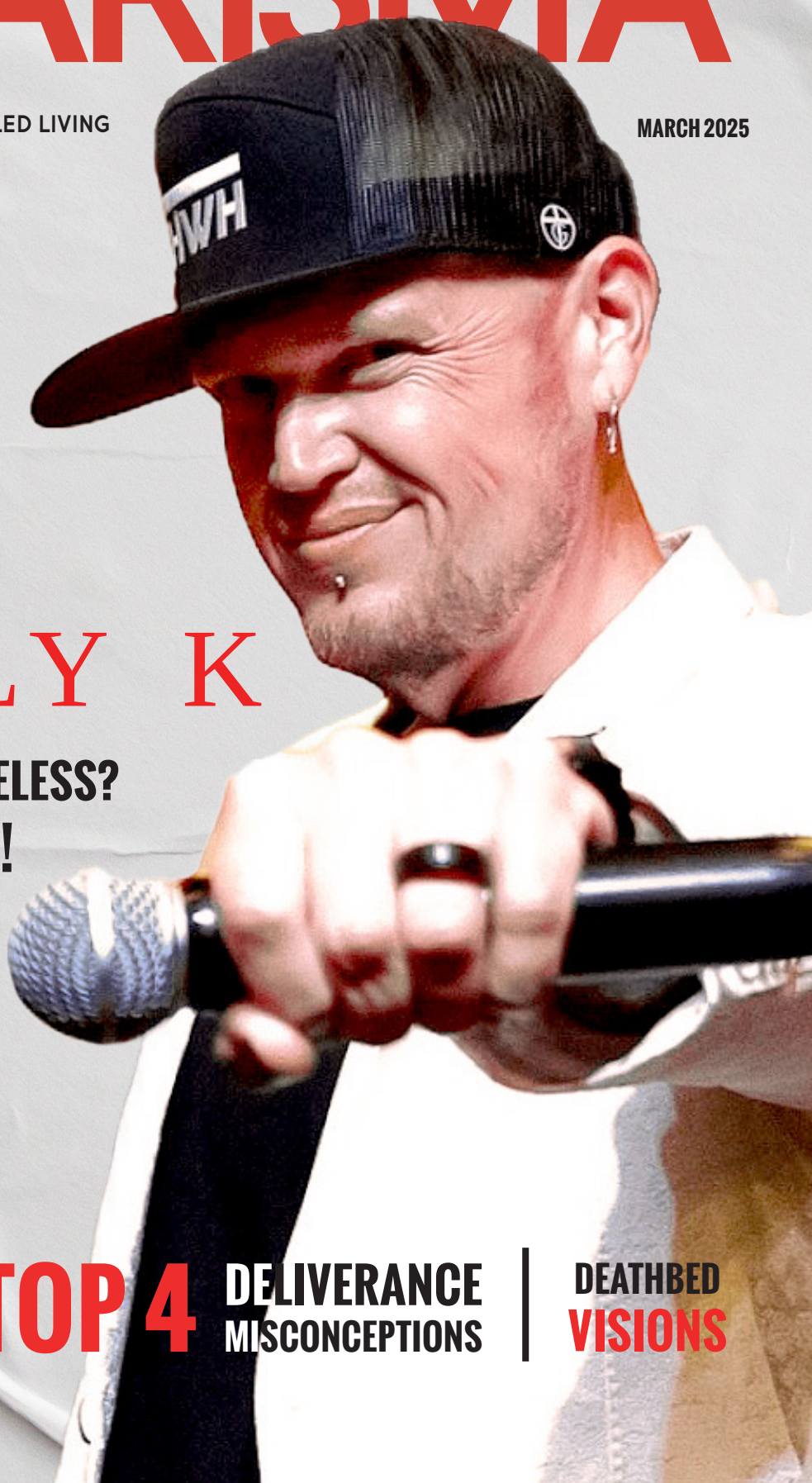


CHARISMA[®]



THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

MARCH 2025

KELLY K

**TRAPPED AND HOPELESS?
NO WAY IN HELL!**

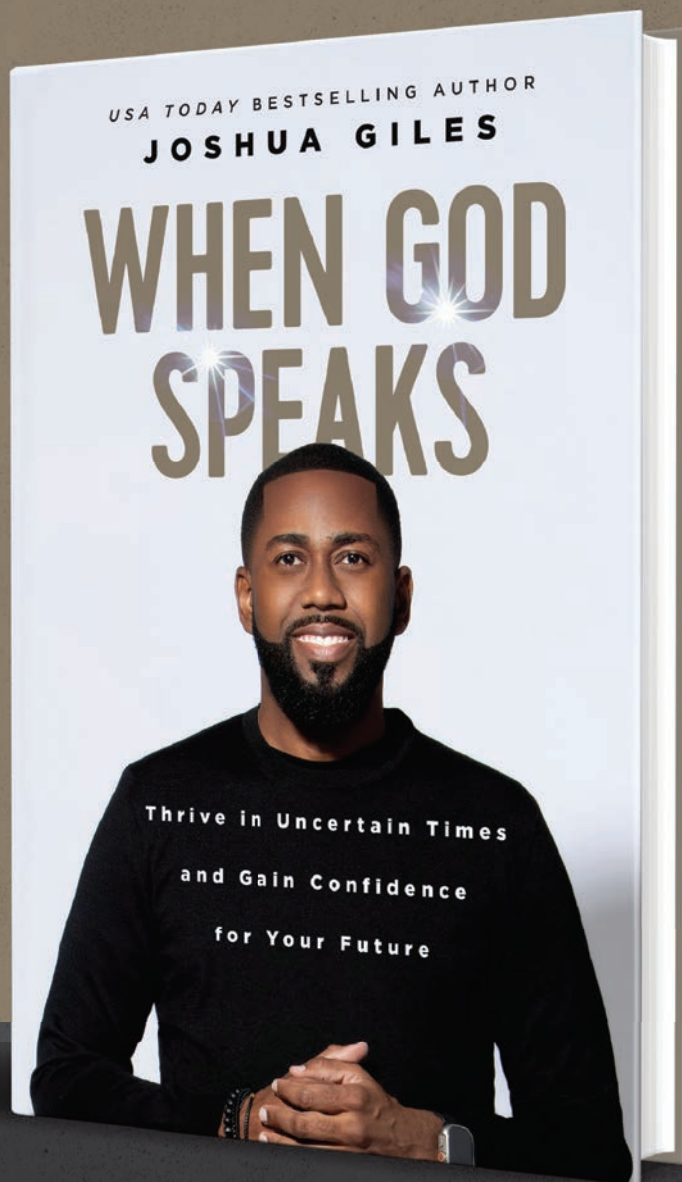
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DEAR CHARISMA



"Good job with the messages for 2025, we used to look forward to these when Charisma covered them years ago."

*—Dale and Janice McKee,
St. Petersburg, FL*

SEASON OF REPRIEVE!

Troy Anderson hit the nail on the head talking about 'time to dream again,' ('It Is Time to Dream Big Again,' Charisma Magazine Online, January 2025). Reminds me of the days of President Reagan, when it was good to be proud to be an American again. But we believe God brought Trump back for His holy purposes. We have to keep on praying for the president and let God's will be done.

Don McIntyre, Johnson City, TN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Your Charisma Magazine Online team was delighted to bring you a report on trends in prophetic words for the new year 2025. It turned out to be one of the highest performing articles published in the month of January 2025. Bringing news of the Holy Spirit to Charisma magazine readers is one of our true joys, a blessing from our faithful Lord for 50 years as of this Summer, August 2025. We look forward to bringing you the story behind the story of prophetic messages and Bible wisdom for many years to come.

BIBLE MESSAGES FOR 2025

Good job with the messages for 2025, we

used to look forward to these when *Charisma* covered them years ago ('What Are the Prophetic Words for 2025?' Charisma Magazine Online, January 2025). They're important for the grandkids and the younger ones behind them. Thank you.

**Dale and Janice McKee,
St. Petersburg, FL**

FREEDOM & REVIVAL

The article [sic] about revival and Jesus' three commissions was a breath of fresh air ('Freedom Is the Foundation to Revival,' Charisma Magazine Online, January 2025). I am very impressed with this young Saldivar gent, I hope he publishes books soon.

Kellison O'Dwyer, Mayville, WI

ROBOTS IN YOUR PULPIT?

All the noisy to-do about AI doesn't talk about the dangerous risks enough, I'm glad *Charisma* actually shed light on this ('Is a Soulless AI Bot Nourishing Your Congregation by Worldly Software?' Charisma Magazine Online, January 2025). It seems right to be cautious until the robot tools are understood better.

Madge Smethyrst, Cottonwood, AZ

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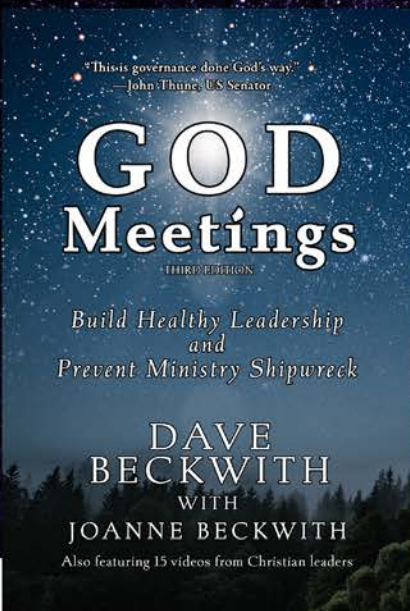
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The Charismatic Movement: More Vital Than Ever for America and the Church

As we reflect on the origins of the charismatic movement, it is impossible to ignore how the power of the Holy Spirit ignited a global renewal in the church. This movement, which began in the early 20th century and surged in the 1960s, was not just a wave of emotional fervor—it was a powerful move of God that revitalized millions, bringing fresh fire to those longing for a deeper experience with Him. Today, the hunger for this movement is more critical than ever, not only for the health of the body of Christ but for the spiritual direction of the United States itself.

The charismatic renewal was built on the belief that the gifts of the Holy Spirit—prophecy, healing, tongues and miracles—did not cease with the early church but remain active and available to every believer today. This conviction, rooted in Scripture, sparked revivals in mainline denominations, crossing denominational and racial lines. From Catholic prayer groups to Pentecostal tent revivals, from Baptist pulpits to Methodist seminaries, the Spirit moved mightily, restoring a passion for the supernatural power of God.

Now, decades later, we find ourselves in another season of upheaval. Our nation is polarized, our churches struggle with declining attendance and our culture is unraveling under the weight of moral confusion. In this hour, the charismatic movement offers a divine solution. It provides not only a return to biblical truth but also a demonstration of God's Dynamis power that can break through the cynicism and deception that grip our nation.

Consider what happened during the Jesus Movement of the 1970s. Young people, disillusioned by the political chaos and moral depravity of their time, found a radical alternative in Christ. They were not drawn in by empty rituals or theological debates but by the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit, manifesting in healings, prophetic words and supernatural encounters. That same hunger exists today among a new generation seeking authenticity. They are not interested in lukewarm religion but in a gospel that demonstrates the reality of God's power.

Mainline denominations, many of which have drifted toward theological liberalism and cultural accommodation, can find their

way back through the principles of the charismatic movement. The infusion of Spirit-led worship, bold faith and supernatural power could restore vitality to churches that have lost their evangelistic zeal. We have seen pockets of renewal in unexpected places—Anglican churches experiencing healing services, Catholic congregations embracing the gifts of the Spirit and Baptist leaders encouraging personal encounters with the Holy Spirit.

The charismatic movement also speaks directly to the moral crises America faces today. We live in an age where biblical truth is being aggressively challenged. The rise of secularism, the redefinition of marriage, attacks on religious liberty and confusion over gender identity all reveal a society unmoored. Political solutions alone will not work. A revival in Spirit-filled Christianity will. When the Spirit moves, hearts are changed, sin is abandoned and

righteousness is restored. These are not just inspirational stories—they are proof that the Holy Spirit is active and working today, right now. Imagine if the American church embraced this power more fully, refusing to conform to the world's standards but instead standing boldly in the supernatural reality of God's kingdom.

One of the greatest needs in the church today is for believers to walk in spiritual authority. The early charismatics understood this. They knew that when they prayed, strongholds were broken. When they laid hands on the sick, healing manifested. When they preached, lives were changed. That same authority is available to us today. The church must stop operating as though it is powerless and begin walking in the full measure of the Spirit.

We cannot afford to be passive. This moment requires bold faith, unwavering commitment to the truth of God's Word and a willingness to demonstrate His power. The charismatic movement is not a relic of the past—it is a blueprint for the future. If the American church wants to see true revival, if we want to see our nation return to righteousness, we must embrace the Spirit in all His fullness. It is time to pray with urgency. It is time to preach with power. It is time to move in the gifts of the Spirit, not as a fringe practice but as a central tenet of our faith. If we do, we will see the next great move of God. The Spirit of God is moving.

The question is, will we follow?

*“Political solutions alone
will not save America.
A revival in Spirit-filled
Christianity will.”*

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](https://www.amazon.com).

Simply Christ

Gospel Insight

with Keith Surface

Redemption in Christ

Someone asked me recently, “Why didn't God simply forgive Adam and Eve after they transgressed in the garden?” I told them I did not know if God forgave them or not, but if He did, it did not change the result of what they had done. Even if God forgave Adam and Eve, sin would still have dominion over them; Satan would still be the God of this world; their children would still be “*conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity*,” Psalms 51:5 and the death sentence (condemnation) would still hang over the head of every person from that day forward. Maybe they were forgiven, but what they needed was redemption.

