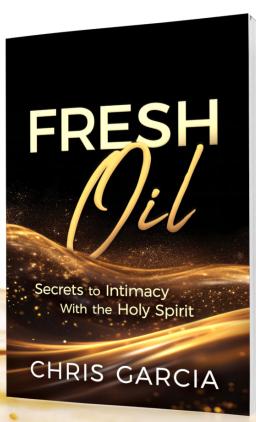
He holds you and moves you. You just need to rely on His grace, strength and power. You must learn to embrace your weakness before God so you can depend on Him in everything; that is where the real power rests.

The secret of God's presence and power is absolute humility and dependence upon God Himself, not our own abilities or strengths. He can be trusted to take you from glory to glory!

CHRIS GARCIA is the Founder of Father's Glory International, and serves as the lead overseer at House of Glory in Fort Smith, Arkansas. House of Glory is a Spirit-filled, Fivefold Apostolic revival hub. His new book, Fresh Oil, releases this month and is available at amazon.com. Garcia and his wife, Zuly, reside in the Fort Smith area with their three children.



Pastor Chris Garcia's *FRESH OIL* explains that the church is suffering through a famine. To strengthen your relationship, you must hunger for God's presence and Word as well as increase your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Be stirred by Him, and be poured into with fresh oil.





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NOOBE STOCK

FOR EVERYONE READY TO DIE (TO SELF)

Crushing bitterness to find your life for the sake of Christ

BY BRIAN BARCELONA

very teaching that Jesus gave pointed His disciples to lay their lives down.

When we think about the gospel being preached today, we sometimes picture a man on a stage giving a powerful altar call with a band. The message we would call the gospel is that Christ came, Christ died and Christ rose again. I wouldn't disagree with that message. But do you ever wonder what Jesus preached when He preached the gospel before He had died?

I've heard people say that Jesus went to the cross so we wouldn't have to, but as someone once said, He went to the cross to show you how to. I think the gospel that Jesus was preaching before He died was simply a forerunner message to His death. He was teaching people how to lay their lives down, only to then demonstrate it on the cross.

You see, Jesus came with a message that was quite different from the Old Testament. It wasn't different because it was the opposite.

It was different because He was in the process of fulfilling it. Jesus was taking the Old Testament to an entirely new level. Where the Old Testament would say, "An eye for an eye," or, "A tooth for a tooth," Jesus would say, "Turn the other cheek," (Lev. 24:19–20; Matt. 5:38–39). Where it would say, "Thou shall not murder," Jesus would say, "To hate your brother is to already have murdered him," (Matt. 5:21–22). There was a

greater laying down of His life that Jesus demonstrated in the New Testament, which He lived as well as taught. Whether it was His miracles, His teachings or His parables, Jesus was constantly pointing us to lay our lives down and die to ourselves.

Jesus must have understood the fulfillment of laying down your life and how when you do that, then and only then will you find your life. It almost seemed as if Jesus made it difficult to follow Him. If we remember the story of the rich young ruler, Jesus said he must go sell everything (Matt. 19:16–22). He knew that tricking people into following Him wouldn't make disciples—it would make disasters.

We can see through His parables that Jesus was leading us to lay our lives down and teaching us how to die to ourselves. He did this by bringing culturally relevant stories that the Jews would have understood but also that we can relate to more than 2,000 years later.

Overcome Bitterness: Cling to God's Promises

It's time to serve bitterness an eviction notice. Bitterness cannot simply be prayed away; it often accompanies self-righteousness. When I say that only the revelation of the cross can help you nail it to the cross, I mean you need to recall the price that was paid for you and allow your heart to



"IT'S EASY TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS CAN SET A DRUG ADDICT FREE, BUT SOMEHOW IT'S HARDER TO BELIEVE HE CAN FREE YOU FROM BITTERNESS."

release the pain of your past. We must understand the fruits of bitterness, how dangerous its root is, how to identify it and why we absolutely don't want it. Bitterness must be expelled from our temple.

Though it may seem that bitterness, often feeling justified, is the hardest thing to die to, the way out is through the cross. It's easy to believe that Jesus can set a drug addict free, but somehow it's harder to believe He can free you from bitterness. We might find it easier to have faith that He can save a prostitute, but we struggle to believe He can uproot the effects of bitterness. We would even say we have faith that God could save a prodigal, but when it comes to our bitterness, His arm is too short to reach us.

But the good news is that the Word of God tells a different story. The Bible is filled with promises to believers that go far beyond material gains such as new cars, debt relief, random checks in the mail and a fancy jet. I'm talking about promises that are eternal. Did you know the Bible contains 7,487 promises from God to man, 991 from one man to another, two from God the Father to His Son and 290 from man to Godover 8,000 in total? We obviously can't explore each one here, but as 2 Corinthians 1:20 assures us, all God's promises are yes and amen.

Here are nine of God's promises for you to reflect on:

His promise of not leaving us: God will never leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5), providing constant support during times of bitterness.

His promise of peace: He gives peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:7), and it is greater than the lies of bitterness.

His promise of support in struggles: His instruction to cast our cares upon

Him reveals that He wants to sustain us through both our moments of success and our mess (1 Pet. 5:7).

His promise of forgiveness: Confessing our sins leads to immediate forgiveness (1 John 1:9), offering a path out of bitterness.

His promise of escape from temptation: God promises a way out of every temptation (1 Cor. 10:13), affirming that bitterness does not define us.

His promise of answering: God demonstrates that He cares about our needs by assuring us that He will meet our asking, seeking, and knocking (Matt. 7:7).

His promise of wisdom: God assures us that wisdom will be given when we ask for it (James 1:5).

His promise of renewed strength: The promise of renewed strength if we persist in faith enables us to endure without exhaustion (Isa. 40:31).

His promise of keeping His word: God's steadfastness assures us that even when we fail, His promises remain secure (Num. 23:19).

We can't merely be believers who uphold His laws. We must also cherish His promises. These promises empower us to live lives of freedom and to conquer bitterness.

Bitterness Affects Our Lives and Our Faith

So often, bitterness profoundly impacts our lives and relationships, sometimes leading us to part ways with others. It's likely you've encountered a pastor or leader-and if not yet, you probably will—who has fallen prey to the effects of bitterness. This is often evident in their sermons, which may reveal underlying insecurities. Although names are not mentioned, the slight slander

makes it clear whom they are referencing. You might have also met other believers striving to build something for God, yet bitterness underpins their foundation. No matter how much they try, nothing they build can be pure until the bitterness is eradicated.

Unlike a motivational speaker whose goal is to build you up for a better life, the enemy uses bitterness in our lives to destroy us and, more significantly, to shipwreck your faith. Bitterness often leads to sin, and as the Bible teaches, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). That means that if you work for sin, your paycheck is death. Many Christians who fall into sin have bitterness lurking nearby. As bitterness isolates them-keeping them from the Word of God through pride or shame—it convinces them that they are justified, elevating their source of truth above the Word of God. It's reminiscent of old cartoons where a villain lays a breadcrumb trail to trap someone; as the victim follows, eating one breadcrumb after another, they head toward destruction. So too does bitterness lead to ruin.

Bitterness infiltrates even the lives of good and godly men in the Bible, as no one is immune to its effects. Consider Job, a man of character and wealth. Job's story is one of the most beautiful illustrations of a man who, although he was blessed, lost everything, battled poor advice, endured physical trials and tribulations, lost loved ones, questioned God, and even cursed the day he was born. It seems everything was setting him up to remain bitter forever, yet at the mention of repentance God blesses Job with twice as much as before. The lesson here is profound: Even if you have been bitter, there are steps to walk out of bitterness, with repentance as the foremost step.

In Job's life we see that nothing excuses bitterness to dwell with-in a believernot the loss of a job or a marriage, not the passing of a loved one, or a fallout with a ministry. While it's true that experiencing these hardships is painful, we are not accountable for what happens to us. But we are responsible for how we respond.

A Disclaimer for the Struggling

Do not be discouraged if you are struggling to overcome in any of areas of your life. Rather, rejoice that the Holy

Spirit is illuminating them to you and that you are working to overcome. I have come to find that struggling with your sin often is one of the greatest indications that you are a true believer and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you. If the Holy Spirit did not dwell in you and there was no struggle, you would just willfully give in to that sin.

