

INSIGHTS



GIDEON and the RISE of the MIGHTY

“The mindset and perception of conquering with God-given power was like a distant dream.”

BY DENNIS BURKE

The landscape of life had changed. As happens so many times, the ground gained was not maintained.

The land God gave the Israelites when Joshua led the nation across the Jordan River out of their wilderness and into the land given to their forefathers had been taken back by their enemies.

The Israelites' victorious possessing of the Promised Land





had occurred nearly 200 years before the days of Gideon. Now it was different. There had been a terrible turnaround. The mindset and perception of conquering with God-given power was like a distant dream.

Not only had the entire nation of Israel given up the ground of their land, but the souls of the people had been demoralized and destabilized. All of Israel had let go of the life of living free. Fear of the Canaanite tribes had created a new normal and now defined their lives.

The history of the Israelites' decline is a familiar one. God had chosen them and delivered them from the cruel taskmasters of Egypt, and He wanted their undivided devotion. They were to remove the pagan influences in the land. Instead, they allowed the contaminating effects of indecent beliefs and cultures to divide and pull them away from their divine directives.

Over time, the Israelites' compromises had given way to controlling

influences. Powerful nations around them raided and robbed more and more until the entire nation of past conquerors were confined to living in caves to hide from their new masters.

The lessons from this could not be more current. We are facing a rise of conflict coming from influences and powers that are demonically inspired and bent on robbing each of us of our freedoms. The pressures to demoralize and destabilize us and our nation are very real threats.

The loss of freedom begins in the mind for the believer. We have been given the free gift of rightstanding with God. It was not from anything we did to earn it; our part was simply to believe in what Jesus has done for us. That free gift liberates us in every way. With this freedom in Him, we are expected to also be the influencers and stabilizers of society.

Yet like Israel in Scripture, after our freedom is *obtained*, it must be *maintained*. Second John 1:8 (AMPC) says, "Look to yourselves (take care) that you may not lose (throw

away or destroy) all that we and you have labored for, but that you may [persevere until you] win and receive back a perfect reward [in full]."

Israel had lost its way. The days were dark, and there didn't seem to be any way back to the great days they had known.

Today many people feel that they, too, have lost their way. Yet when times are hard, God is always there with help. He is ready to work and restore anyone at any time. And He always

has a plan.

God came with His plan to a very unlikely man—Gideon. When we are first introduced to Gideon, we find him in hiding, working just to get enough grain to feed his family through the tough times.

Then Gideon heard these words from an angel of the Lord who stood before him: "...The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" (Judges 6:12 NIV).

These were ideas Gideon could not wrap his mind around. It was not possible. *The Lord is with me? Where is the evidence of that? Mighty warrior? I'm the least in my family, and we are the least in our tribe!* Gideon's inner default belief system contradicted every word he had just heard.

This was the crucial

moment for Gideon, and it is also the crucial moment for us. *What are we going to believe?*

Gideon was confronted with two ideas that would stretch him to the max: 1) God is with you; He is for you; and that He is on your side. 2) He sees you in a very different way than you see yourself.

God saw Gideon—and He sees each of us—from the perspective of who we are **IN HIM!**

For Gideon to rise up as God planned, these two pivotal ideas had to be grasped to turn Gideon from a fear-filled trembling nobody into a mighty champion. God is always looking for people who, like Gideon, will push past their own sense of inadequacy and lay hold of what *He* has to say about them in order to accomplish what He wants them to do!

These are the points of power that are vital: Know who God is in you, and know who you are in Him. Our perspective must be changed from fear to faith and from hate to love to be one of His triumphant warriors.

In Christ we are the mighty, conquering, overcoming-every-threat champions He made us to be. We are freed from fear of defeat. We are doubt-destroying, love-lifting, prospering people—all because we choose to believe and see from His perspective and not our own.

Gideon became convinced that God was going to use him to deliver the nation. Gideon had changed. He rose up to a very different place where God



When your mind locks on to these two truths—that God is for you and you are in Him to win—everything changes and everything is possible.



After our freedom is obtained, it must be maintained.



could show Himself strong through His man to defeat the oppressors.