Forgiveness is not redemption. Forgiveness deals with your past. Redemption is the act of recovering something that was lost. To understand redemption, there are four questions we must answer.

1. WHAT WAS LOST? We are what was lost. Adam's transgression sold all humanity into the bondage of sin and Satan. The prophet spoke of this saying, “*For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.*” Isaiah 52:3. The apostle Paul confirms this when he speaks of trying to serve God under the Law before he came to Christ. He said, “*...but I am carnal, sold under sin.*” Romans 7:14. In Adam, we were all sold “*under sin*” into the kingdom of darkness Colossians 1:13 from which we could never redeem ourselves.

2. WHO WAS IT LOST TO? We were lost to God. He created mankind in his image and for his glory. Humanity was to be a flesh and blood manifestation of the invisible God. In Adam's transgression, we lost the image of God and took on the image of the serpent. John wrote, “*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning*” and “*In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God...*” 1 John 3:8, 10. When Jesus said He came “*...to seek and to save*

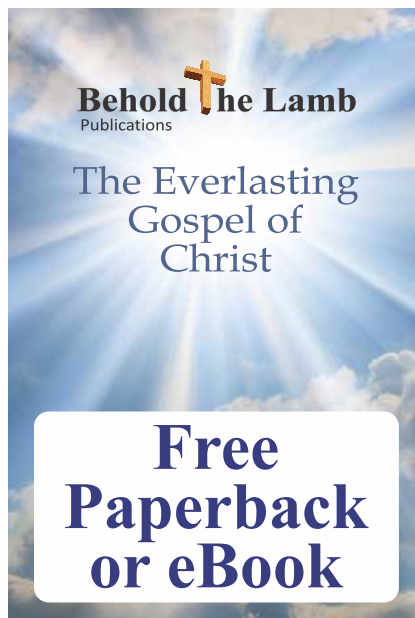
that which was lost,” he is speaking of us as being lost to God. Our redemption restores to God that which was lost to him. John wrote, “*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation...*” Revelation 5:9. In redemption, the image and glory of God is restored upon those who are restored to God. Romans 8:29-30. As He was in Christ, so now in the redeemed, God is once again “*manifested in the flesh.*” 1 Timothy 3:16.

3. WHO TOOK POSSESSION OF WHAT WAS LOST? Sin and Satan became the lords over all humanity. They became possessors of what belonged to God. Just as God sent Moses to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent his own Son to deliver us from slavery in sin. Jesus said, “*Whosoever committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin.*” John 8:34. Redemption delivers us from that bondage. Paul wrote that Christ “*...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*” Titus 2:14. Notice that Christ redeemed us “*from all iniquity*”, and “*unto himself.*” This is why the angel told Joseph “*thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*” Matthew 1:21. Calvary was not about paying a debt for sin. It was about delivering us from sin itself.

4. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST TO THE ONE IT WAS LOST TO? The final part of understanding redemption is to recognize what was required to redeem that which was lost. This is called the “*ransom.*” It is the cost of redemption. The

scripture is clear that Christ “*...gave himself a ransom for all...*” 1 Timothy 2:6. A ransom does not necessarily speak of a payment to someone, but it does always speak of what it cost to redeem something. In World War II, millions of Allied soldiers died on the battlefield fighting the Nazis. Their blood was the ransom required to deliver the world from Hitler's tyranny. Even so, the blood of Christ was the ransom required to destroy Satan and deliver us from all sin and iniquity. No one has to be a slave to sin or Satan any longer, because Christ shed his blood to make us free. We are redeemed!

“*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*” Psalms 107:2.



Behold the Lamb
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If You've Ever Doubted God, You're in Good Company

*Does God really exist?
Do miracles still happen?
Does God hear my prayers?*

When I was walking through a season of doubt, questions like this flooded my brain. I didn't just question God, I questioned myself. I felt embarrassed and ashamed of the feelings I had, and I couldn't tell many people in my life about it. After all, I was their pastor! I've spoken with other Christians who also felt guilty when they doubted God. They wished their faith was stronger and thought perhaps God would have answered their prayers if it was.

But here's the truth: God doesn't only answer our prayers when our faith is firm. He's at work even when our faith is flimsy.

If you've walked through a season of doubting God, you're in good company. One of Jesus' own disciples is known for his doubt; it's his claim to fame. Even if you haven't read much of the Bible, you've probably heard of Doubting Thomas. Thomas wasn't at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning, and he wasn't there the first time Jesus revealed Himself in His resurrected body to the disciples. So, when the other disciples told Thomas that Jesus was alive and present, he doubted their words. Thomas responded, "Unless I see the nail prints in His hands, and put my finger in the nail prints, and put my hand in His side, I will not believe," (John 20:25, MEV). Doubts often arise when our expectations aren't met. According to Thomas' expectations, the Messiah wasn't supposed to die. So how could Thomas trust and believe in the midst of disappointment? Here are a few ways Thomas dealt with his doubt that we can learn from today.

1) When you don't know what to think, you can know where to go: Spoiler alert: Thomas encountered Jesus, and doubt didn't take him out. Why? Because his association brought revelation. He needed to lean into the other disciples and trust what they saw and experienced. When doubt is taking you out, hang out with people of faith. The apostle Paul says in Romans 1:12 there will be times when your faith is low, and doubt is knocking at your door. When I was

in my darkest days of doubt, I purposefully surrounded myself with people of faith. My wife, Julie, and I stayed close to my parents and a few trusted friends in the church. The guys in my small group carried me spiritually. When I didn't want to pray or know what to pray, they prayed. They had faith for me when I didn't have faith for myself.

2) Reach out for Jesus and His Word: Sometimes in our doubt we push God away. We get angry with Him and blame Him for something that has happened in our lives. Instead of reaching out for God, we reach out for anything to silence the doubt and numb the pain. Some reach for alcohol, or ice cream, or binge-watch a miniseries on TV to try to fill the spiritual emptiness inside. Some reach out to other doubters to try to justify their doubts, or they reach out to their online communities to vent instead of heal. But Thomas reached out for Jesus. His movement was toward Christ, and the Bible promises that when you move toward God, He moves toward you (James 4:8).

I remember days when I pushed God away. I was so disappointed that I thought, "Fine, then I'm not going to talk to you anymore." (As if giving God the silent treatment was going to help me or the situation.) It ended up making me feel more isolated and alone. After several days

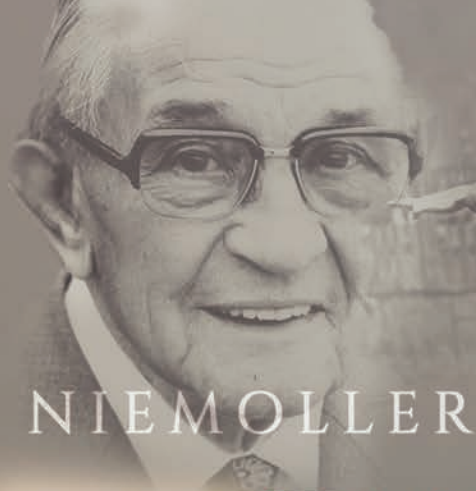
I turned back to God. And what I love about Jesus is that anytime you reach out for Him, He's reaching back for you. His arms are wide open. No judgment. No condemnation. No rejection. Jesus didn't reprimand me for my doubt, and He didn't reprimand Thomas. He didn't try to shame him in front of the other disciples. He just told Thomas to reach out and touch Him.

3) Turn your doubts into questions and your questions into prayers: It's OK to have doubts and questions, but where we take our doubts and questions matters. Jesus invited Thomas to reach out and touch His hands and side. This encounter between Thomas and Jesus tells us it's OK to question God. He can handle it.

It's OK to struggle with spiritual doubt; we all do. In fact, doubt might actually be good for you because it means you are seeking truth. Take your doubts and turn them into questions. Take your questions and turn them into prayers. Take your prayers and let them turn you to God. If your doubts cause you to seek truth, that journey will always lead you closer to God.

***"It's OK to struggle
with spiritual doubt...
because it means you
are seeking truth."***

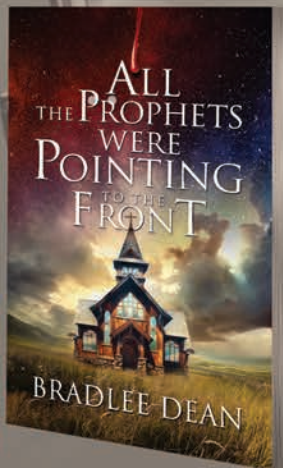
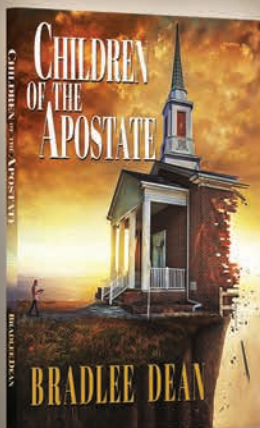
Todd Mullins is the senior pastor of Christ Fellowship Church, one of the largest churches in America. Under the leadership of Mullins and his wife, Julie, Christ Fellowship has grown into a multisite congregation across South Florida. His new book, *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out*, is available now at amazon.com.



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If there is a lesson that people of faith have yet to learn, it is that history will repeat itself if we do not take heed to the Lord and to His warnings. *Children of the Apostate* is a prophetic timeline, a map that shows that "you are here," if you will. It Scripturally teaches that "prevention is better than cure," that is, if the people take heed, for if not, then the history that we were warned of will repeat itself.

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A Generation Uniquely Equipped for Revival

They arrived on history's stage in a roaring tempest. A season of swirling convergence of technology, social upheaval, global terrorism and existential uncertainty. Yet the young men and women of "Generation Z" are not victims of chaos but its heirs—forged, tested and prepared to navigate its winds. Early in their lives they have claimed territory for the cause of Christ in a way not seen since the Jesus Movement half a century ago, first in the Asbury Revival two years ago, and in widening waves since Asbury at Ohio State, Texas A&M, and Oklahoma among many. Gen Z presents as much a cautionary tale as luminous promise.

Born into the relentless cadence of the digital age, Gen Z has never known a world without smartphones, social networks and global connectivity. They scroll through algorithms that shape their thoughts as much as their friendships; the digital ether is both their playground and their battlefield. Yet behind curated profiles, there is often unease; the weight of comparison, the hum of anxiety, a subtle erosion of privacy.

Challenges are not confined to the virtual. They are coming of age in the aftermath of recessions, pandemic and polarization. The old promises of upward mobility ring hollow to many, replaced by soaring tuition fees and precarious job markets. Unlike their predecessors, they are not sheltered from the world's crises—they are baptized by them.

There is ingenuity in their adaptability, fluent in technology since birth in a way that transcends mere competence and becomes a creative force. They are coders and creators, activists and entrepreneurs and they carry within them a DIY ethic reminiscent of their Gen X parents. Financially prudent beyond their years, they invest early, hustle through side gigs and question the orthodoxies of nine-to-five careers and institutions that once seemed untouchable. Their political instincts are sharp because they are pragmatists who understand that survival demands change.

Their sense of justice is no less striking. Prior generations may have marched with banners, Gen Z organizes with hashtags. Theirs is an activism that lives in both the street and the feed. Last month, a group of Gen Z leaders crafted a first of its kind "Digital Bill of Rights," seeking to envision the interconnected future redressing the negative experiences they've known most of their lives.

Beneath their activism and innovation, there is vulnerability.

No generation has spoken more openly about their mental health struggles—and none has been more burdened by them. Anxiety is both their shadow and their muse; it propels their drive even as it erodes their peace. They are perhaps too aware of the magnitude of challenges before them. Yet hope is not mere sentiment for Generation Z—it is a choice, often fought for and found in something greater than themselves. Many in this generation are quietly returning to, or discovering for the first time, the enduring hope found in Jesus Christ, the powerful authenticity in the Holy Spirit. They find in His example a vision of justice not driven by rage but grace, in a mission that goes beyond self-expression into service. Where the world offers fleeting answers, faith offers an enduring foundation—a compass when the storms are fiercest. And by the Holy Spirit, guidance is personal, accessible, real, ready and omnipresent.

Dr. Billy Wilson, Oral Roberts president, says Gen Z are not just survivors but catalysts—a generation whose hardships are not evidence of their ruin but proof of their preparation. If history has taught us anything, Wilson says, generations are defined less by the challenges they face and more by the character they reveal in confronting them, drawing from the wisdom of Scripture to

remind us that storms do not destroy the faithful; they reveal them.

Wilson sees an ethic of empowerment, a generation not born into ease but into destiny. Their struggles are not anomalies, but assignments. Gen Z chooses to see chaos not as curse but as crucible—a pivot portal through which character, conviction and calling are refined. Their greatest strength will not come from their innovation alone but from the One who created them for this very moment energized in Holy Spirit power.

The story of Generation Z is raw and early, but if history is any guide it is precisely from a season of uncertainty the greatest leaders emerge. We should not patronize them with shallow affirmations nor dismiss their anxieties. Let's sow into them abundantly, investing the Good News of the Gospel into their revivals, honor their courage and clearing paths they inevitably will forge for themselves. As Oral Roberts' Wilson says, we should remind them that they are not victims of the storm—they are its answer because history is not written by those who weather storms, but by those who harness them.

