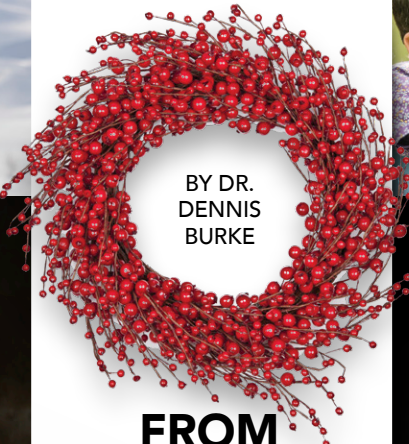


# INSIGHTS



BY DR.  
DENNIS  
BURKE

THE WAY TO A NEW LIFE || FALL 2019

## FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, JESUS' LIFE WOULD BE LIKE NO OTHER.

A few weeks before the birth of John the Baptist, John's father, Zechariah, declared a prophecy that gives amazing light regarding the nature of the Kingdom that Jesus was going to establish.

Zechariah concluded with references to the prophet Isaiah's words in Luke 1:79 (TPT):

"The word from heaven will come to us with dazzling light to shine upon those who live in darkness, near death's dark shadow. And he will illuminate the path that leads to the way of peace."

This announcement is captivating in the picture it paints, with "*the word from Heaven*," "*dazzling light*," and "*the path that leads to the way of peace*."

One phrase that really stands out here is "*the way of peace*." It's such a powerful concept. And notice that Isaiah did *not* say "*the way to peace*." Had he said that, he would have been telling us that peace is a destination. It would mean that we have not yet arrived and that we must stay on the path if we ever hope to get there.

But Isaiah said, "*the way of peace*." This picture is so rich. Peace is not a destination; *the way itself is peace*. The way *is* the destination.

## THE WAY OF

# Peace



# THIS DESCRIBES REAL POWER.

IT IS THE PEACE THAT KEEPS US CLEAR-HEADED AND CONFIDENT WHEN TROUBLE COMES TO POUNCE ON US.

The light of the Holy Spirit will shine on the path of peace all along the way as we walk out our lives. We will stay in peace as we allow the Holy Spirit to help us see the decisions and actions that will keep us on the right path.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and following His way is the way of peace.

In John 14:27 (TPT), Jesus said, “I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous.”

This describes real power. It is the peace that keeps us clear-headed and confident when trouble comes to pounce on us. This peace is the source of strength that keeps us steady and firm-footed when we are hit with Satan’s strategies. It is not frail and easily broken.

What is your greatest source of stress? As a parent, it can be your children, no matter what their age. Stress can also arise from poor health, pressured relationships, or the fear of financial uncertainty. Whatever source is your greatest challenge, Jesus’ peace is stronger.

Jesus said this peace is His gift to us. He furnishes us every day with the inner disposition to remain trusting and at ease, even when there is turmoil.

There is a major key to this in Isaiah 26:3 (TPT):

“Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently trust in you.”

Imaginations are those “movies” playing in your mind. You must keep the movies in your mind focused on the gift Jesus has given—His peace.

“Do you want to live a long, good life, enjoying the beauty that fills each day? Then never speak a lie or allow wicked words to come from your mouth. Keep turning your back on every sin, and

make ‘peace’ your life motto. Practice being at peace with everyone” (Psalm 34:13 TPT).

Twice here the Hebrew uses the word *shalom*. This word means much more than *peace*. In Hebrew, *shalom* indicates we are to have nothing missing or broken. It is completeness, soundness, welfare, safety, soundness (in body), welfare, health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, and contentment.

The verb form of this word *shalom* means *to restore*. It indicates replacing or providing what is needed in order to make someone whole and complete. So *shalom* describes those of us who have been provided all that is needed to be whole and complete.

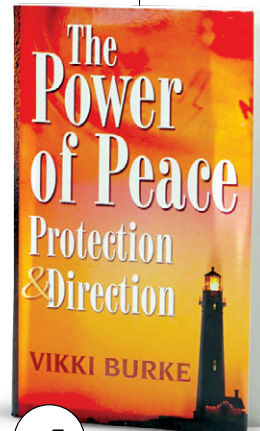
Living long and strong in God’s plans and purposes will require a decision to make a life of peace your “life motto.” This means a strong commitment to guard your peace and to refuse to let the things people do *to* you change the peace *in* you.

Staying in peace is not always easy. There are so many daily “peace thieves.” But this peace Jesus has given us is not fragile.

This is important to understand. If your peace is easily disrupted

or broken, you are not really abiding in His peace. And the peace Jesus gives is more than refraining from retaliation when someone is unkind—although that is an excellent idea.