Gideon became so completely convinced of what God had said about him that the day came when he shouted it out for his enemies to hear: "...The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" (Judges 7:18 NKJV). His shout unleashed the might of Heaven that empowered Gideon's greatly outnumbered army to ultimately push back their oppressors and restore God's nation to freedom.

The victory of Gideon and his army

to be more than conquerors, and his demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything!"

First John 5:4 (MSG) confirms: "Every God-begotten person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith."

Like Gideon, we are the mighty in God, rising up in confident faith to stand strong as conquerors over the corruption that is running rampant in the world. We are standing up for freedom, for our nation, for the destruction of the

satanic influences waged against us, and for the conquering power of God's love.

We are rising up in faith, rising up in might, and rising up in love. We will not be stopped, intimidated, nor silenced. We are God's voices to our generation.

So stand up! Stand up in

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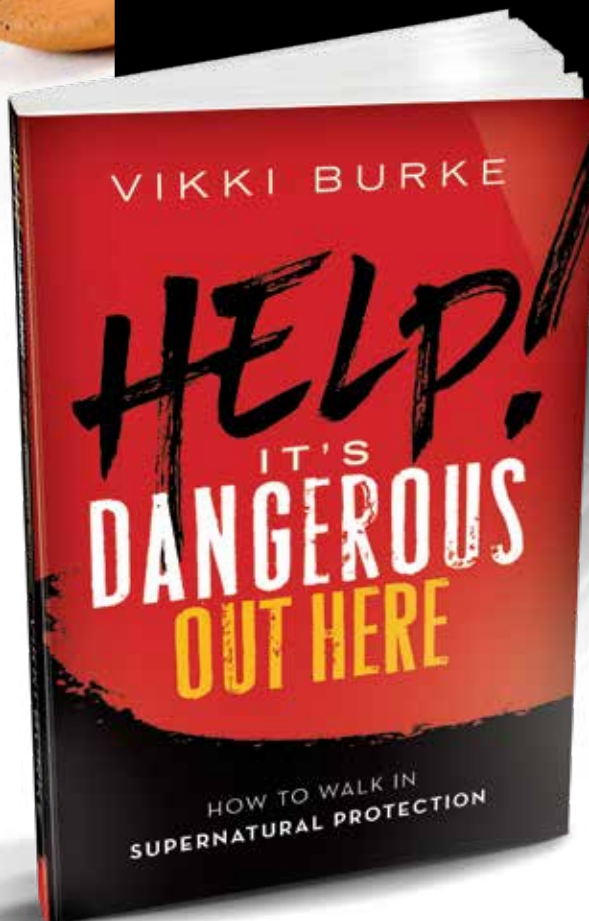
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is so relevant to the hour we live in, for there is a shout rising up within God's nation of believers today! It is a shout of freedom, a shout of victory, a shout of love that overcomes all.

When your mind locks on to these two truths—that God is for you and you are in Him to win—everything changes and everything is possible.

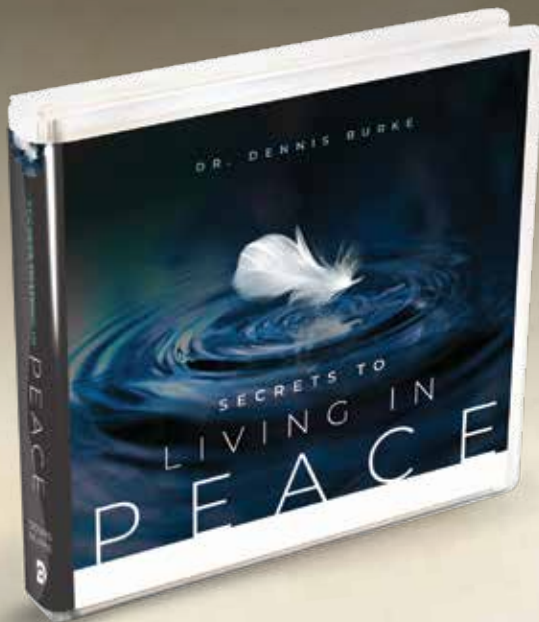
The sword of the Lord, which is the Word of God, releases the power of the Spirit when you declare it in faith (Ephesians 6:17).

Romans 8:37 (TPT) reveals how God sees His people: "Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us



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