And the surest anchor in the storm is the One who has held firm across every age, the hope and cause of Christ.

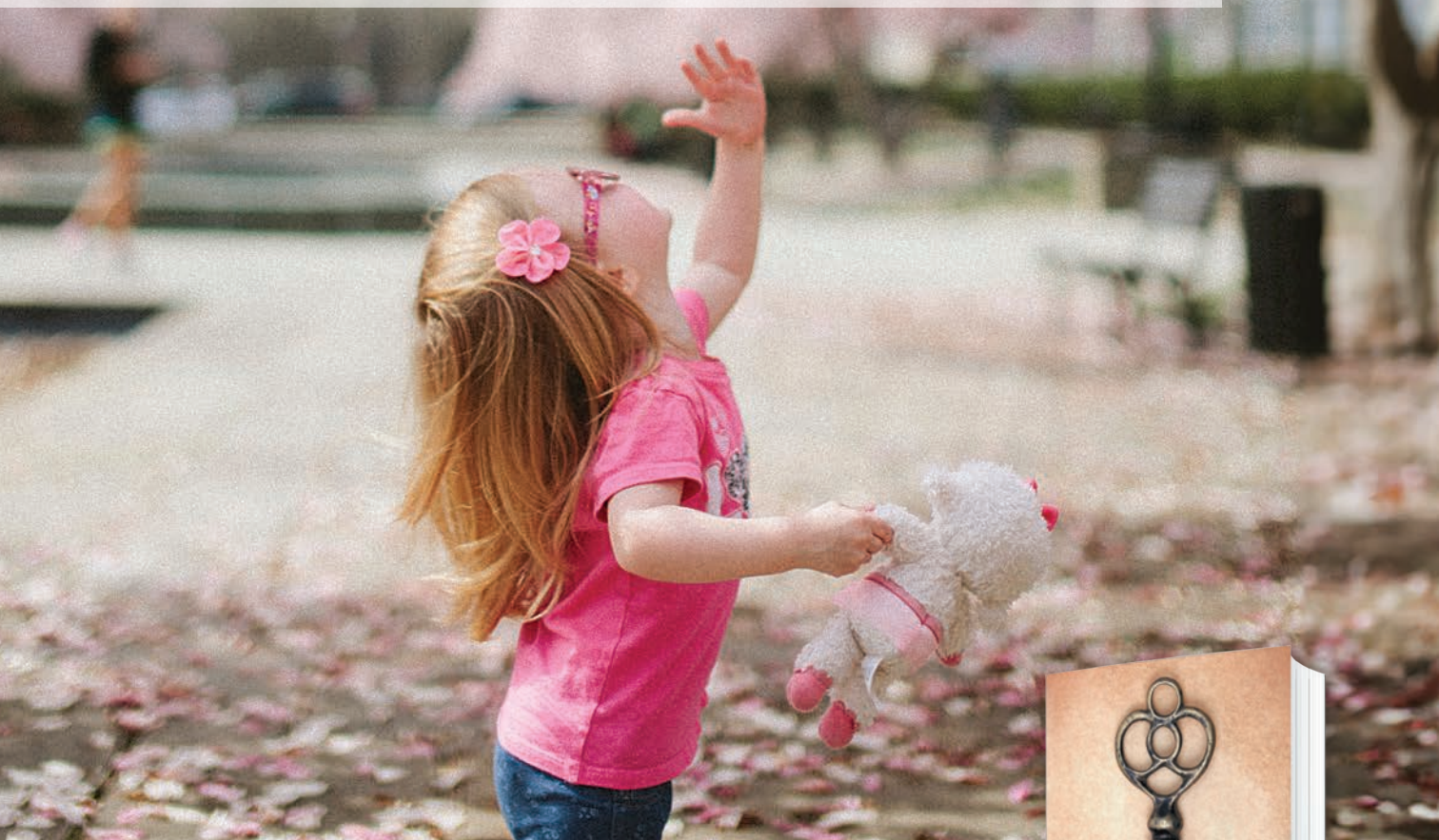
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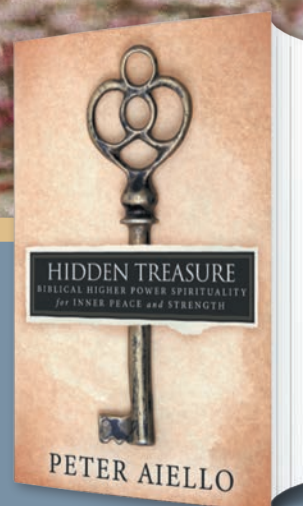
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Peter Aiello



The Chosen: Last Supper scene from Season 5 foretells the coming event of Jesus' crucifixion

***The Chosen* Season 5 Set to Bring Viewers Intense Look at Holy Week**

The season debuts in theaters March 27

Season 5 of popular faith-based show *The Chosen*, which focuses on Holy Week, or the days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, will be "the most intense and heaviest yet," series creator Dallas Jenkins says. He adds that the eight-episode season, titled "The Chosen: Last Supper," explores "What happens in the course of just a few days that causes people to go from worshipping Him to wanting Him killed?"

With over 250 million viewers, the show is one of the most-watched in the world. "I'm possibly

more excited to bring Season 5 to the world than any other season we've done," Jenkins says. His new independent studio overseeing the franchise, 5&2 Studios, has announced that Season 5 will be released in three parts, with a four-week theatrical run. Part 1, featuring episodes 1 and 2, debuts on March 27. Part 2, which contains episodes 3, 4 and 5, and Part 3, featuring episodes 6, 7 and 8, will follow, and the global release of "The Chosen: Last Supper" is set to begin on April 10 in over 40 territories.



Anti-Biblical Firing Ends in Launch of Faith-Based Financial Institution

Sometimes, an unhappy ending is the start of a much better beginning. That proved to be the case for Russ Salerno, CEO of ProLifeFinTech, a financial institution with the values of “honoring God first, serving people, and always choosing to support life ... ALL life,” per its website.

Salerno was fired from his job with a Fortune 500 company after he and his wife released an episode of their biblically based podcast, “The Winding Road Home” in which the two criticized Drag Queen Story Hour. His employer’s human resources department interviewed him after the episode aired.

“They let me know that the views expressed on my show do not line up with the core values of this particular bank,” he said. In a later performance review, he was asked to join a pro-LGBTQ network, and when he pushed back against the suggestion, he lost his job.

Today, Salerno praises God for not only taking him through the ordeal but introducing him to his future business partners: Christian writer and speaker Nick Vujicic and Betsy Gray, who also has an extensive financial background. Vujicic had been kicked out of his bank for espousing pro-life views and was interested in starting a faith-friendly financial institution that would give people a better option for their money. The resulting institution, ProLifeFinTech, opens in March.



Russ Salerno

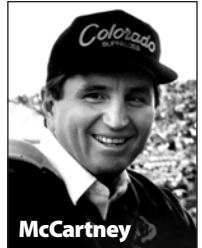
Promise Keepers Founder, Legendary Football Coach Bill McCartney Dies at 84

Bill McCartney, founder of famed men’s ministry Promise Keepers and Hall of Fame football coach who led the University of Colorado Buffaloes to the team’s only national championship, died Dec. 10 at 84 “after a courageous journey with Dementia,” his family announced.

“Coach Mac touched countless lives with his unwavering faith, boundless compassion, and enduring legacy as a leader, mentor, and advocate for family, community, and faith,” the family said in its statement. “As a trail-blazer and visionary, his impact was felt both on and off the field, and his spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those he inspired.”

McCartney coached CU from 1982-1994 and remains the winningest coach in team history, being inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2013. But his 1990 founding of national Christian men’s organization Promise Keepers propelled him into a different spotlight.

“Bill McCartney founded Promise Keepers on his faith in Christ, his connections with other men of God, and his belief in the tremendous power of the spoken word,” says the ministry website. Promise Keepers became known for its large-scale men’s events, generally held in stadiums, which encouraged men to be loyal to Jesus Christ, faithful to their wives and active in their churches.



McCartney

Elon Musk’s Starlink to Help Spread the Gospel in Remote Areas of the World

The satellite internet’s service partnership with Wycliffe Associates will yield eternal benefits

Starlink technology, the satellite internet service owned by Elon Musk, will now help Wycliffe Associates fulfill its mission of spreading the gospel by giving more people access to the Word of God in their own language. The international non-profit has announced its plan to use Starlink to help national translators in isolated regions gain internet access.

A spokesman for Wycliffe said most of its translators have no internet access or electricity, relying on solar technology to power their equipment. Starlink

will give even users in remote areas internet speeds similar to those with in-ground services, greatly benefiting Bible translation teams.

“This is going to make a tremendous impact in terms of encouraging the translators, helping them with theological questions and having that consistent connection where you can actually speak on the telephone as opposed to having to rely on a text message or an email,” said a Wycliffe staff member. “Starlink’s going to improve our ability to stand alongside our translators.”



Supernatural Signals

Do blood moons carry a message from God?

A total lunar eclipse called a “blood moon,” in which the moon can appear to be an eerie blood-red color, will appear over the U.S. on March 14, coinciding with the Jewish holiday of Purim. That’s the feast in which Jewish people celebrate the biblical account of Esther and their deliverance from annihilation at the hands of the evil Haman in the Persian Empire, or modern-day Iran. But there will also be two more blood moons connected with Jewish Feasts, one this fall before Rosh Hashanah and the third falling directly on next year’s Purim, March 3, 2026.

Biblical prophecy experts say blood moons are tied to events that affect Israel. With antisemitism spiking around the globe, the ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza and the massive Middle East shifts that have followed the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel, the two Purim blood moons could hold special significance. Blood moons are mentioned multiple places in the Bible, including Joel, Acts and Revelation, generally referring to end-times events. Pastor John Hagee says, “The evidence is very clear scripturally that God controls the sun, moon and stars—that God is sending us a signal ... The question is, are we listening?”



Church Experiences Tremendous Growth After Focus on Prayer

People are being saved, miracles are happening and lives are being changed as the result of the church commitment to intercede

A rural Arkansas congregation has indisputable proof that when God’s people pray, He responds. Scottsville Word of Life Assembly in Hector, population 421, had less than 50 attendees for years since its 1995 launch. But the church committed to walking around and praying for their community once a month, and in the past 10 months, the congregation has grown to nearly 300 regular attendees.

Faith in action at Scottsville Word of Life Assembly



“We made our emphasis prayer,” says longtime church pastor Arnold Humphrey. “We became a praying church and voila. It took some time to get it into action, but here we are.” The congregation not only prays within the walls of the church but also over every mile of the county, praying over all the county lines once a month.

The church’s intentionality in prayer has changed its trajectory. “We have seen our church growth explode, lives being restored, people being saved, miracles happening and to God be all the glory,” says Regina Pendergraft, who has attended the church since 2012. “I truly believe that God is honoring the sacrifice of prayer that is made at SWLA.”

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TRAPPED AND HOPELESS?

NO WAY

IN HELL!

LET JESUS LIFT YOU UP AND OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF ISOLATION AND DEPRESSION

BY KELLY K

I firmly believe in staying faithful to the Scriptures. Even though some topics are not straightforward or easy to explain and there may not be a single, clear-cut answer in the Bible. To arrive at thoughtful conclusions on complex issues, we must consider the broader context of the Bible, pulling together verses and teachings from multiple books and chapters.

These days, life can feel overwhelmingly heavy, especially for the younger folks (Generations Z and Alpha), who have faced unique challenges that can deepen their sense of isolation. Growing up in an era dominated by social media and disrupted by a global pandemic has left many feeling disconnected, anxious and burdened by depression. These struggles often feed the lie that there is no hope, that the darkness is inescapable. But there is a truth that shines brighter than any despair: there is infinite hope and freedom in Jesus Christ.

Jesus: The Light in Our Darkness

The love of Jesus pierces through the darkest corners of our hearts and minds. In John 8:12, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” For anyone feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or weighed down by depression, His light brings clarity, peace, and a way forward—even when everything around us feels chaotic and uncertain.

This sense of isolation that plagues today’s younger

generations stems from the erosion of authentic community. Social media, while intended to connect, often leaves users feeling inadequate and alone. Coupled with the disruptions caused by the pandemic—school closures, loss of routine, and diminished face-to-face interaction—these factors have intensified feelings of loneliness.

But Jesus offers what the world cannot: unconditional love and an eternal connection.

Jesus knows our struggles more intimately than we can imagine. The Bible tells us He was “a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief,” (Isa. 53:3). He experienced rejection, abandonment, and profound suffering. His empathy is not distant; it is personal and transformative. Hebrews 4:15 assures us that He sympathizes with our weaknesses, having faced temptations and trials Himself—yet without sin.

When we feel crushed by the weight of our burdens, Jesus lovingly invites us to come to Him: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,” (Matt. 11:28).

The hope we have in Christ isn’t dependent on fleeting emotions or circumstances. It’s rooted in His unchanging nature and eternal promises. Romans 8:38-39 guarantees that nothing—not anxiety, depression, or even suicidal thoughts—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. His love is unwavering, and His grace is sufficient for every weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

For those wrestling with suicidal thoughts, remember this: your life is invaluable. You are fearfully and wonderfully made

“GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT, AND HIS LOVE COVERS ALL.”

(Psalm 139:14), crafted with intention and love by a God who cherishes you. Your current pain does not define you or dictate your future. Jesus came to give life—abundant, eternal life (John 10:10)—and His plans for you are filled with hope.