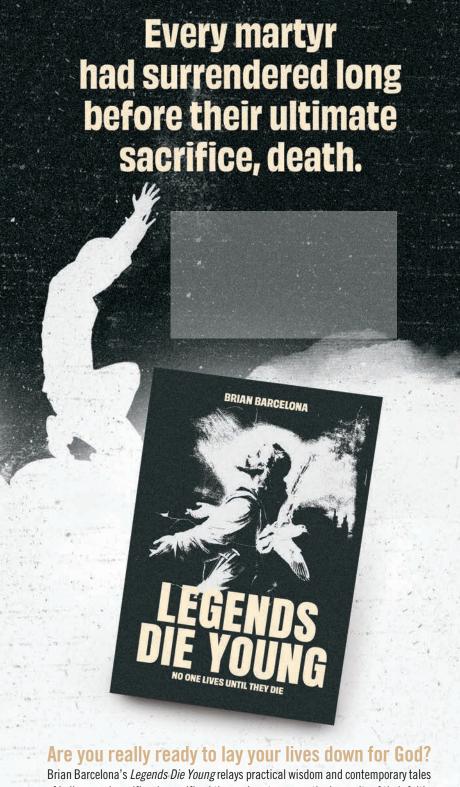
The Holy Spirit is what enables you to put up a fight with your flesh, ultimately crucifying it to the cross. Struggling with sin as a believer is far different from giving in to it and willfully accepting it as your lifestyle.

I once heard an analogy: If you were to crucify yourself daily, you would know that a cross requires three nails. I'm speaking metaphorically, although the cross was literal. If you were able to hammer the nail in your feet and then one in your left hand, you would still have your right hand open, which means you would require someone else to help crucify you. Sometimes the things you are going through require a friend to come and help nail your works of the flesh to the cross. That might look like them praying with you, fasting with you, reading the Word with you and helping you see the truth when you can't see it for yourself. Godly friends and family are often placed by God in our lives to help make sure that the old versions of us stay dead and are never resurrected.

As Christians it is our honor to follow in the footsteps of the greatest legend: Jesus Christ. He was a legend who died young, at the age of 33, but He also died young much earlier in His life. His greatest desire was to bring His Father joy.

May our lives mirror His, bringing joy to the Father. May He find faith when He comes to the earth, and may the Lamb receive the reward of His suffering.

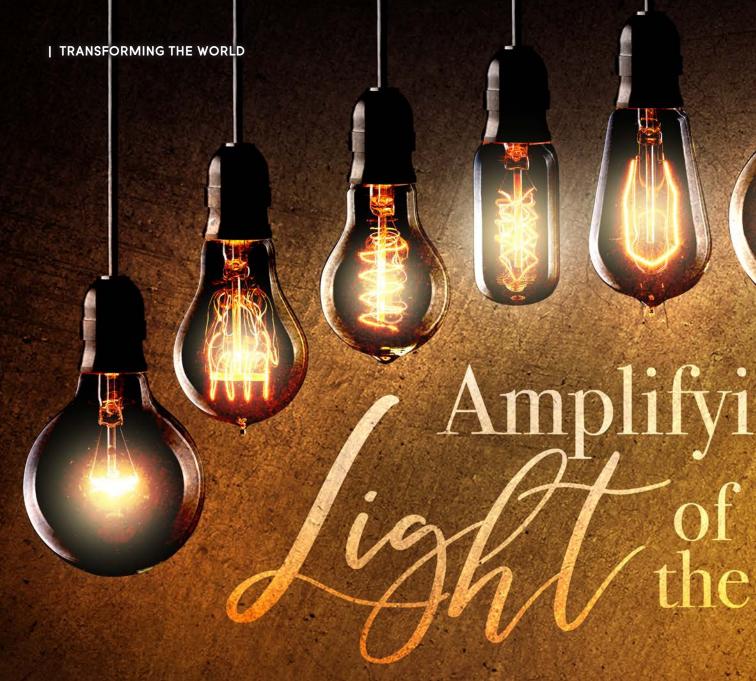
BRIAN BARCELONA is the founder of One Voice Student Missions and The Jesus Clubs. Since 2009, Brian has been a leader in youth evangelism calling the church to our nation's most unreached mission field: public high schools. Since 2020, The Jesus Clubs has grown to be a youth movement in the digital space, where millions have heard the gospel. Brian lives with his family and community in Texas. His newest book, Legends Die Young, is available at amazon.com now.



of believers who selflessly sacrificed themselves to ensure the longevity of their faith. They didn't live just to die; They lived to serve, to surrender, and to sacrifice for the Kingdom. Learning about the legends of the Christian faith, you will not only nurture your heart's core but also foster an unwavering connection with God.

Will you answer the call?





Your unique light serves the

BY JOAKIM LUNDQVIST

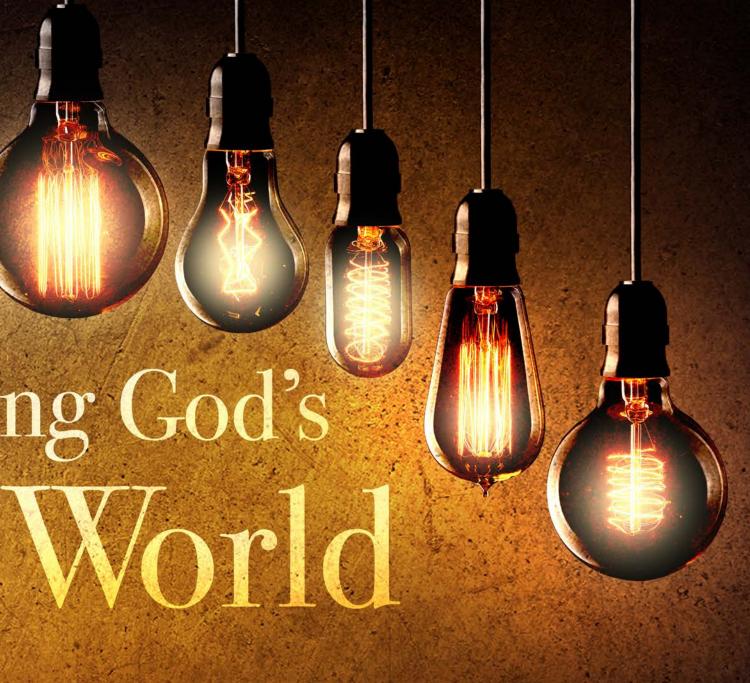
od is light. Jesus came to reignite the light that went out. Now He entrusts you with the very same task He had when He walked the earth: to be the light of the world; to take an initiative, pray, and show God's love—and thus flick a spiritual light switch on so that God's power can be released into the world.

You Are Equipped and Able Indeed!

Too many Christians think they are unable to let their lights shine and make a difference for God in their reality.

Most of the time the problem lies not in theory nor in theology. Most Christians know that Jesus calls them the light of the world in the Gospel of Matthew, and they have probably heard a message or two about it but still lack the confidence and boldness to put that calling into practice. Why?

As a pastor for almost four decades, and especially after having worked with young people for most of that time, I know from experience that much of the problem stems from a belief that only a certain kind of person—an ideal Christian with a distinct personality—has the ability to shine for God. It is so easy for us to paint a picture in our mind of this "super Christian" person with no faults and challenges, elevated high above the rest of us. And if you



darkening world's deep need

don't recognize yourself in that perfect image you've created in your mind, it is also easy to assume that "shining the light" is not for you. You assume that you lack whatever is needed and subconsciously disqualify yourself rom even the remote possibility that you could actually be the person who flicks the light switch and makes a difference for Jesus.

3 Keys to Unleash Your Light

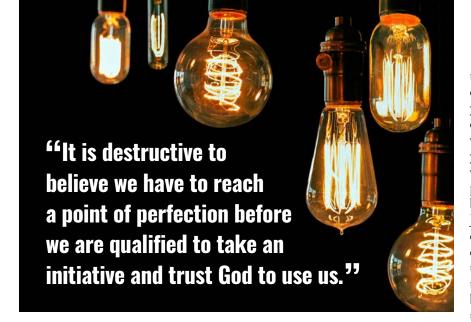
Oh, how I wish there were a button I could push to instantly and supernaturally set you free from this devastating lie! If we would only see the truth—that *all* of us are created to shine, that *all* of us have the ability in Christ to do so, and that *all* of us have been entrusted with a unique flavor of light that only we can shine in our

unique world—then the church would be turned into a Jesus revolution, the gospel would sweep the earth, and the kingdom of God would flourish.