Keeping peace as our life motto is to turn the movies of our minds into coming attractions—all the good that God desires to build into us and bless us with in life.



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Too often we tend to replay movies we've seen or lived. We can go over and over again past words, conversations, disappointments, or personal failings and reinforce the very things that steal peace.

Instead, stop the replays of the movie, and start the PRE-PLAYS! Set your mind on imagining yourself or others doing things differently—*God's* way. Imagine a different report than the evil report you have received.

Protect His peace within, and His peace will protect you. Notice John 16:33 (TPT): "And everything I've taught you is so that the peace which is in me will be in you and will give you great confidence as you rest in me. For in this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!"

What it takes to keep peace:

*Peace with God requires finding the path of purpose.*

*Peace with people requires practice and determination.*

*Peace with yourself requires discipline to prevent the movie in your mind from playing scenes that should be deleted.*

There is a great place of power for the one devoted to keeping peace. The power of peace will even change the condition of the atmosphere and circumstances surrounding that person.

Jesus spoke, "Peace, be still!" to the winds, and a great calm followed His words (Mark 4:39). Releasing the power of His peace can calm the winds of any storm blowing against you as well.

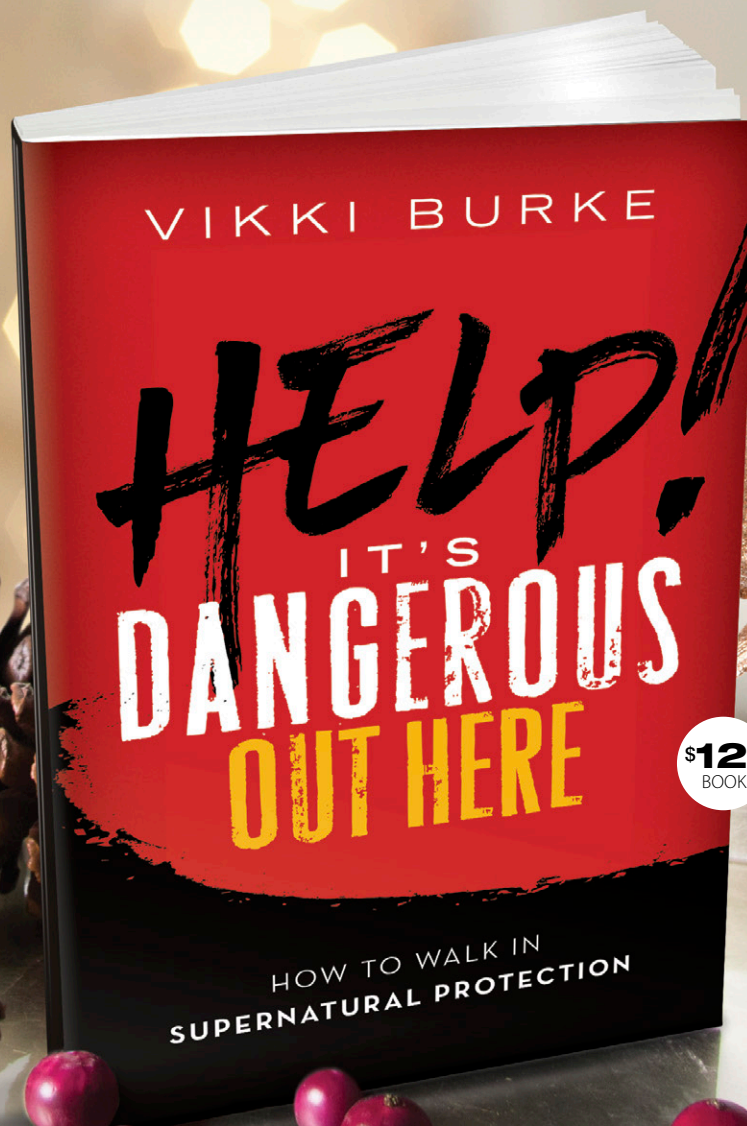
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Centennial, CO 80122 | 303-898-5407

**MT. JULIET, TN | OCT 12-13**

Joy Church International  
10085 Lebanon Road  
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 | 615-773-5252

**UNITED KINGDOM | OCT 26-27**

The Warehouse Church  
23 Mill Parade, Pillgwenlly  
Newport, Wales NP20 2JR | 441633250001

**UNITED KINGDOM | OCT 30-NOV 3**

A God Thing! Conference | Carmel City Church  
817A Bath Road | Brislington, Bristol BS4 5NL  
441179775533

**CANADA | NOV 23-24**

Living Word Christian Centre  
5315-91 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E2 | 780-462-3737

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Genesis Church  
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McKinney, TX 75071 | 972-562-9333

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