Breaking Free from Isolation

The isolation many feel today is not the end of the story. Jesus not only walks with you through every valley, offering peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7), but He also places people in your life to support and encourage you. Reaching out to trusted friends, family, or professional counselors is a powerful step toward healing.

Authentic community and meaningful connection can also be found in the body of Christ—the Church. Fellowship with others who share your faith can help replace isolation with belonging and purpose.

In Christ, there is always hope. He transforms despair into joy, sorrow into peace, and brokenness into wholeness. Turn to Him, cry out to Him, and rest in the truth that you are loved beyond measure. You are never trapped—you are free, cherished, and held in His everlasting arms.

No matter how deep the darkness may

seem, remember this: Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome.

Here’s What *NOT* to Do

A question I’ve heard before, and one that weighs heavily on many hearts, is whether a Christian who takes their own life can still enter heaven. It’s a difficult and emotional subject. Recently, a man shared with me that he had left his church because his father, who dearly loved Jesus, died by suicide. His pastor told him, “Your dad is 100 percent in hell, without a shadow of a doubt, because that’s what the Bible says.”

Wow.

First off, if you’ve ever heard something like that from someone who is supposed to be teaching you the Word of God, I want to tell you I am deeply sorry. Those words carry a lot of pain, and they may leave you questioning both your faith and the fate of your loved one. But let’s slow down for a moment and take a look at what the Bible actually says. We need to dig deep into God’s Word, with compassion and wisdom, to understand this sensitive issue.

Is suicide a sin?

Yes, it is.

The Bible says in Exodus 20:13, “You shall not commit murder” (AMP). Most are familiar with this commandment, and

here’s the thing: Suicide is considered a form of self-murder. God values life, and He created each of us with a purpose. In 1 Corinthians 3:17 Paul wrote, “If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.” Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are called to care for them.

This is a tough pill to swallow, right? Because when someone takes their own life, it feels like they’ve stepped outside God’s plan. They’ve acted out of deep despair or mental illness, and it leaves us grappling with the eternal consequences of their action. But suicide is not the unforgivable sin.

Let me explain.

Before you jump to any conclusions, let’s take a step back and look at the bigger picture. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for every sin—past, present, and future. That includes the sins we haven’t even committed yet. First John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,” (NKJV).

When we give our hearts to Jesus and confess our sins, something miraculous happens. God, in His faithfulness, not only forgives us but also purifies us. That means the blood of Jesus covers all sin,

When we have the *power of God*,
demons will be manifested
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every sin we've committed and every sin we will commit. Yes, even suicide.

I can hear the objection already, "But Kelly, doesn't that mean people will just think they can live however they want and do whatever they want, since we're saved and all our sins are forgiven?"

No, that's not what I'm saying at all. Once you give your life to Jesus, it's not just about believing He exists. It's about allowing Him to take up residency in your life. But even more than that, Jesus doesn't just want residency; He wants presidency. He wants to be Lord over every aspect of your life.

That's why we're called to renew our minds constantly, as the Bible says in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Life with Christ is a process. It's a journey of surrendering more and more to Him. And this journey doesn't exempt us from struggles with mental health, anxiety, or depression.

Mental Wellness As Important As Physical Wellness

The sad reality is that there are many amazing men and women of God who love Jesus, serve Him, and live faithfully yet still lose the battle of depression. Depression is a disease, just like any other illness, and it affects the brain in profound ways. It can cloud judgment, distort reality, and make people feel trapped in a darkness they can't escape. So when someone takes their own life in

a moment of despair, it's not because they didn't love God. And it's not because God stopped loving them.

Was suicide God's plan for them? No, of course not. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has a plan for our lives—a plan to prosper us and not to harm us, a plan to give us hope and a future. Suicide cuts that plan short. But Romans 8:38–39 reminds us that nothing—not life, not death, not angels, not demons—can "separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Even suicide cannot separate us from God's love.

Here's another question I hear quite often: "Kelly, you just said we need to repent for our sins. But if someone dies by suicide, how can they repent afterward?" I understand why this feels like a tricky issue, so let's break it down.

When we first come to Christ, we repent for salvation. That repentance is a turning away from our old lives and a choice to follow Jesus. In that moment, we receive the gift of salvation, freely given and fully paid for by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. All our sins—past, present, and future—are covered by His blood.

However, after we're saved, we will continue to struggle with sin. This is why we repent again and again—not to earn salvation but to restore our relationship with God. At this point, it becomes repentance for restoration, not salvation. Think of it like this: When you're adopted into a family, your status as a son or daughter doesn't change when you make a mistake. Every time you mess up, you don't have to go down to the courthouse and have the judge put you back in the family. That would be ridiculous! You're still part of the family, but you might need to apologize to repair the relationship.

Salvation is not something we earn. Ephesians 2:8–9 tells us it is by grace we have been saved, through faith, not by works, so no one can boast. If salvation depended on our ability to be perfect, none of us would make it. But because salvation is a gift, we don't lose it when we fall short. We come to God in repentance not to be saved over and over again but to maintain the closeness of our relationship with Him.

So does the act of suicide cancel out a lifetime of faith in Jesus? No, it doesn't.

The grace of God is bigger than our moments of failure.

Now, some people may point to the Bible and say, "But isn't there an unforgivable sin?" Yes, the Bible does mention one sin that cannot be forgiven: blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. This sin is essentially a hardened, deliberate rejection of the Holy Spirit's work and the salvation Jesus offers.

The person who commits this sin is someone whose heart has become so hardened toward God that they have no

**"JESUS
PAID FOR IT
ALL, AND
NOTHING
CAN SNATCH
US OUT OF
HIS HANDS."**

desire to repent. They have completely rejected the gift of salvation, and that's why it's unforgivable, because they have turned away from the only One who can save them. It's not because God's grace isn't big enough to cover it but because that grace is rejected by them entirely.

Feeling Trapped In Hopelessness Is a Lie from Hell

Let's return to a hypothetical example. Suppose a Christian man with a deep personal relationship with the Lord is driving home from work. As he drives, he sees a beautiful woman walking along the sidewalk and finds himself staring. In that moment, he begins to lust after her. Distracted by his thoughts, he misses the red light and ends up in a fatal car accident. He didn't have time to repent of his lustful thoughts. So does that mean he's condemned to hell?

Of course not.

God's grace doesn't hinge on whether

we can repent of every sin in every single moment. The key here is that this man had already repented for salvation. His relationship with Jesus was secure, and his eternity wasn't determined by one fleeting moment of sin. The same is true for those who die by suicide. If they have placed their faith in Jesus, their eternity is secure, even if their life ends tragically.

If you have lost someone to suicide and you know they loved Jesus, I want to encourage you today. I fully believe you will see them again in eternity. God's grace is sufficient, and His love covers all. Jesus paid for it all, and nothing can snatch us out of His hands.

If you're struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please know that this is not the end of your story. God sees you. He loves you more than you could ever comprehend. He has a plan for your life, and no matter how dark things may seem right now, there is hope for you. Don't believe the lies of the enemy, who wants to rob you of the future God has planned for you.

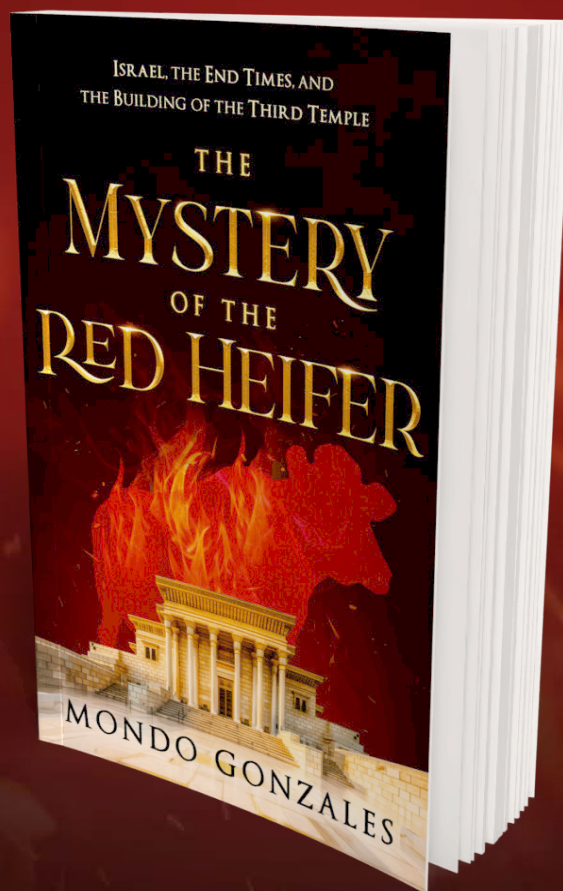
You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are not a mistake; you are a masterpiece. You are deeply loved by the One who created you.

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If you need someone to talk to right now, please reach out. Text D2L to 91627, and someone from the Death-2Life ministry will be there to speak with you. You don't have to go through this alone. There is hope, and there is help. ♦

KELLY K. (KOPP) *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, is available now at amazon.com.*

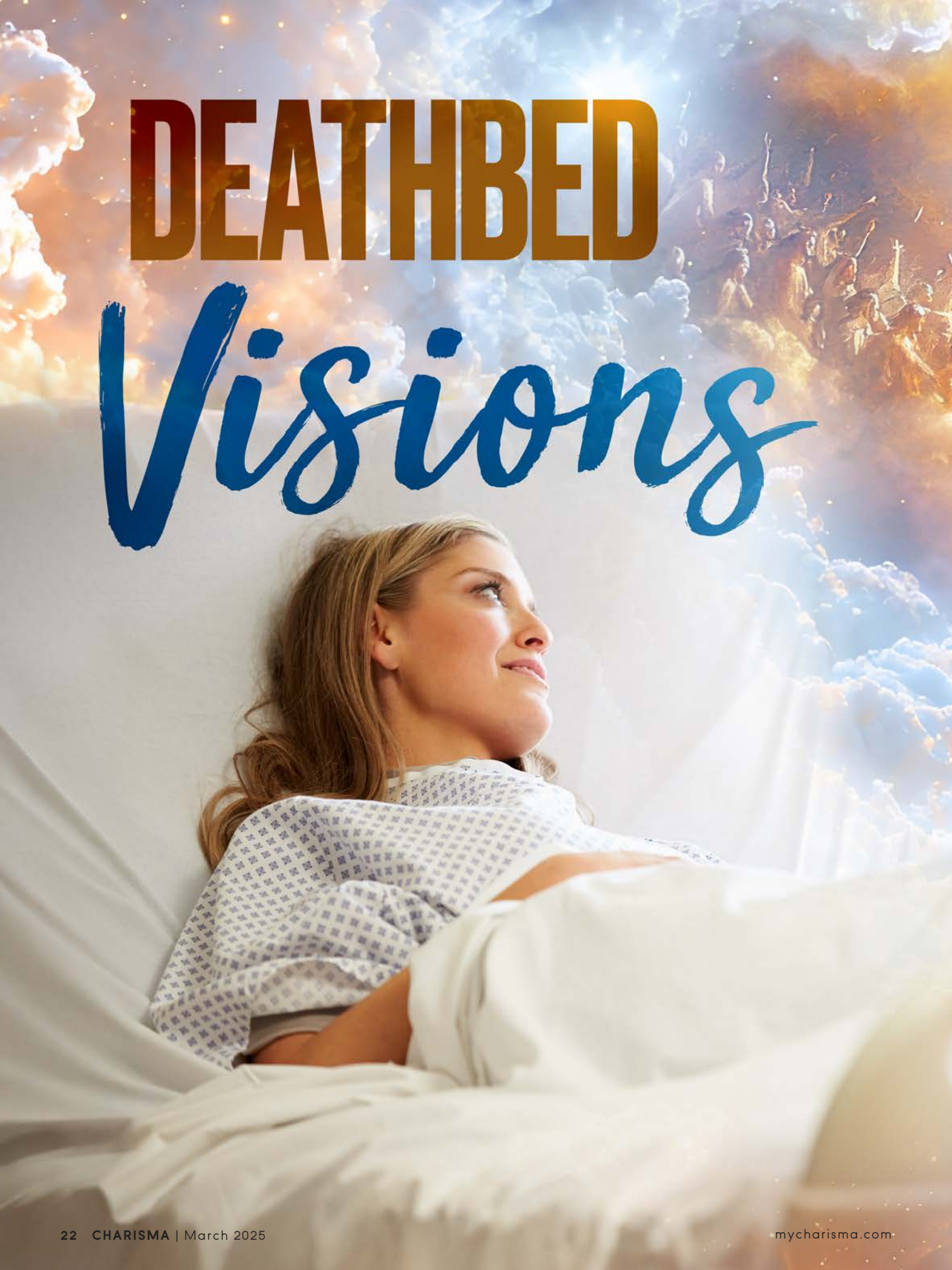
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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white hospital gown with a blue pattern, is lying in a bed with white linens. She is looking upwards with a serene expression. The background is a dramatic, ethereal scene of a bright blue sky filled with white and golden clouds. In the upper right, a group of people, possibly angels or spirits, are seen in a heavenly realm, some holding hands and others with arms raised in praise. The overall atmosphere is one of hope, faith, and divine vision.