In the absence of such a magic button, let us try to deconstruct this lie and remind ourselves of the truth of God's Word. In doing so, there are three important things to understand:

1) Shining your light does not require perfection.

If it did, none of us would be able to shine at all. It is a lie of the enemy and a complete misconception of the message of the Bible that God demands perfection before He can use anyone for His kingdom. According to the Word of God, the reality seems to be quite the opposite way around: "For observe your calling, brothers. Among



you, not many wise men according to the flesh, not many mighty men, and not many noble men were called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And God has chosen the base things of the world and things which are despised. Yes, and He chose things which did not exist to bring to nothing things that do, so that no flesh should boast in His presence," (1 Cor. 1:26-29, MEV).

When the light of God reappeared on earth through Jesus Christ, it passed by the perfectionists. The wise, the religious, the ones who considered themselves worthy of God through the way they kept the commandments of the Law, were left behind and many times became enemies of the light. Instead, Jesus chose regular, ordinary people and gave them the mission of shining for Him. The people He proclaimed to be the light of the world in the Sermon on the Mount were not theological students or participants of a pastors' conference but fishermen, carpenters, tax collectors, former prostitutes—the kind of people no one counted on or expected anything good from.

This was all according to the wisdom of God. If the light were to shine through the perfection, wisdom, and strength of man, then man would get the glory. But if it shone through the foolish, the weak, and the unexpected, then God and God alone would be glorified.

This is exactly why it is so destructive to believe we have to reach a point of perfection before we are qualified to take an initiative and trust God to use us. The outcome of this will only be that we wait in vain for a level of excellence we will never reach while the world around us is left in darkness.

Remember, throughout the Bible God continuously used men and women who were far from perfect, people with major flaws in their lives such as Abraham, Tamar, Moses, Samson, David, Solomon, Jonah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Peter, James and John. Does this mean our lifestyle doesn't matter and that we can just keep on sinning and still expect to be used by God? Of course not. The Bible clearly tells us to stop sinning (Rom. 6:12), to work out our salvation in the fear of the Lord (Phil. 2:12), and not to gratify the desires of the flesh (Rom. 13:14). There is absolutely no place in Christianity for a teaching that implies we can do whatever we want, or that God's grace means I am automatically forgiven anytime I sin.

The point is that even though God requires holiness and expects us to continuously strive so that our heart's salvation also works its way into our minds, habits, attitudes, words, and deeds, He will not stand at the sideline and wait for a certain level of perfection before He can use you.

He wants to shine through you right here and now!

2) You were created to shine a unique light.

You are not in this world and in this time by coincidence. Quite the opposite. God did not just design you to be the person you are, He also designed the time and place where you would live your life. Your personality, your year of birth and the part of the world in which you were born—all are parts of God's master plan: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love; He predestined us to adoption as sons to Himself through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace which He graciously bestowed on us in the Beloved," (Eph. 1:3-6, MEV).

Please read that again and again until you fully realize how amazing this perspective is. He chose you not just when you were born or even conceived in your mother's womb. He chose you before the creation of the world! Before that first "Let there be light" He thought of you and planned you. You were already designed in God's heart before He even designed creation, and He chose you to shine before the first man drew his first breath.

God knew what He did when He gave you your unique personality and the ability to shine your unique light in your unique world in your unique time. This is the reason you are not like others and should never compare yourself with others. Why should you, when you are perfectly put together by God almighty, entrusted and enabled to shine exactly the light needed for the people around you to see.

Comparing yourself with others (only to fall short in the process) is one of the most common and devastating mistakes Christians make. Now, there is a positive kind of comparison, where we can look at other people's faith, initiatives, and examples and be inspired to reach even further ourselves. But placing yourself next to someone else, only to assume that because you are not like them you are less able to shine and less likely to be used by God, basically means claiming that God has made a horrible mistake.

You are you—created and chosen by God to live in this world and in this time to shine a light uniquely designed by the Lord Himself to reach the exact group of people God knew from the beginning your life would touch.

3) Diversity is not a problem but an asset.

In the world we live in conformity is the law. Everybody is expected to look the same, be the same, act the same, have the same opinions, and wear the same clothes. Standing out from the crowd or going against the flow is punished by cancellation. In a season of insecurity, when you are desperately seeking identity, the easiest route is simply to be a clone of everyone else.

As Christians we can never allow ourselves to be infected by this mindset. In the kingdom of God diversity is not a problem but an absolute necessity. No one of us can display the fullness of God on our own. No single person, church, or movement carries in itself the ability to reflect to the world the greatness and diversity that is found in Him. He is simply too great, too amazing.

This is exactly why we, as the church, are portrayed and described as one body with many different parts rather than as many independent individuals: "For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the many parts of that one body are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body," (1 Cor. 12:12-13, MEV).

How I love this revelation! And how totally contrary it is to the way of this world, which dictates that everyone should be the same. The kingdom of God is the complete opposite, a kingdom where diversity is celebrated as absolutely essential.

We are called to complete, not to compete. And as we all shine our individual, unique lights in our individual, unique worlds, all of them will blend together into one amazing beam of light for the world to see. The result: one and the same light but filled with all the various spectrums and nuances needed to display the greatness, glory,

and diversity of our God.

This has always been the main vision, passion, and desire of my ministry: inspiring believers to shine their lights boldly in their world and never excuse or exclude themselves because their lights don't look exactly like someone else's.

The Inspired Illustration

Some years ago, after many months of prayer, God gave me the grace to put together an illustrated sermon for this very purpose. By that same grace, this message has now encouraged hundreds of thousands of believers in some 15 countries to shine their lights.

The main illustration of the message consists of a number of lampstands with different light bulbs-all different in design, but all with the ability to shine their unique light according to the purpose they were created for. As the light bulbs light up one by one, I talk about each one, its importance, its strengths and limitations, and how its uniqueness sets it apart from the others and gives it a very special purpose that none of the others can fill. Then at the end the lamps all light up at once and their unique lights blend together to create this beautiful display of unity and diversity—just as the kingdom of God is meant to do.

These different light bulbs help you better understand the diversity of the kingdom and the uniqueness of every believer's light. You will be able to identify what kind of light bulb God has created you to be and why your special light is so important and irreplaceable.

JOAKIM LUNDOVIST serves as pastor and international ambassador of Word of Life Church in Uppsala, Sweden. Even in this highly secularized nation, it has grown to a megachurch and become the launchpad of more than 900 churches in Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East, India and beyond. Lundqvist is a highly esteemed speaker in more than 50 nations to make a difference for Jesus in their world. He is the author of four books translated into several languages. His new book, Shine Your Light, was published in October and is available at amazon.com now. He and his wife, Maria, have two daughters, one son-in-law and two arandsons.



than we see with our eyes, unforeseen forces and ancient prophecies playing out to the End of Days? Ancient truths are unfolding before your very eyes! As explosive and mind-bending as the other books of Jonathan Cahn, The Dragon's Prophecy will open your eyes and change the way you see the events of our times and your world.



Available Now Where Books Are Sold. www.BooksByJonathanCahn.com

BY L.A. MARZULLI

ou are a five-year-old boy, and you are being visited by entities that scare the daylights out of you. You are taken by these entities; you are helpless against them. They do to you what they wish. You find yourself on a cold, metal table. There are Grays all around you. They are cold and emotionless. You have been here before—many times—so it is unsettlingly familiar. You are distressed, and you realize your bladder has released from terror. One of the Grays leans over your face, and you are forced to stare into its eyes. Your mind explodes with images and scenes that are unfamiliar and disturbing. You want to scream, but you can't; you find that you are immobilized. Then you feel something being put into your leg. You open your mouth to scream, but nothing comes out. Then you black out.

What If These Entities Are Demonic?