DEATHBED

Visions

A Peek Into the Afterlife

BY LEE STROBEL

In her book *Glimpses of Heaven*, hospice nurse Trudy Harris describes how she found her patient Frederick crying uncontrollably shortly before he died.

“He proceeded to tell me that Jesus Himself had come into his bedroom, here at the hospice center,” she said. “He said Jesus’s presence had filled the room with the most incredible sense of compassion, beauty and forgiveness he had ever seen. He spoke of the love and tenderness he saw clearly reflected in His eyes, and the awareness he felt of being loved deeply, just for himself.”

“If I saw Jesus like you did, would I cry too?” she asked him.

“Oh, yes,” he replied.

“Why would I cry?”

“Because He is so beautiful,” he said. “And because He loves us so much and forgives all of our sins.”

Beyond what We Can See or Expect

Deathbed visions, where a person gets a peek into the next world as they are about to die, are incredibly common, with tens of thousands of cases investigated by experts. I explore these experiences in my new book *Seeing the Supernatural* as one of several examples of evidence that there’s more to reality than what we can see and touch.

In my research, I interviewed university professor J.

Steve Miller, author of *Deathbed Experiences as Evidence for the Afterlife*, who reports that 88% of patients at a hospice facility in New York reported some sort of pre-death vision. “They were so realistic that patients reported them as the most awake, alert and present that they had ever felt,” Miller told me.

The sheer frequency of these experiences bolsters their credibility. “The cases might be more easily explained away if these were rare, anomalous experiences. Atheists would simply chalk this up to a coincidence that’s bound to occur occasionally,” said Miller. “Yet if deathbed experiences are quite common, you can’t easily explain them away.”

Of course, there is biblical precedent for such visions. Acts 7:54-56 reports how Stephen, described as being “full of the Holy Spirit,” looked up to heaven just before he was stoned to death and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father.

Often, people on the verge of death see angels coming to escort them to the next world. This is consistent with the story Jesus told about a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus, who both died, with the wealthy person ending up in torment and the poor man finding himself in paradise. In Acts 16:22, Jesus says angels carried the beggar to his resting place of bliss.

That’s what seemed to happen to Billy Graham’s former pulpit partner, Charles Templeton, who became the most

famous agnostic in Canada after losing his faith at a liberal seminary. One of his close friends, though, believes he returned to Jesus before he died.

On his deathbed, Templeton called to his wife: “Madeleine, do you see them? Do you *hear* them? The angels! They’re calling my name! I’m going home!” Later he cried out: “Look at them, look at them! They’re so beautiful. They’re waiting for me.” Then, with great joy, he exclaimed, “I’m coming!”

“JESUS’ PRESENCE had filled the room with the most INCREDIBLE sense of COMPASSION, BEAUTY and FORGIVENESS.”

Glimpses Into Eternity

Deathbed visions are different from Near-Death Experiences (NDEs). In an NDE, the individual is *clinically* dead – frequently, no heartbeat or brainwaves – but they describe being conscious nevertheless, sometimes seeing or hearing things that would have been impossible if they hadn’t had an authentic out-of-body experience. These people, though, return to life and tell their story.

In deathbed visions, patients have a supernatural encounter of some sort in the final moments of their life and share it—usually quite briefly—before they *irreversibly* die.

Scholars who have researched deathbed visions say they can’t be explained away as dreams that were induced by drugs or dementia. Two researchers who studied more than 3,000 cases concluded that these experiences “are definitely not hallucinations, fantasies or memories caused by grief. Nor are they projections of the subconscious mind or products of an overactive imagination.”

Some of the most compelling visions are reported by dying children. In fact, Dr. Diane Komp, a professor of pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine, went from spiritual skepticism

to faith because her young patients convinced her there is an afterlife.

“Rather than being scared to leave their families and all that’s familiar, many dying children reported visions that made them excited or peaceful about leaving,” Miller said.

One of Komp’s cancer patients was 6-year-old Mary Beth. Her dire diagnosis wasn’t discussed in her presence. But she told her mother she had a vivid dream in which one of her grandfathers, who had

died before she was born, came to her along with Jesus. They told her that she would be dying soon but encouraged her not to be afraid. She woke with a great sense of peace and reassurance, and she died on Christmas Eve.

“Here we have a little girl who wasn’t expecting to die or to meet a grandfather, and yet she has an experience so unlike a normal dream that she awakes with ‘absolute peace’ about dying,” Miller said. “Typically, death for a child would be a thoroughly frightening prospect. Many kids react with horror when they’re left briefly with a babysitter or at daycare. Imagine them contemplating permanent separation from all they’re familiar with.”

Another one of Komp’s young patients suddenly sat up in bed just before she died, exclaiming, “The angels – they’re so beautiful! Mommy, can you see them? Do you hear their singing? I’ve never heard such beautiful singing!”

Since childhood artwork typically depicts all angels as having wings, contrary to the Bible, you would think that children would see angels with wings if they were merely imagining things they had already been told. But in many cases, they see something quite different.

For example, Angela Ethier, in her doctoral dissertation on children’s

deathbed visions, reports the case of a dying preschool girl who asked her mom if she could see the angels in the room. Flustered, the mother bluffed by saying, “Yes,” and then she described them as having big wings.

Her little daughter scoffed: “Mama, you don’t have to lie.” She went on to describe the angels in vivid detail, emphasizing, “They don’t have wings!”

“So if expectations, informed by culture and upbringing, aren’t causing the content of children’s deathbed visions, it makes sense that they’re coming from elsewhere,” Miller concluded. “The most consistent explanation is that these really are encounters with a spiritual realm.”

Going Home

There’s additional corroboration in cases where the dying patient sees a relative already in heaven, even though they had not yet been told that this person had died. That’s what happened in an incident reported by Sir William Barrett, a professor at Ireland’s prestigious Royal College of Science. His physician wife treated a patient named Doris, who was dying after giving birth.

In her vision of a glorious afterlife, Doris saw “wonderful beings” and even her deceased father. But then she took on a puzzled expression. “He has Vida with him,” she said, seeming quite confused. Then she died.

As it turned out, Vida was her sister who had died three weeks earlier, a fact that everyone had kept from Doris because they didn’t want to upset her.

Barrett said that the evidential value of these visions “is greatly enhanced when the fact is undeniably established that the dying person was wholly ignorant of the death of the person he or she so vividly sees.”

His conclusion? “These cases form, perhaps, one of the most cogent arguments for survival after death.”

Unfortunately, not all cases are pleasant. One team of researchers found that 14% of those reporting an otherworldly deathbed vision reacted with negative emotions. When another team interviewed dying patients directly, they found 18% of the reports to be distressing. This squares with biblical

teaching, of course, which tells us that our experience at death will depend on our spiritual condition before God.

Finally, the credibility of deathbed visions is further enhanced when multiple people share in the experience. For instance, Dr. Raymond Moody reports a case in suburban Atlanta in which three siblings and a sister-in-law all witnessed an unearthly light as their mother took her last breath.

They saw bright lights that seemed to shape into an entranceway, and then they watched as their mother lifted out of her body and went through it. “Being by the entranceway, incidentally, was a feeling of complete joy,” said their account. “My brother called it a chorus of joyful feelings, and my sister heard beautiful music, although none of the rest of us did.”

That’s consistent with what Barrett found in his research. “Many well authenticated cases are on record where the relatives of a person, watching by the death bed, have seen at the moment of death a cloudy form rising from the body of the deceased and hovering for a time in the room and then passing away,” he wrote.

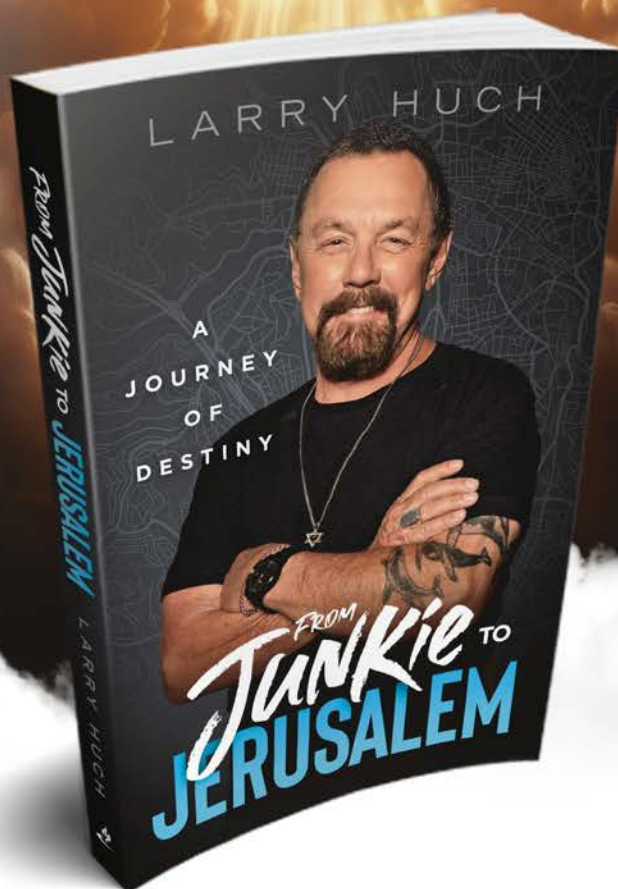
As for Miller, he found 47 points of correspondence between the Bible and various accounts of deathbed visions and Near-Death Experiences.

“In personally investigating these cases for many years, the preponderance of the evidence convinces me that what the Bible has taught us all along is true: death is not the end of life,” he told me.

“Just as we can say that the observations of modern physics dovetail with the biblical view that the universe had a beginning, so I can say that observations of the dying confirm the biblical view of the afterlife. The bottom line is that death isn’t the destruction of self. It’s a transition to another form of existence.” ♦

LEE STROBEL is a *New York Times* best-selling author. He earned a journalism degree at the University of Missouri and was awarded a Ford Foundation fellowship to study at Yale Law School, where he received a Master of Studies in Law degree. A former atheist, he served as a teaching pastor at three of America’s largest churches. His new book, *Seeing the Supernatural*, releases this month.

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PREPARED BY CHARISMA MEDIA STAFF

If you briefly put aside unprecedented turbulence, cultural and generational values shifting at light speed, technology evolving so rapidly it threatens more than it helps, and traditional institutions—including the church—grappling with unheard of challenges to the point of struggling to maintain relevance...the world is still a mess. How does the church guide, comfort, lead, edify

and minister in such conditions? And more to the point, how are the traditional mainline Christian denominations carrying out their area of the Great Commission? Here's how: declining attendance, shrinking relevance, waning influence, plummeting finances and generational shifts in attitudes and beliefs. Churches that fail to adapt risk losing their voice in a world searching for meaning and purpose.

What's a church to do? And how will they make it through?

Well, one slice of the body of Christ pie is doing just fine, thank you.

In the middle of the maelstrom, the Pentecostal church and the charismatic movement are one of the only church groups that actually are growing in recent years. As an example of renewal, they appear to demonstrate how faith can remain vibrant, engaging and life-transforming when rooted in a deep reliance on Holy Spirit power. It has navigated successfully various cultural shifts while continuing to inspire new generations of believers grounded in dynamic worship, supernatural encounters, bold evangelism and adaptability allowed it to flourish where other expressions of Christianity struggle. For mainline denominations searching for a model of revitalization, the Pentecostal Church and its related denominations are an object lesson in reaching both the faithful and the unchurched.

Charismatic Emphasis on the Holy Spirit as a Model for Renewal

At the heart of the Charismatic Movement is an unwavering belief in the active presence of the Holy Spirit. This reliance on divine empowerment fosters a sense of renewal that is deeply personal and transformative. Many believers who encounter Charismatic spirituality describe an awakening in their faith that transcends mere theological knowledge. They experience a God who is not distant or theoretical but one who moves powerfully in their daily lives. Unlike traditional approaches that often emphasize structure and doctrine, the Charismatic Movement prioritizes direct encounters with God, making Christianity deeply experiential rather than merely intellectual.

The spiritual gifts outlined in the New Testament—prophecy, healing, speaking in tongues, discernment—are not considered historical artifacts but present realities that actively shape the believer's journey. These manifestations of divine power provide tangible evidence of God's involvement in the world today, reinforcing faith and igniting spiritual passion. Younger generations, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, have been especially drawn to this emphasis on authenticity and supernatural engagement. In an age where institutional religion is often met with skepticism, the ability to personally experience God's presence offers a compelling reason to embrace faith.

Dynamic Worship and Its Appeal to a New Generation

Traditional worship services, with their structured liturgies and predictable formats, hold historical and theological significance. However, for many, especially the younger generations, these services can feel disengaging. In contrast, Charismatic worship is marked by an intense sense of expectancy and participation. Worship is not seen as a routine but as a divine encounter. The freedom to

express praise through raising hands, kneeling, dancing, or spontaneous prayer fosters a deeply immersive spiritual experience.

The musical aspect of Charismatic worship is equally dynamic, often featuring extended periods of heartfelt praise that create an atmosphere conducive to spiritual breakthrough. Songs are not merely sung; they become a vehicle for entering into God's presence. This type of worship resonates deeply with those seeking a more profound connection with God. The use of personal testimonies, spontaneous praise and prophetic declarations further enriches the worship experience, making it more than a ritual—it becomes a transformational event.

Evangelism and Outreach: Lessons for Mainline Churches

In many traditional churches, evangelism is often confined within the walls of the sanctuary, with the expectation that well-structured programs and polished sermons

“Younger generations, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, have been especially drawn to this emphasis on authenticity and supernatural engagement.”



will attract new members. However, the Charismatic Movement has demonstrated that reaching people requires going beyond the four walls of the church. Charismatic believers engage in bold, Spirit-led evangelism, taking the message of Christ directly to the streets, workplaces and communities.

Through healing services, street

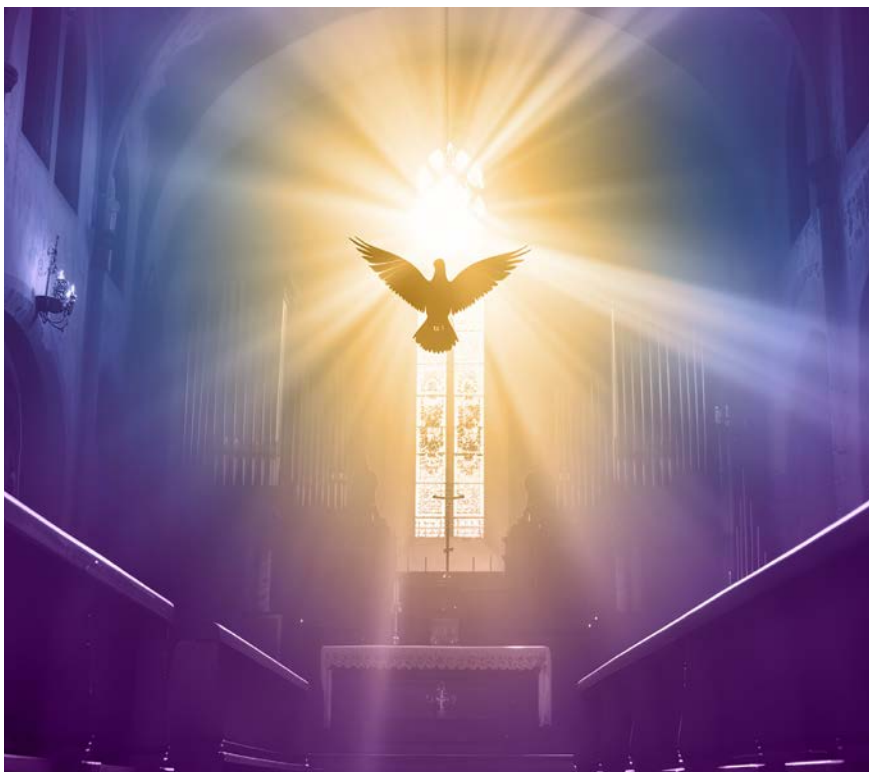
firsthand becomes a powerful testimony that draws people into the faith.

Adaptability in Times of Crisis and Cultural Change

One of the defining strengths of the Charismatic Movement is its ability to adapt to changing cultural and societal landscapes. Unlike rigid denominational structures that

small-group gatherings, which allow for deeper community connections. Instead of being confined to a single building or institutional framework, Charismatic Christianity thrives in multiple settings. This model of church life offers a valuable lesson to mainline denominations: faith must be able to exist beyond traditional Sunday services. By fostering intimate, Spirit-led communities, the church can remain vibrant even in times of upheaval.

“The Holy Spirit is still moving, calling the church to embrace a fresh outpouring of His presence.”



ministry and one-on-one encounters, Charismatics have adopted an approach that meets people where they are. Many testify of receiving prophetic words from strangers, experiencing miraculous healings in public settings, or encountering believers whose passion for Christ is contagious.

This type of evangelism breaks down barriers and makes faith accessible to those who may never step foot inside a church. In an age when many are skeptical of organized religion, the ability to witness God's power

can be slow to respond to new challenges, the Charismatic Movement is highly flexible.

This adaptability was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when many churches struggled to transition to online services. Charismatic churches, already accustomed to utilizing technology for ministry, seamlessly moved their services to digital platforms, reaching a global audience in the process.

The movement has also embraced decentralized church models, including house churches and

Supernatural Hope in an Age of Uncertainty

Deep inside an era of ongoing stresses and anxieties, the Charismatic Movement offers something unique: an unwavering belief in the supernatural power of God. Stories of miraculous healings, prophetic revelations and divine interventions serve as constant reminders that God is still actively working in the world. This expectation of the miraculous provides a stark contrast to the fear and despair that often dominate contemporary culture.

Prayer and fasting are central to this supernatural expectation. Many within the movement engage in intercessory prayer, believing that it has the power to bring about personal and national transformation.

Unlike the passive religiosity that sometimes characterizes traditional Christianity, the Charismatic Movement is driven by an urgency to see God move in extraordinary ways. This belief fuels large-scale prayer movements, revival gatherings and healing crusades that continue to inspire hope across the globe.

Multigenerational and Multicultural Growth

Unlike many mainline denominations that struggle to attract younger generations, the Charismatic Movement has successfully fostered an environment where multiple generations and cultures thrive together. Youth-led revivals, dynamic mentorship programs and an openness to diverse leadership have enabled the movement to remain relevant across

age and ethnic lines. The presence of young people in leadership roles ensures that the movement continues to evolve while staying deeply rooted in its spiritual foundations.

Marketplace Ministry: Expanding the Kingdom Beyond Church Walls

One of the most significant contributions of the Charismatic Movement is its emphasis on integrating faith into every aspect of life. Ministry is not confined to the pulpit but extends into business, media, politics and education.

Charismatic Christians are encouraged to see their workplaces as mission fields, bringing kingdom principles into every sphere of society.

This approach has led to powerful testimonies of individuals experiencing divine encounters in their daily lives—whether through prayer in the workplace, supernatural business strategies, or faith-based initiatives that transform communities.

The lesson for mainline churches is clear: believers must be equipped to carry their faith beyond Sunday services and into the world.

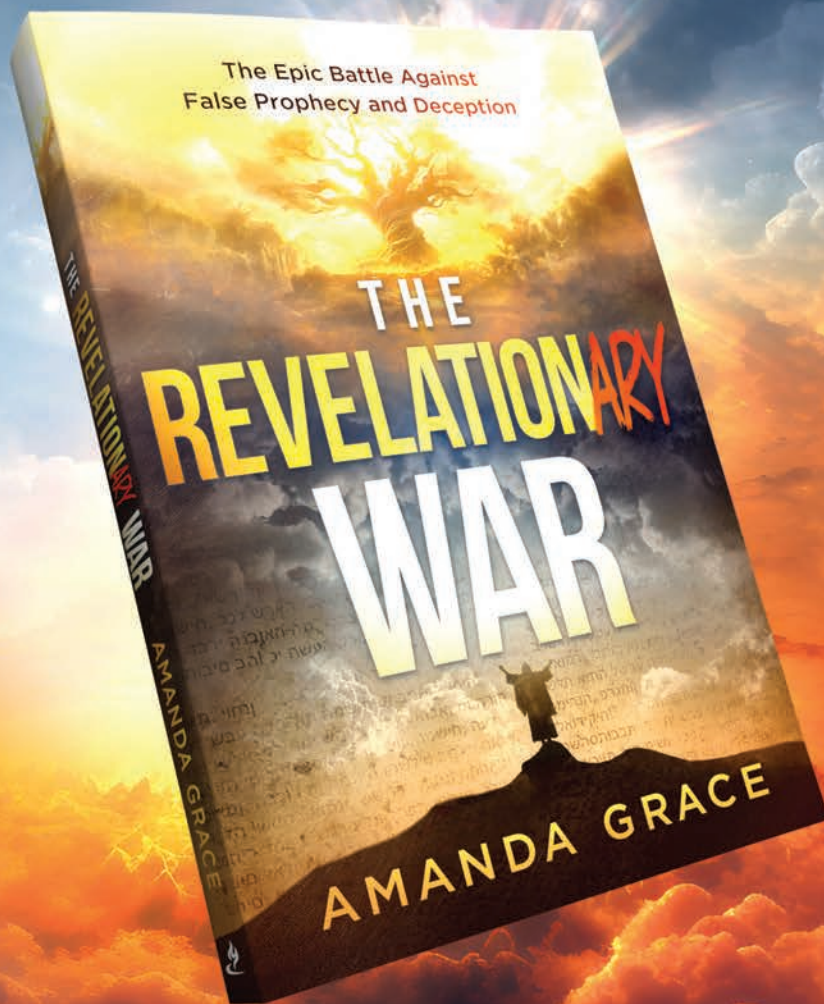
Confirmation of Hope in Christ

Despite the challenges facing Christianity in this season the Charismatic Movement offers a compelling vision of renewal and revival. Its reliance on the Holy Spirit, emphasis on dynamic worship, commitment to bold evangelism and adaptability in the face of change have positioned it as a leading force in contemporary faith.

Ultimately, the message remains unchanged: Jesus Christ is the source of hope, transformation and revival. The Holy Spirit is still moving, calling the church to embrace a fresh outpouring of His presence and put hands and feet to statements of faith to energize the body of Christ for the harvest. For those seeking a faith that is alive, powerful and deeply personal, the Charismatic Movement stands as a testimony that God is still at work in this generation—and that the best is yet to come. ♦

We are actively mistaking false prophets for prophetic ministers.

Now more than ever, the body of Christ needs to be discerning of what is true and what is false. With contributions from Donné Clement Petruska, daughter of the late prophet Kim Clement, this powerful book, *The Revelatory War*, provides an understanding of where we are in the modern prophetic movement and why counterfeits have risen up, along with timely biblical solutions. As you read, you will learn how to distinguish between prophetic and counterfeit messages as well as thrive in victory even during days of darkness.



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TOP 4 DELIVERANCE MISCONCEPTIONS

It's time to live in abundance and flourish

BY KATHRYN KRICK

Say the word *deliverance*, and even the most spiritually mature believers can freeze behind a quizzical look. Is that still a thing? Do people really do that? If it really is real... do I need it? Is this something God has for me that I haven't been obedient about paying attention?

Good news, yes, it's real, and yes, these rampant misconceptions can be unpacked and replaced with understanding and action. Let's debunk some of the most common misunderstandings about deliverance and provide biblical clarity to help you move forward with confidence in your spiritual journey.

Deliverance is not merely about casting out demons—it is about stepping into the abundant life God has promised, free from the enemy's deception and oppression. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the truth, dispelling half-truths and fears that may have hindered your walk with God. Prepare to be empowered as you uncover the truth about deliverance and what it truly means to live in victory!

#1 If I Need Deliverance, Should I Fast?

Many fast from food as a way to receive something from God or to become more spiritual. It's true that fasting can help you deny your flesh and strengthen your spirit, but this happens only when the fast is Spirit-led. Do not practice the old-wine, religious way of fasting that is based on tradition. Nor should you fast in a manipulative way, bargaining with God so He will give you something in return.

The main purpose of fasting is to deny your flesh in areas of strong temptation so your body may be subdued and your spirit can rise higher. God will call you to fast—to deny your flesh—primarily in the area where your flesh is strong. Many people fast food even though their strong temptations are not to overeat but to be on social media for many hours. In this case the wise way to fast would be to deny themselves social media for a time.

The amount of time for fasting should be Spirit-led. It does



OVERANCE NCEPTIONS

not have to be 40 days or something drastic. Sometimes it can be just half a day. (If you're fasting social media, make sure not to fast your spiritual food: the live stream or replay of church. Once the service is finished, you can immediately get off the social media platform.)

The Pharisees and John the Baptist's disciples were fasting in the old-wine, religious way. Jesus did not require His disciples to fast while He was with them because it was time for the disciples to be busy with the work of God. God did not have a purpose for them to fast at that point. Rather, He was leading them to focus on other ways to deny the flesh and grow spiritually during this specific season. They needed to dedicate their time to listening to Jesus' teachings and to be committed and diligent in applying these teachings to daily life. They were concentrating on learning to speak with intention, as well as devoting time to meditating on God's truths.

There can be times when God leads you to fast food even if you don't have temptations to be gluttonous. The act of denying your flesh does make your spirit arise and your flesh decrease when your fasting is led by the Spirit. For example, Jesus fasted for 40 days when the Holy Spirit led Him to be tempted in the wilderness.

If a person has severe demonic oppression from giving the devil many footholds, it is wise to fast before attending a service (in person or online). Where the anointing will be released, as fasting weakens the demons' grip. Still, this type of fasting should always be Spirit-led. This direction to fast before going to receive deliverance is not an instruction for all believers. But if you feel the Spirit's leading and/or you know you have deep oppression, definitely fast before positioning yourself under the anointing.

#2 Does a Minister Need to Fast and Pray to Cast Out Strong Demons?

In this story Jesus did not tell the parent to bring the boy back after He'd taken time to fast and pray so He could cast out the demon. Yet many people think that's what this scripture is saying, as if a ritual needs to be performed before some demons can be cast out.

When Jesus refers to "prayer and fasting" here, He is not suggesting that if you pray for so many hours straight, you will receive more anointing to cast out demons. God sees you as genuinely drawing close to Him and engaging in true prayer and intimacy as you include Him throughout your day. You are

in true relationship with Him when you nurture a healthy fear of God by holding Him in high respect and continually obeying Him as a way of touching His heart. When this kind of true prayer and intimacy are present, God sees that He can entrust you with more anointing, and He then pours out higher levels of anointing to deal with higher-level demonic cases.

The main purpose of fasting is to deny your flesh in the area where it is strong. So, if you're not denying your flesh where it is strong, you are being carnal and not spiritually mature. In this case God will not pour out more anointing until you're surrendered and taking your spiritual walk seriously.