I am always amazed when I talk to ufologists who insist that the phenomenon is benevolent, that these beings are really our space brothers who have come to rescue us. When I'm speaking at UFO conferences (which has recently become a rarity because people think I'm religious), I will usually start out my presentation by asking the audience this question: "How many of you think it's OK to abduct a five-year-old child and implant him?" Not one hand goes up—ever. Everyone in the audience, regardless of their paradigm or their belief system, knows instinctively, viscerally, that it's wrong to abduct five-year-old boys and implant them. And yet these are the same people who want to be taken, want to have contact, want to see our so-called space brothers return.

The Ancient Aliens show on the History Channel has been going on for over a decade now. I was on the first two seasons of the show, which led Richard Shaw and me to create the Watchers series, which now has 11 documentaries. Your kids and your grandkids watch Ancient Aliens; they're internet savvy and they spend more time on their cell phones than they do

talking to you or their grandparents. They have been indoctrinated—and the church is asleep, afraid to talk about UFOs or the Nephilim or any of the important points of discussion found in the Guidebook to the Supernatural, the Bible.

It is imperative to understand that we are at war here. There are two ideologies being promulgated. The ancient-alien paradigm tells us that we were created here, seeded here, by an advanced race of extraterrestrials. The biblical prophetic narrative states that God, Jesus specifically, spoke everything into existence. Jesus is not an extraterrestrial. He is not an alien. He is fully God and fully man. He spoke, and the universe was formed. His Word is true, and He will return soon. So these two paradigms cannot exist together; they are completely contradictory to one another. In the last two films of our UFO Disclosure series, titled *What Is the Truth?*, Gil Zimmerman and I delye into this in full detail.

Unfortunately, much of the church is afraid to even discuss this, yet all the kids in the youth group know about it. It's time for the church to understand that this is the coming great deception. It is a calculated, nefarious agenda. The late Chuck Missler used to say he believed that the Antichrist would boast of some sort of alien connection. I couldn't agree with him more. It's happening right in front of us. Every week there are new reports, new videos, new eyewitnesses to the UFO phenomenon. This is, in my opinion, the coming great deception, or as 2 Thessalonians calls it, the strong delusion.

What If Ancient Prophetic Texts Warn of These Entities In the Last Days?

I call your attention to Genesis 3:15 (NASB): "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed." Three chapters later, in Genesis chapter six, in the days of Noah, the sons of God did the unthinkable and mixed the seed. Remember, Jesus warned us in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke that the end of days would be like the days of Noah. Out of all the places in Scripture He could point to, He chose that.





Remember too, at the time Jesus warned us there was no New Testament. There were a handful of followers that were hanging on His every word. Jesus assumed, rightfully so, that they understood what He was talking about. Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, stated in the Antiquities of the Jews that the bones of the Nephilim were on display in Jerusalem before A.D. 70, when Titus and the Roman army destroyed Ierusalem. In other words, the skeletons were displayed to show countless generations after the conquest of Canaan the reality of Genesis 3:15.

My mentor, Dr. I. D. E. Thomas, penned Omega Conspiracy, which has become a classic. Within its pages he set the record straight. It was a book that many of us cut our teeth on. I received my honorary doctorate from Dr. Thomas, and it was one of the most incredible days of my 73 years. I will never forget it. Until I read Dr. Thomas's book, I was completely confused about Noah's flood, the tower of Babel, Abraham and the kings, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and finally the conquest of Canaan, which, unless a person understands about the Nephilim and the seed war, is genocide.

Jesus also warned us to not be deceived. He then said that men will faint from fear from what is coming upon the earth. (See Luke 21:7-28.) Was He talking about a mile-wide asteroid? Or was He talking about a mile-wide mothership? In my opinion it's not an asteroid. It's something that's been cooked up in hell's kitchen for perhaps thousands of years. It is the endgame of the Dragon. It is the great deception. Paul warned us that the Dragon, Satan, will come with all signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:9).

The theory of evolution has cut Christianity off at the knees, and it is now the prevailing paradigm in both the scientific community and academia. Darwinism states that we evolved over millions or billions of years to what we see now. This is in direct contradiction to the biblical narrative, which tells us that Jesus spoke everything into existence: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it," (John 1:1–5).

Ufologists do not hold to a biblical paradigm; Ancient Aliens is a perfect example of this. They never come to the truth. It's like a dog chasing its tail around and around and around. Once we plug the biblical paradigm into the UFO phenomenon, everything makes perfect sense. It has taken me years of study and research to connect all the dots. I truly believe that we are in the last of the last days and that the UFO phenomenon is the coming great deception-and millions of people will believe the lie. Remember, Paul admonished us that because they did not believe the truth. God will send them strong delusion (2 Thess.

2:10-11). This is where we are. The strong delusion is manifesting in ways that I have never seen.

What If These Other **Dimensions Are Actually Described In Our Bibles?**

The biblical narrative says that there are three heavens. The first heaven is the earth and the atmosphere just directly above us. The second heaven, in my opinion, is the universe around us. The third heaven is where the Most High God dwells. We know from the book of Revelation that Michael and his angels will fight with the devil and his angels—the devil will lose that battle. The devil will be cast to earth along with all the fallen ones. I have come to call this the great eviction because this area of the second heaven will finally be cleared of all these foul and unclean spirits.

People who take the drug ayahuasca often report seeing the Grays when they pop up into what I call the second heaven. I remember reading in Graham Hancock's book Supernatural: Meetings With the Ancient Teachers of Mankind that he was perplexed after taking ayahuasca; he saw the Grays and wondered what they were doing there. Unfortunately for Mr.

Hancock, he completely dismissed the Bible, and thus, in my opinion, he can never come to the truth. Every shaman, witch doctor and occultist knows about the second heaven—it is the place where they get their power from. They all know who it is that they serve and where that power they want comes from. It is from the Dragon himself—he will bestow this power on those who give their souls to him. There's always a price.

After Michael and his angels boot the devil and all his fallen angels and unclean spirits from the second heaven, a loud voice from heaven will say, "'Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time'," (Rev. 12:12). Those two sentences are pregnant with meaning. How does the devil know his time is short? What are we looking at here?

The Dragon's Final Deception

I have held to the biblical account that these intruders are, in fact, interdimensional entities with a nefarious, dark, demonic agenda. Everything connects back to the breeding program that we first discover in Genesis 3:15. This Scripture is the gateway to the rest of the biblical prophetic narrative. Once we plug this in, everything becomes extremely clear. There is a breeding program. The seed of the Dragon continues, but they are not given in marriage the way they were in the days of Noah; however, it's similar. Iesus warned us of this.

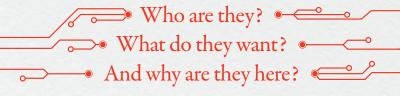
It's time to wake up and understand that we are living in perilous times when the final endgame of the Dragon is about to manifest—and millions of people will be deceived.

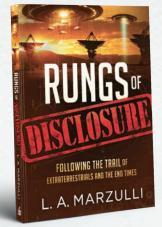
L.A. MARZULLI is an author, lecturer and filmmaker. The author of 12 books including The Nephilim Trilogy, which became a CBA bestseller, Marzulli is a frank supernaturalist who lectures on the subjects of UFOs, the Nephilim and ancient prophetic texts, presenting his exhaustive research at conferences and churches, and through appearances on numerous national and international radio and television programs. His newest book, Rungs of Disclosure, released last month and is available at amazon.com now.



THEY'VE BEEN HERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

making their presence known in the shadows. In L.A. Marzulli's Rungs of Disclosure, what once was fringe is now reality! While reading, you'll meet regular people—just like you—who have encountered something beyond their ability to explain. You'll also hear from people of great faith and deep religious belief who continue to have these strange and deeply unsettling encounters. Find out the answers to these spine-chilling questions:









Tell the Serpent Spirits to Drop Dead!

UNCLOG YOUR FINANCES, HEALTH, RELATIONSHIPS AND PEACE

BY KATIE SOUZA

he fiery presence of God has the incredible ability to force serpents out of hiding. When we invite the presence of the Holy Spirit—and His fire—into our lives, the snakes are flushed out in the open, where we can effectively deal with them.

Cunning As a Snake

Genesis 3:1 says, "Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field." Snakes are sneaky. They know how to hide, so their presence in our lives is extremely difficult to detect. That's because serpents are masters of camouflage technology.

Just think about snakes in the natural. Arizona boasts vast desert regions, and within those deserts you'll find plenty of rattlesnakes. If you were to venture into that terrain, you would have to be on the alert for a rattler, because spotting one in the midst of sand, rocks and dirt can be incredibly challenging. Their scales perfectly blend in with their surroundings. They are truly camouflage masters.

Now shift your focus to the Amazon rainforest, with massive anacondas measuring more than 20 feet long and weighing up to 500. Despite their great size, these reptiles are difficult to detect because they move silently and their scales blend seamlessly with the jungle foliage. In fact, an anaconda slithers with such stealth that its prey often remains oblivious to its presence until it is too late. By then, the snake has already encircled its unsuspecting victim and tightened its grip until death is inevitable. These snakes are, without a doubt, masters of camouflage technology.

Supernatural Serpents

snakes find an opening in your life, they will sneak up on you, blend in with your surroundings, then coil themselves around you—and you will be none the wiser until it's too late. It's only once they begin to tighten their coils and inject their venomous schemes into you, wreaking all sorts of havoc—troubles with your finances, a drain on your prosperity, turmoil in your marriage, sickness in your body, and much more—that you realize something is wrong. However, even then, few of us are able or knowledgeable enough to grasp what's really started happening.

You're under a snake attack.

Holy Spirit Fire to the Rescue!

That's where the fire of God comes into play. It has the incredible ability to force these serpents out of their hiding places, where you can see them. Millions of people throughout the world are walking around carrying demonic snakes and don't even know it!

Let me prove it through this incredible story in Acts 28. In this passage we find the apostle Paul, who has just survived a shipwreck and been forced to swim to a beach during a horrific storm. Once ashore, he sets about gathering sticks to add to a fire the native islanders had built for warmth from the cold rain. However, in the process he unknowingly picks up a snake concealed within the bundle of sticks he has collected: "When they had escaped, they learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed extraordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because of the rain and the cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper driven out by the heat fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, 'Surely this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, justice does not allow him to live.' But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm," (Acts 28:1-5, MEV).

Let's unpack this. First of all, Paul was walking around carrying a deadly viper, and he didn't know it! How could that be? Because snakes are masters of camouflage technology! That snake was hidden in the sticks Paul had picked up.

It is very interesting that the word bundle (Greek plēthos) can mean "the multitude of people." This tells me that a multitude of people are walking around carrying demonic serpents and don't realize it. Let me say it again: People all over the world men, women, children; people of all walks of life are unknowingly carrying demonic snakes around with them, and as a result they suffer from various afflictions such as breast cancer, diabetes, respiratory issues, back and neck problems and unexplained bodily pains. Their marriages are breaking apart. Their businesses, churches and ministries are shattered. yet they are unaware that demonic serpents are strategically wrapped around them, causing these afflictions.

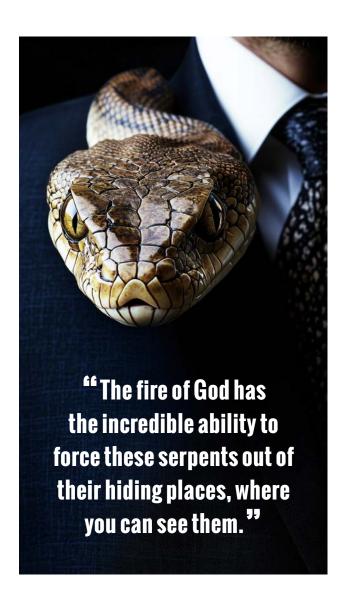
Snakes are elusive, but the fire of God has the power to drive them out of hiding. When Paul threw the bundle on the fire, the heat drove that serpent out of its hiding place. It bit him, but he just shook it off and was miraculously left

unharmed! This story underscores why the fire of God is of paramount importance in our battle against these serpents.

Snakes hate fire! When we immerse ourselves in the fire of God, it will drive out the snakes that we have unknowingly picked up during life's trials. The fire will force them to come out of hiding, where we can see them and get rid of them once and for all.

My Testimony In Serpent Battles

I recall a personal experience in which I discovered a troubling indentation in my breast, roughly half an inch deep. Seriously concerned, I asked, "What is this, Lord?" At the time, I was on tour and had just finished preaching. Immediately the Lord instructed me to immerse myself in His fire to reveal the root of the issue.



So, after returning to my host's house around midnight, I played Misty Edwards' song "All-Consuming Fire" all night long. I'd sing along to the song, drift off to sleep, then wake up and continue singing.

The following morning, I had a vision of a bloody bandage wrapped around my chest and a poisonous viper standing upright on its tail, with its characteristic triangular jaw, striking at me.

"What does this I asked. mean, Lord?"

He responded, "That serpent is putting breast cancer on you."

That's when I realized I was just like Paul. I had been carrying around a poisonous viper without knowing it, but the fire of God had driven it out into the open where I could see it.

At that moment I was livid at our enemy. I even said out loud, "Satan, this time you've touched the goods, and the hubby is not going to be happy!"

Fortunately, the Lord interrupted my anger with the next instructions: "You saw the head of the serpent. Now take it up as Jesus instructed you to do." So, I prophetically put on a metal glove (in case it still tried to bite), and I pulled it off my breast, then threw it into the abyss, commanding it to burn and never return.

And here is a key practice for battling serpent spirits. I've found that over the years you will need to soak in fire until you see the serpent's head. Sometimes these snakes are buried so deep in us that it takes a minute to get them to unwind. Once you see the head, however, you can remove its "headship" over you!

When I was back at home, the Lord

instructed me to take communion frequently over the next three days, as this would force the venom out of my body and the life-giving bread would bring regeneration to the breast. I obeyed, but each night, I experienced significant pain. As I lay in bed, I clutched my chest, thinking, "Oh my goodness, it's still there. I haven't gotten rid of it. I've only made it mad."

Nevertheless, on the third morning, when I woke up and went to shower, I discovered the indentation had completely filled in! The pain I had felt was not the presence of the serpent but rather the process of my flesh regenerating.

It is of huge necessity that we regularly soak in fire to drive these hidden demonic creatures off and out of our lives. That can look like anything from

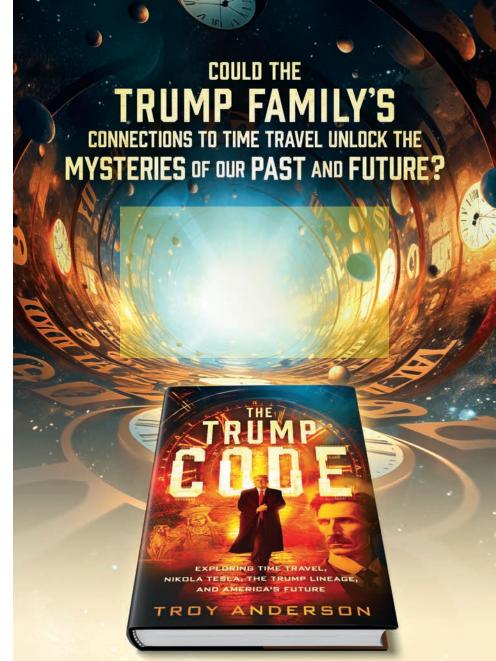
engaging in fiery worship, praying in fiery tongues, declaring Scriptures concerning the fire of God, singing along to a song about Holy Spirit fire, to even listening to my The Serpent and the Soul Fire Soak, an MP3 with healing and deliverance music accompanying powerful fire Scriptures and snake-trampling decrees.

When we declare and decree the fire-infused Scriptures, as well as engage in worship, praise, and thanksgiving, the fire of His divine presence descends on us, effectively driving these serpents out of their hideaways.

I've noticed significant surges in cancer cases worldwide. A huge percentage of these are snake-induced. I've had numerous conversations with individuals who have battled this disease. Cancer, even if defeated, often tries to come back. Case in point: Around five years after that encounter I attended a meeting with Tony Kemp, where he was teaching about the fire of God. As I sat there, I began fervently crying out, "Fire, fire, fire!" and praying fiercely in tongues. You see, I had been feeling oppressed, and I realized a serpent had come back to try to take me out with cancer again. As I persisted in pressing into the fiery presence, I actually could feel the serpents swirling in my breasts until they came out! Who knows what those demons might have done if I hadn't pressed into the fire! And that wasn't the last time they tried.