Really what Jesus meant by saying "This kind of demon does not go out except by prayer and fasting," then, is that the disciples needed to be less carnal and more serious about their surrender, obedience, and daily walk with God. Then God could entrust them with more anointing.

#3 Does a Minister Need to Speak Specific Words When Casting Out Demons?

It doesn't matter what specific words are used to cast out demons. What matters is that a servant of God is truly anointed and carries authority over the demon. It is crucial that the servant of God executes their authority properly, in the new-wine way versus the old-wine religious and traditional way.

When students are being loud, a teacher can say, "Be quiet" or "Stop being loud." Or sometimes the teacher can just be quiet and look serious. The authority the teacher carries is seen and working as the children realize their place and know they need to be obedient. The exact words do not matter. What matters is that authority is executed.

This is also true in the spiritual realm. One does not have to say, "I bind you," for example. Saying, "This demonic spirit of ____ must go" or "All demonic spirits must leave now" or "On three, all of you must go: one, two, three," can all work just the same.

Additionally, the phrase *in Jesus' name* means you are operating and doing these things by Jesus and for His glory. It's good

to say "In Jesus' name," but it's not about the words. The demons obey because you walk in true authority that comes from Jesus. The demons tremble because they know the truth that Jesus has sent you. So, at times saying, "You must go now" works just as well as saying, "You must go in Jesus' name."

The point is, you should not think

***"You are free!
...now it's time
to move beyond
zero and into
the positives."***

that the process of casting out demons involves a ritual or something specific you recite. It's the authority you carry and walk in that makes demons go.

#4 Can Children Be Around Where Demons Are Cast Out?

Yes, children can be present when demons are cast out, and they should be! To be where demons are being cast out is the safest place in the world. When demons are cast out, it means the power of God is present! The power of God releases not only miracles that you need for your life but also protection over you. The safest place to be is in the place of surrender. People need to meet Jesus, and they often need to encounter His power to be able to surrender to Him. Being at a gathering where anointing is flowing and demons are being cast out allows you to be at a place where you can experience divine encounters with God that change your life forever. These encounters most often lead people out of the lukewarm life and into total surrender.

Demons are sent by witches and warlocks when a person opens a door through sin. So, a demon can enter a person in any physical location except a church where God's power is. A person can receive a demon in bed as they sleep with someone outside marriage. A person

can receive a demon in their home as they indulge in porn or a horror movie. A person can receive a demon at a club as they take drugs. It's the spiritual door opening that leads to a demon entering.

When a demon leaves a person, such as at church, the demon does not linger, looking for where to go next. When a demon is cast out, it is sent back to the sender (a witch or warlock). At times, God leads His servant to send the demon to the pit in hell. But servants of God cannot send all demons to the pit. According to the laws in the spiritual realm, the devil and demons cannot be terminated at this point in time. People have free will to make their own choices and decisions. Some people through their actions desire demons. They desire to indulge in their sins or access demonic powers to give them things they want.

Because of people's free will and choices, demons are allowed to exist and witches and warlocks are allowed to send them. As servants of God our job is not to eradicate demons but to cast them out of people—out of those who desire Jesus and all that He offers. Our job is not to force deliverance on people who do not want it.

I've seen numerous children, from infants to teenagers, receive deliverance! Children need deliverance just as much as adults do. I've also seen so many children become on fire for Jesus as the result of witnessing deliverance and/or receiving deliverance themselves.

To keep children from being in the church where demons are being cast out is to forbid them from coming to Jesus and experiencing His kingdom. We must become like children to enter the kingdom of God. Children are naturally teachable and prone to understand spiritual principles, because being childlike is the only way to receive the things of the Spirit.

You don't need to worry about your child being frightened when demons manifest. Explain to them the power and beauty of what Jesus is about to do before going to the service. After the service, discuss the miracles and deliverances they witnessed as well. I believe they will be in awe of Jesus and their faith will grow exponentially!

How Will You Steward Your Freedom?

At this moment God has opened your spiritual eyes and revealed many mysteries of His kingdom. The time for the devil to stay hidden in your life has officially passed! You are equipped to see spiritually and never be fooled by the enemy again. He can no longer bring oppression in your life. It is now time to go from glory to glory and focus on being who God has called you to be.

You will no longer live in the deficit. You no longer have to be distracted by oppression and the devil's hold on your life. You are free! You've moved out of the negatives, and now it's time to move beyond zero and into the positives. It's time to walk in abundance!

You have been freed from anxiety and depression. Now it's time to have abundant peace and joy. You have been freed from demonic dreams. Now it's time to have peaceful, restorative, restful sleep. You were delivered from insomnia and constantly being tired. Now it's time to have supernatural abundant energy and strength. You were set free from infirmities and healed of sickness, and now it's time to have abundant health and energy. You were freed from condemnation, and now it's time to experience God's love for you and have intimacy with Him every day. You were set free from poverty. Now it's time to have an abundance of finances for God's glory and for blessing others, as well as contributing to God's work.

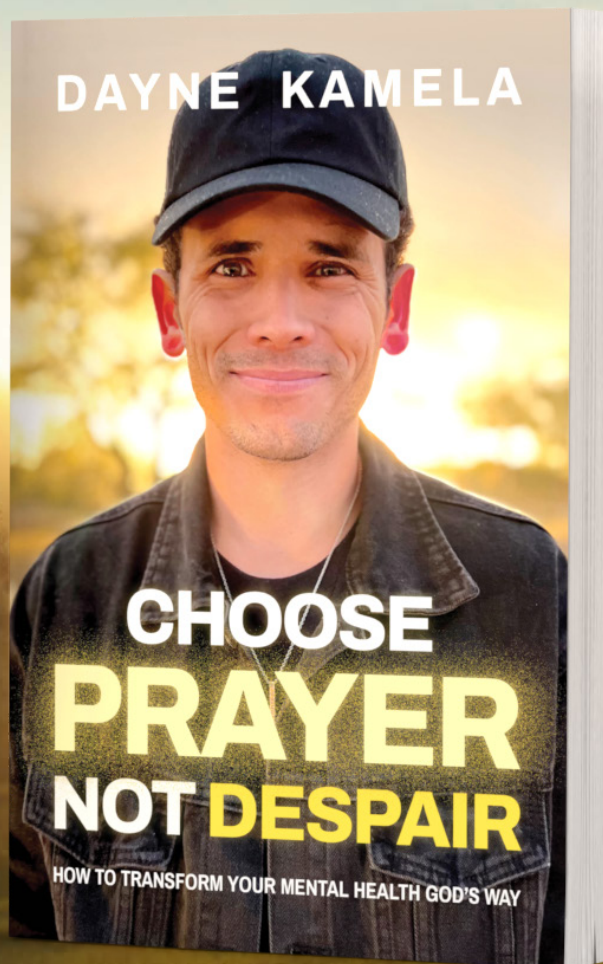
You were set free from so much that has kept you stuck and unable to thrive in life and in your calling. Now it's time to walk in abundance and flourish!

God wants to use you as a vessel of His power. He wants to pour His anointing in you so He can do whatever He pleases through you. Your purpose is to be a vessel of His power. That's the only way you'll be able to fully accomplish the aspects of your specific calling. ♦

KATHRYN KRICK is a rising online influencer, and founding lead pastor of Five-Fold Church in Los Angeles, where many miracles happen and people are healed, delivered and equipped to be powerful vessels of God. Her new book, *Unlock Your Deliverance*, is available for pre-sale now at amazon.com.

Mental illnesses and struggles are a form of spiritual warfare.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND?

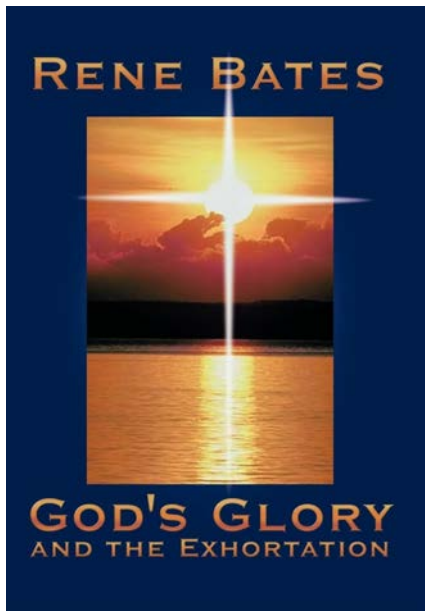


After having a severe mental breakdown and being diagnosed with bipolar disorder in his early twenties, Kamela's life was transformed through the power of healing prayer. He is committed to sharing his message that winning the battle for your mental health begins with prayer. In his book, *Choose Prayer, Not Despair*, Kamela offers this same hope and encouragement to anyone suffering with anxiety, depression, or any other mental health challenge. Whether you are new to prayer, have doubts about it, or are just looking for anything to help your situation, you will discover life-changing, Scripture-based prayers, and be equipped to fight against doubt and unbelief.

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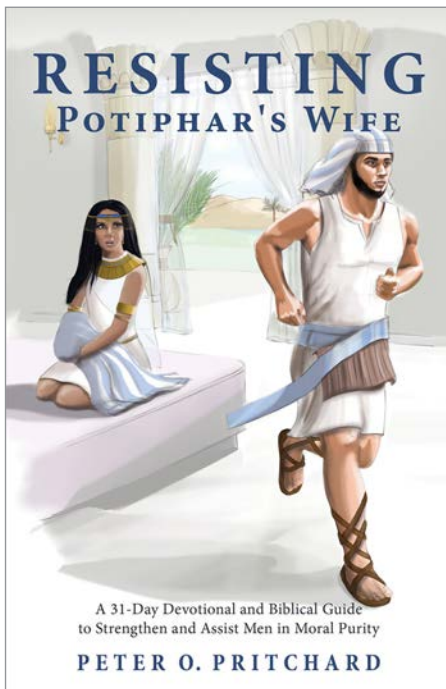
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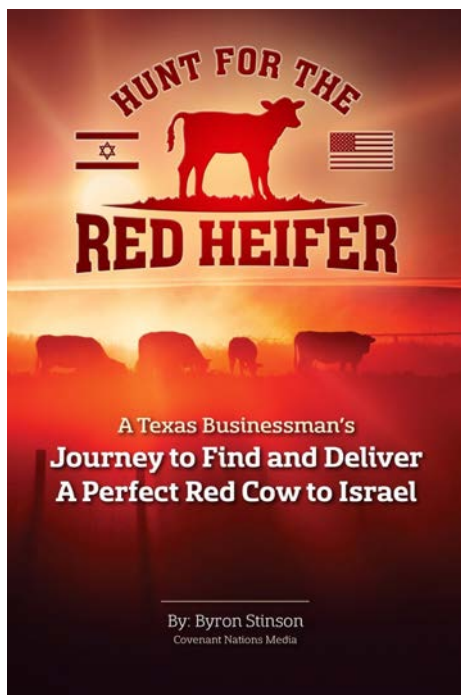
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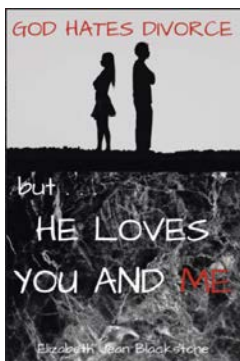
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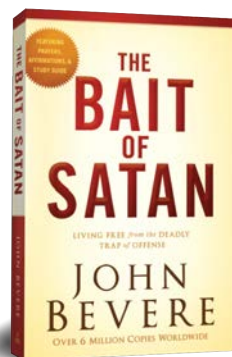
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Marriage is a covenant between two people and God for a lifetime, but love can be complex. Elizabeth opens up about her pain from betrayal and the heartache of losing a child. Despite these struggles, her faith offers her a new perspective on her marriage. She boldly seeks answers and is determined to discover God's will for her life.

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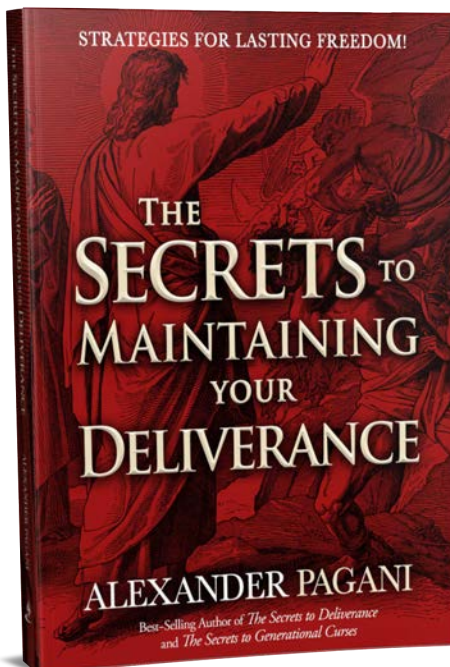
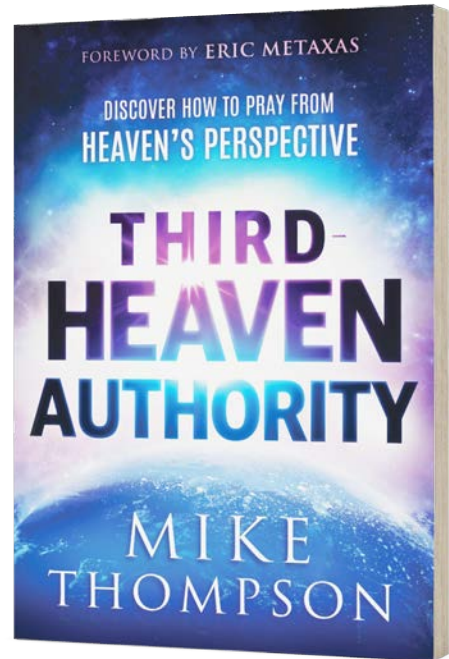
Refresh Your Spirit

THIRD HEAVEN AUTHORITY

by Mike Thompson

What if your whole perception of spiritual authority is wrong? After thirty years of ministry, Mike Thompson had an experience that changed his life forever. In 2010, the Holy Spirit caught him up to heaven. Jesus gave Mike Thompson a tall assignment: "Teach people third-heaven authority." In *Third-Heaven Authority*, Thompson shows the activities of angels and their involvement in our daily affairs and how angels help us in spiritual warfare against demonic spirits and influences. By diving deeper into the spiritual realm, your readers will grow their intimacy with the Lord, have a more effective prayer life, and release God's miraculous power into their surrounding circumstances.