Don't let demonic serpents wreak havoc on your health, mental and emotional wellness, finances, and relationships. God has given us victory over all the power of the enemy, so let's walk in it! 4

KATIE SOUZA is the founder of the prison outreach Expected End Ministries, which serves over 4,000 prisons in five countries, and the author of The Captivity Series: The Key to Your Expected End, Healing the Wounded Soul, and Be Revived. As part owner of channel 379 Direct TV, she produces her live television show, Faith with Katie, which also airs on all KSM social media platforms. Katie currently lives in Florida with her husband, Robert. Her newest book, The Serpent and the Soul, is available at amazon.com now.



In the annals of American presidential history,

there is no more peculiar tale than the eerie similarities between former President Donald Trump and a series of novels called, The Baron Trump Collection, penned by the obscure yet seemingly prophetic hand of American lawyer and novelist Ingersoll Lockwood in the late 1800s. The Trump Code delves into the connections between the Baron Trump novels and the enigmatic Trump family legacy, asking whether this nineteenth-century novelist foresaw the future of not only Trump but also America and the world. It also uncovers a web of historical events and divine providence. Peeling back the layers of history, you will discover traces of the divine hand that guides the course of human events.

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Spreading the Gospel Through Pickleball

As the fastest-growing sport in America, pickleball is gaining popularity in churches, with many setting up nets to connect with their communities. God is using this sport as a way to draw people closer to Him, providing a space where shared interests spark conversations and the Holy Spirit can work through the relationships formed.

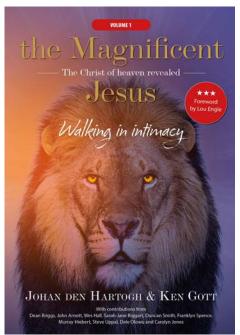
Anthony felt God's call to create Christian-themed paddles, and soon, the Holy Spirit began to inspire him with Greek words rich in spiritual significance. These words became central to the paddles' designs:

- *Dunamis*: "The miraculous power of God."
- Agape: The highest form of love, exemplified by Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- Hagios: Meaning "holy" or "sacred," it reflects the call to "be holy, for I am holy."
- Eklektos: "The chosen," reminding us that God chooses us because He knows our hearts.

Through God's Elite LLC, Anthony shares these powerful messages and uses quality paddles to reach others for Christ through the sport of pickleball.







The Magnificent Jesus: The Christ of Heaven Revealed - Walking in Intimacy Foreword by Lou Engle

Embark on a life-changing journey with *The Magnificent Jesus*, the first volume in a powerful trilogy designed to draw you into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. This book reveals Jesus as the perfect union of love and justice, showcasing His infinite grace, humility, and strength.

Stunning photography enriched with breathtaking imagery beautifully complement the book's transformative message.

Key spiritual Leaders like John Arnott, Dean Briggs, Wes Hall, Sarah-Jane Biggart, and others, contribute to diverse insights into the nature and heart of Christ.

Included is a dedicated space for your own reflections, thoughts, and prayers, helping you internalize and apply the teachings in a personal and meaningful way.

The Magnificent Jesus invites both seasoned believers and those new to the faith to spend time in the "inner room" with the Father. Immerse yourself in His love by following the example of Jesus in your everyday life. Be transformed by the lifechanging presence of Christ.

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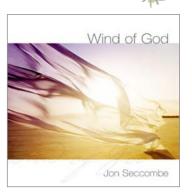


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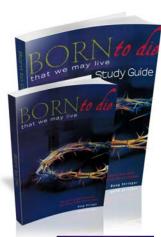
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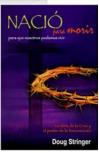
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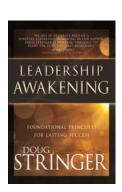
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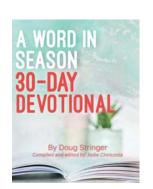














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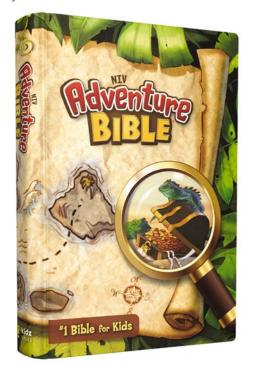
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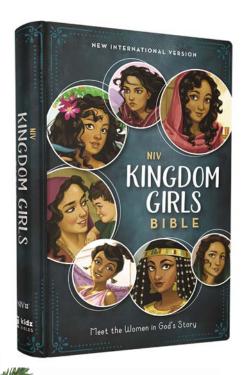


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Girls will discover the power of faith in this beautiful Bible that features women of the Bible!

Here is the ideal Bible for girls on their journey of faith! This special Bible is specifically crafted to highlight the stories and lessons of the inspiring, famous, and sometimes infamous women of the Bible.

With over 400 engaging features, colorful illustrations, and helpful notes, this Bible is perfect for girls ages 8 to 12 as they learn about the strong and faithful women who came before them. From Eve to Ruth, Esther to Mary, this Bible brings the stories of these women to life and shows how their faith and strength can still inspire girls today.

Featuring a beautiful design and easy-to-read text, this Bible is a great resource for girls as they grow in their own faith and learn about the women who have impacted the world.

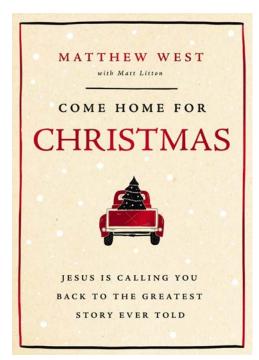
Follow the link for a 7-day reading plan, Bible activities, a free sampler of the NIV Kingdom Girls Bible and much more!

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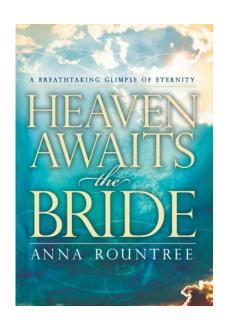


Come Home for Christmas

Come Home for Christmas by Matthew West is the perfect gift for anyone longing to rediscover the true meaning of the season. With his signature warmth and storytelling, West guides readers back to the heart of Christmas—reminding them of the joy, hope, and peace found only in Jesus. Each chapter helps bring the wonder of the holiday back into focus, offering Bible readings, discussion questions, and a special Advent challenge to deepen the experience.

Whether you're gifting this to a friend, a family member, or even yourself, Come Home for Christmas is more than just a book—it's an invitation to embrace the season with childlike wonder and reconnect with what matters most. Wrapped in heartfelt insights and practical reflections, this book makes a meaningful and encouraging present, perfect for sharing the love and warmth of the holiday season.

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This Christmas, Give the Gift of Heaven

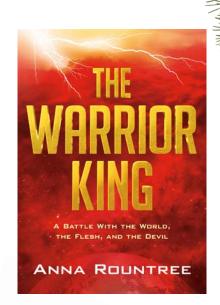
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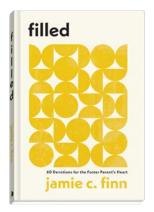
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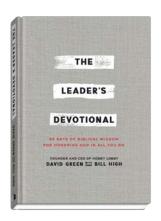




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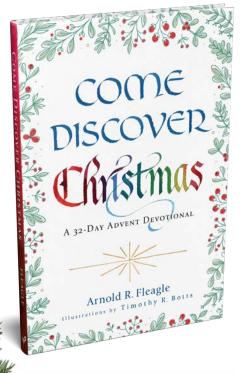




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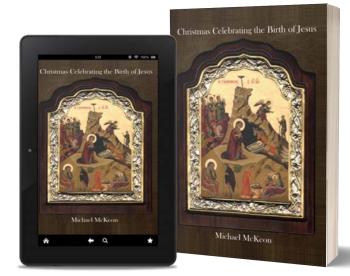
This season, infuse peace and joy back into your celebrations—and come discover Christmas.

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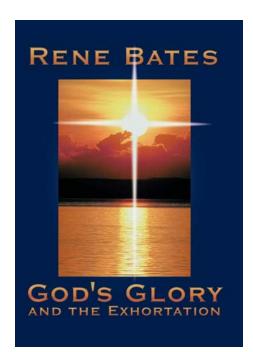
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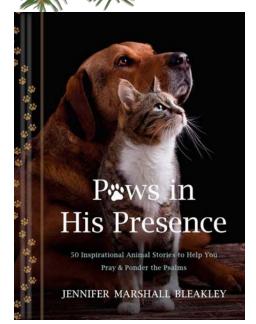
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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE





Be Still and Know...You Are Loved More Than You Can Pawsibly Imagine

Nothing on earth exemplifies the unconditional love and enduring faithfulness of God quite like our four-legged friends. Their loyalty, calming presence and constant companionship bring us the same sense of peace and contentment that we find throughout the book of Psalms.

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Find *Paws in His Presence* and more by Jennifer Marshall Bleakley for the animal lover in your life at Tyndale.com.

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Thank You God

Thank You God is a colorful and engaging book for children aged 1-7, available in both boys and girls versions. It encourages children to express gratitude to God for the small things in their lives. The book uses fun illustrations to help kids appreciate family, friendships, and everyday blessings. Overall, it is a heartwarming and inspiring story that will bring joy to children and parents alike.



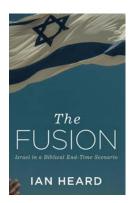


Garden to Garden 30 Days Through the Bible

Garden to Garden is a 30-day devotional journey from the Garden of Eden in Genesis to the Eternal Garden Paradise revealed in Revelation. In just 30 days, readers will discover the full redemption story, learn how all the Bible characters and stories flow together, and how each book of the Bible points to Jesus Christ.

Scripture is God-breathed; by reading it, we discover who we are, why we are here, what happened to us, and our eternal destiny. In *Garden to Garden*, Marian Jordan Ellis walks alongside readers as they experience the Bible through short devotional readings and explains the story arc of God's great redemptive plan. *Garden to Garden* is the perfect gift for mature Believers and seekers.

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ISRAEL...WHAT AWAITS?

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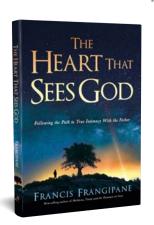
This very readable book proposes that the zealot, Saul of Tarsus, described as 'one born out of due time' to become Paul, the great Apostle to the gentiles—typifies the miraculous, late turning of his own people!

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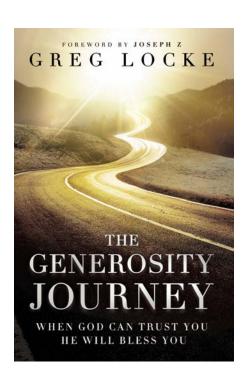
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The Heart That Sees God by Francis Frangipane

What if everything you think you know about the Sermon on the Mount has only scratched the surface? The Sermon on the Mount is more than a list of blessings—it's the recipe to becoming who God created you to be. In this captivating book by Francis Frangipane, revisit Jesus' most famous teaching and discover the amazing life-transforming truths hidden behind the words He shared. As you delve into *The Heart That Sees God*, you'll learn what it looks like to live the authentic, fulfilling Christian life you've always wanted to live.

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The Generosity Journey by Greg Locke

Nothing will change a believer's life more than biblical giving. Greg Locke's *The Generosity Journey* shows that generosity is the remedy for materialism and the ultimate game-changer for walking in the abundance and favor of God. Generosity is not just a gift to others but also a weapon in spiritual warfare against the negative influences of the enemy. Through generosity, you *can* and *will* experience spiritual breakthrough! After reading this book, you will not only discover the joy of giving, but you will also receive the extraordinary rewards that comes when you align yourself with God's generous plan for your life. Additionally, you will walk away with the confidence that God will take what you give and do exceedingly and abundantly more with it than you could ever have imagined.

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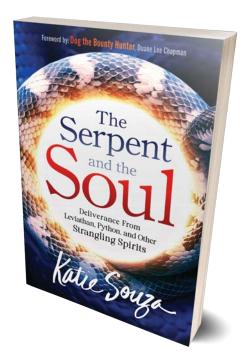


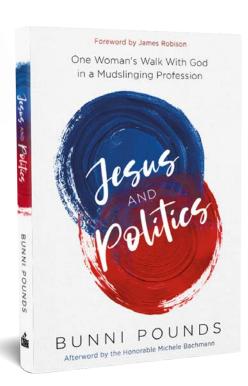


The Serpent and the Soul by Katie Souza

Deadly serpent spirits are seeking to destroy your soul! Katie Souza's *The Serpent and the Soul* reveals the sly strategies of Python, Leviathan, and other demonic spirits, as they attempt to attack you at all levels: *financially, physically*, and *spiritually*. Working against our relationships, our faith, and our future, these serpent spirits want to constrict you so that you suffer like they will in eternity. But have no fear! In Luke 10:19, Jesus gave us the power to trample serpents and have authority over the enemy. Although the serpent spirits may seem intimidating at first, they will run away as soon as you take back what they have stolen from you. Using the powerful prayers and spiritual tools inside this practical guide, you will be able to break free from the serpents' deadly grip and restore peace in your life! Likewise, you will be able to see that your life was created for *wholeness*, not *brokenness*.

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Jesus and Politics by Bunni Pounds

The Christian life isn't about doing things the easy way—it's about living as Christ even in a hostile environment. With Bunni Pounds' Jesus and Politics, you will gain insight from Pounds' sixteen-year career in the political atmosphere on how you can disciple a nation one heart at a time. Christians don't have to sit on the sidelines while we see a crumbling world around us, even in the political realm—we can be a light in the darkness to all people, in all situations.

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The Dragon's Prophecy by Jonathan Cahn

Is there more to the world than we see with our eyes, unseen forces and ancient prophecies playing out to the End of Days? New York Times best-selling author Jonathan Cahn is back with another spiritual bomb to drop in THE DRAGON'S PROPHECY: Israel, the Dark Resurrection, and the End of Days. In this mind-blowing book, your readers will reveal the ancient forces at work transforming our world, the mysteries of the future, and the ancient secrets given to overcome and prevail in view of what lies ahead! Your readers will never be the same after reading this mind-bending revelation!

BooksByJonathanCahn.com

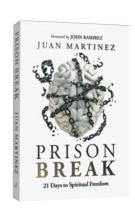


The Trump Code by Troy Anderson

TROY ANDERSON

Could the Trump family's connections to time travel theories, esoteric knowledge, and secret societies hold clues to unlocking the mysteries of our past and future? Troy Anderson's *The Trump Code* delves into the connections between the Baron Trump novels and the enigmatic Trump family legacy, asking whether this nineteenth-century novelist foresaw the future of Trump, America, and the world. It also uncovers a web of historical events and divine providence. While reading this book, your readers will have to confront questions that defy easy answers such as: Is there a divine hand guiding the course of human events?

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Prison Break by Juan Martinez

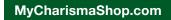
A life with Christ is about unshackling your chains of bondage to embrace a life of freedom. Juan Martinez's twenty-one-day devotional, *Prison Break*, encourages life change through practical steps such as challenging negative thinking patterns with positive affirmations and setting realistic goals. It also serves as a poignant reminder that freedom is possible and shows you that with the right mindset, you can overcome past mistakes, forgive others, be renewed by the transformation of your minds, and lead a fulfilling life. By reading this book, your readers will recognize the root causes of the psychological chains breaking them so they can reach greater personal growth.

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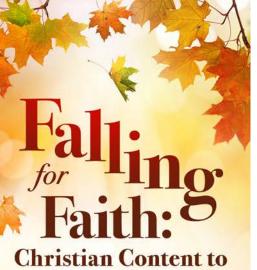


Rungs of Disclosure by L.A. Marzulli

Is this the coming Great Deception? In Rungs of Disclosure, what once was fringe is now reality! While reading, you'll meet regular people—just like you—who have encountered something beyond their ability to explain. You'll also hear from people of great faith and religious belief who continue to have these strange and deeply unsettling encounters. L. A. Marzulli explores these ongoing incidents to discover the answers to these questions: Who are "they"? What do they want? And why are they here? If your readers can handle the truth, they should read this book-if they dare.