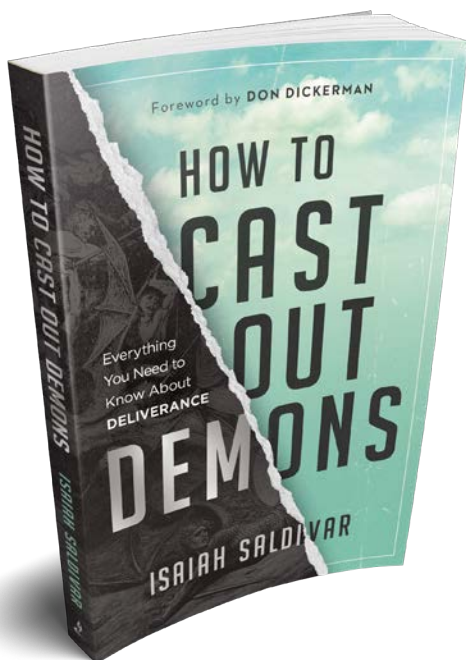
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THE SECRETS TO MAINTAINING YOUR DELIVERANCE by Alexander Pagani

After you've been set free and delivered, what happens next? In his book, *The Secrets to Maintaining Your Deliverance*, respected deliverance minister Alexander Pagani reveals crucial strategies to ensure that once an unclean spirit is cast out, it never returns to wreak havoc. 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. In this practical guide, Pagani offers your readers the following benefits: a deep understanding of the spiritual principles behind deliverance and the subsequent need for guarding against re-entry, actionable steps and real-life examples to empower readers on their journey to lasting freedom, and strategies to help believers fortify the spiritual walls of their lives to prevent the return of unclean spirits. This book will also empower your readers with the wisdom to experience lasting deliverance.

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HOW TO CAST OUT DEMONS

by Isaiah Saldivar

The call to cast out demons is not for a select few; it is for every believer. At the end of 2020, revivalist Isaiah Saldivar had a visitation from the Holy Spirit in which He told him in so many words, “Isaiah, the church is unprepared and untrained in spiritual warfare; I want you to teach on casting out demons and spiritual warfare.” In his book, *How to Cast Out Demons*, Saldivar helps Christians who know they should be doing deliverance but don’t know how to go about it. Exploring the seven examples in the Gospels of Jesus casting out demons, and featuring stories from Saldivar’s life and ministry, this simple guide removes the mystery and provides practical training for believers who want to follow Jesus’ example of casting out demons and healing the sick. Saldivar will challenge your readers to not ignore Satan’s kingdom and will equip them to confront, resist, wrestle, stand against, and cast out.

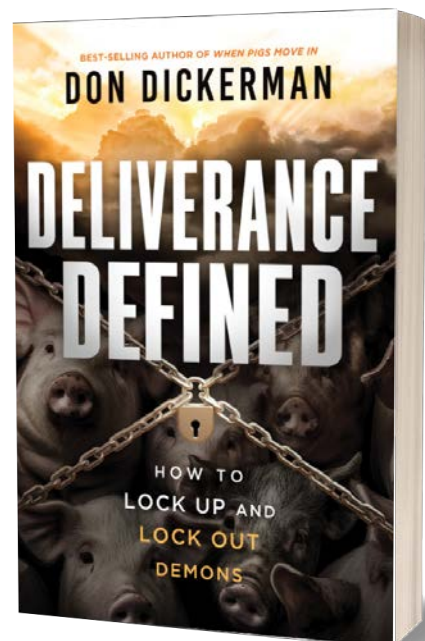
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DELIVERANCE DEFINED

by Don Dickerman

In the battle for your soul, are you prepared to cast evil out? In *Deliverance Defined*, respected deliverance minister Don Dickerman shows readers how to discern the signs of demonic activity, close doorways through which demons enter, and walk in complete freedom. Drawing from decades of firsthand experience in confronting demonic forces, Dickerman also dives into an extensive list of demons he and others have encountered, exposing their names and how they operate in today’s world. From fear to lust to rejection, your readers will gain the invaluable spiritual tools to break free from spiritual oppression. Additionally, they will learn about the four principles of deliverance, the setup of demonic kingdoms, how to lead a deliverance session, and principles for staying free once set free.

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there is a SEASON,
a time for every
PURPOSE under
HEAVEN.

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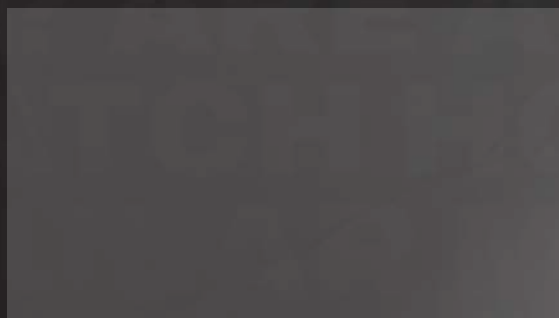
Follow our daily reading plan in each issue of *Charisma* to read through the Modern English Version Bible in one year. The plan is also available online at mycharisma.com/bible-reading-guide/.

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.”—1 Timothy 4:12

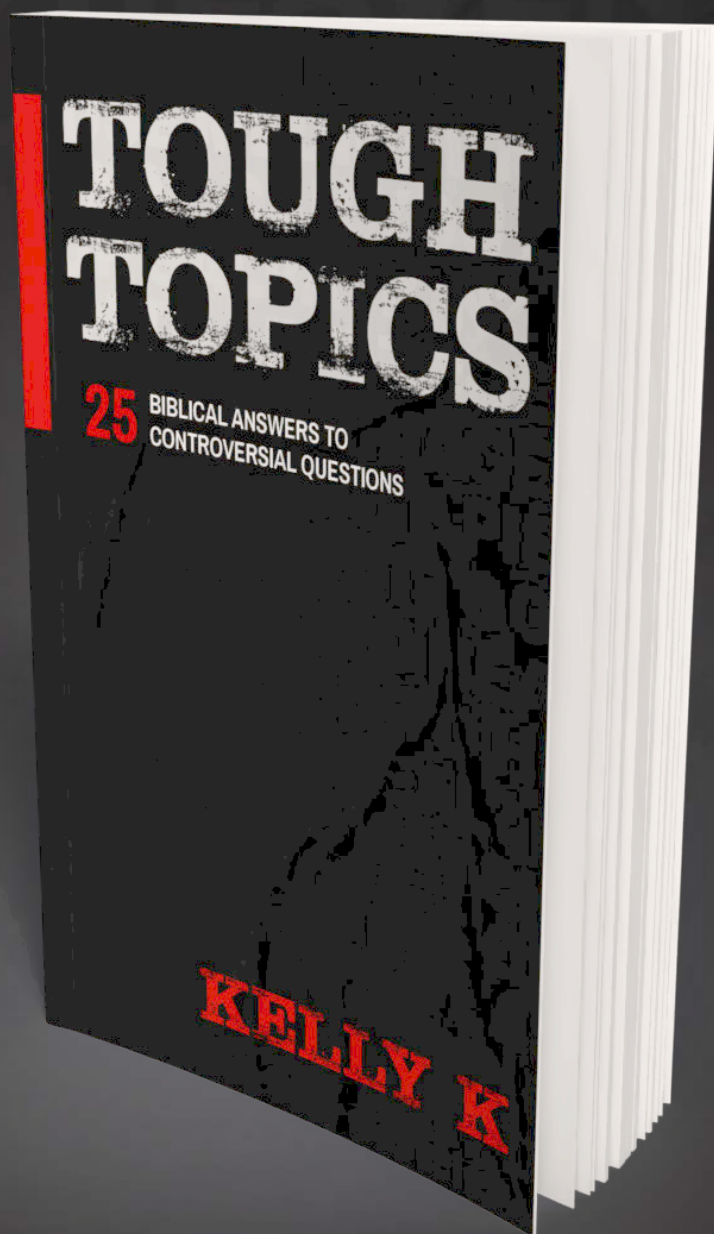
MARCH

Mar. 1	Num. 28-29; Mark 8
Mar. 2	Num. 30-31; Mark 9
Mar. 3	Num. 32-33; Mark 10
Mar. 4	Num. 34-36; Mark 11
Mar. 5	Deut. 1-2; Mark 12
Mar. 6	Deut. 3-4; Ps. 36; Mark 13
Mar. 7	Deut. 5-6; Ps. 43; Mark 14
Mar. 8	Deut. 7-9; Mark 15
Mar. 9	Deut. 10-12; Mark 16
Mar. 10	Deut. 13-15; Gal. 1
Mar. 11	Deut. 16-18; Ps. 38; Gal. 2
Mar. 12	Deut. 19-21; Gal. 3
Mar. 13	Deut. 22-24; Gal. 4
Mar. 14	Deut. 25-27; Gal. 5
Mar. 15	Deut. 28-29; Gal. 6
Mar. 16	Deut. 30-31; Ps. 40; 1 Cor. 1
Mar. 17	Deut. 32-34; 1 Cor. 2
Mar. 18	Josh. 1-2; Ps. 37; 1 Cor. 3
Mar. 19	Josh. 3-6; 1 Cor. 4
Mar. 20	Josh. 7-8; Ps. 69; 1 Cor. 5
Mar. 21	Josh. 9-11; 1 Cor. 6
Mar. 22	Josh. 12-14; 1 Cor. 7
Mar. 23	Josh. 15-17; 1 Cor. 8
Mar. 24	Josh. 18-20; 1 Cor. 9
Mar. 25	Josh. 21-22; Ps. 47; 1 Cor. 10
Mar. 26	Josh. 23-24; Ps. 44; 1 Cor. 11
Mar. 27	Judg. 1-3; 1 Cor. 12
Mar. 28	Judg. 4-5; Ps. 39, 41; 1 Cor. 13
Mar. 29	Judg. 6-7; Ps. 52; 1 Cor. 14
Mar. 30	Judg. 8; Ps. 42; 1 Cor. 15
Mar. 31	Judg. 9-10; Ps. 49; 1 Cor. 16

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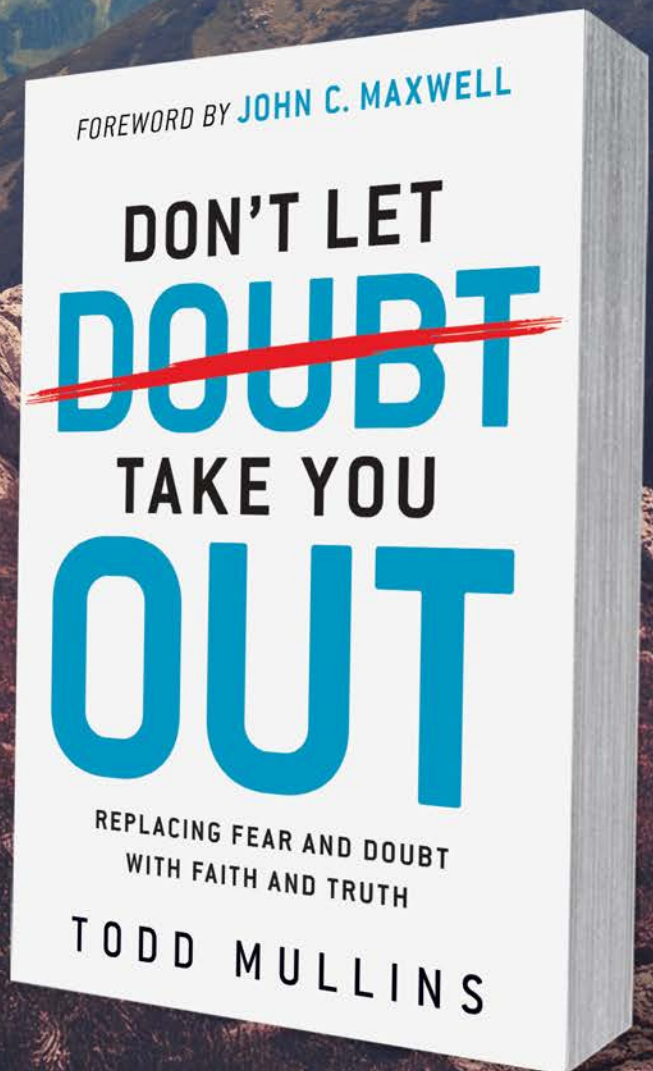
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