Enrich Your Autumn

Let your faith abound during this fall season!

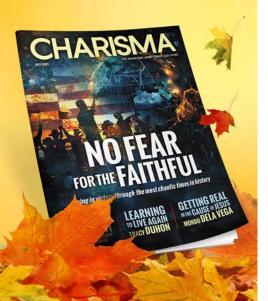
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BIBLE READING GUIDE

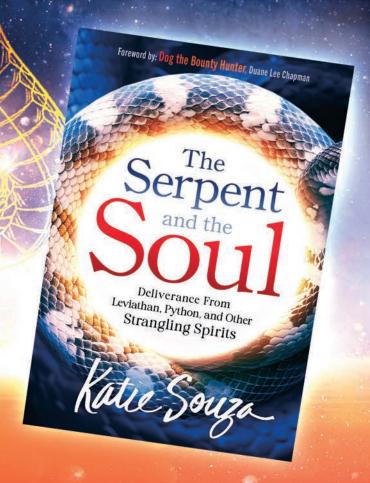
Follow our daily reading plan in each issue of Charisma to read through the Modern English Version Bible in one year. The plan is also available online at mycharisma.com/bible-reading-guide/.

"But avoid foolish and unlearned debates, knowing that they create strife."—2 Timothy 2:23, MEV

NOVEMBER

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

Are you being strangled by DEMONIC SPIRITS?



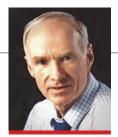
Slipping through the cracks of your daily life are deadly serpents out to ruin your relationships, constrict your finances, and poison your bodies. Katie Souza's *The Serpent and the Soul* not only identifies the types of serpents but also arms you with surefire ways to break these poisonous bonds.

Prosperity awaits!

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Sticks, Stones, Christian Bones (March 1982)

"Perhaps when Jesus

said 'there is nothing

covered that shall not

be revealed.' He was

referring to church

business meetings."

omeone once said that everywhere the apostle Paul went they had a riot or a revival. Now all we do is serve tea and cookies.

Not quite.

Riots are still much in vogue. But instead of non-Christians trying to kill Christians, it is now believers throwing stones at each other.

Every day, it seems, you can find a news article about a church split, scandal or lawsuit. Of course, we never read about these horrible bloodlettings in the Christian press. We're busy defending the kingdom. Rather, the articles appear in the secular press. And for every fight that makes the newspapers, there are hundreds of others which remain successfully hidden. These are the private wars accomplished by smiling hoodlums under the guise of love and honor.

More and more, however, God seems to be allowing those things formerly done behind the closed doors of church business meetings to now become public.

It used to be a pastor could leave his wife and abscond with some pooryoung-thing half his age, a deacon could slug it out with a fellow deacon in the choir room over who gets to say the prayer at the Lord's Supper, or the youth director could be fired because his wife wore slacks to the church picnic—and no one outside the chosen few would ever know.

Not so anymore.

Now, thanks to the miracle of the media, let a church treasurer be accused of stealing, let the head of a parachurch ministry use donations to buy a speedboat, and the entire world reads about it in the papers the next morning.

Take the case of the Good Neighbor Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey—a tiny group of people who forgot to be

Last July, in a business meeting, 37 of the church's 62 members met and voted to oust the pastor, who along with his family had founded the church 10 years before. The pastor, in turn, sued 14 of the church leaders, including his father, two brothers, his sister, his aunt and uncle and two cousins. He claimed the vote

was illegal. Besides, when he and his family founded the church, he was made "pastor for life" according to the church bylaws. The whole mess wound up in Superior Court in Newark. I read about it in an English-language newspaper in Singapore.

I predict churches will continue to battle each other, denominations will continue to split and Christians will continue to bloody each other with stones as long as churches remain (a) social clubs rather than the "called out ones," (b) family fiefdoms rather than the body of Christ, (c) exclusive racial and cultural cliques rather than the koinonia, or d) a mixture of sprinkled (or dunked) heathens playing power games rather than the bloodwashed saints who have relinquished all rights under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Rather, the issue is how much longer will God allow our stupid,

silly fightings to go undetected by others in the kingdom and hidden from the world at large.

Several years ago, when a deacon in the huge First Baptist Church of Atlanta tried to wrest the microphone from the pastor and in a rage slugged him in the jaw in front of the entire congregation, very few Baptists, and almost no one in the world learned of the altercation. It was quickly hushed up on all counts. After all, Christians reasoned, why air our dirty linen in front of the public? If there is

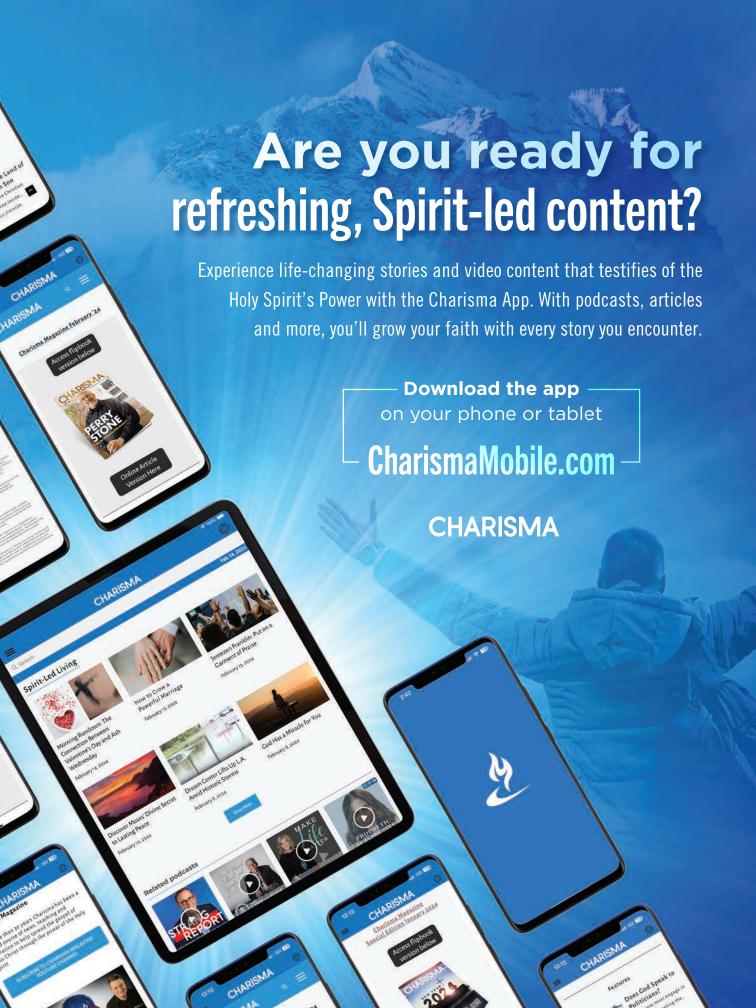
trouble in Camelot, who'll want to join our club? Today, however, such an incident would make the headlines, probably with on-thespot TV interviews. That may be healthy. In fact, it may be one of the things that will cause us to start acting like we preach.

Down here in Florida we have what is called the "sunshine laws." All government business must be conducted in the sunshine—in the open. No "behind-closed-doors" meetings are allowed. Perhaps when Jesus said "there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed," He was referring to church business meetings. When the lights go on in church closets, it means we will have to deal with the skeletons.

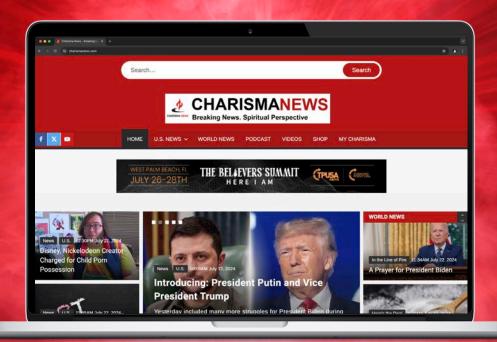
handled the way Jesus taught, the church will once again become

We'll always have church problems. But when they are a witness. Not a scandal.

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



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