

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

The Way to a New Life | JAN / FEB 2016

escape
the box
of religion

a new

AWAKENING

“I found that God didn't reject me while I cleaned up my life.”

by
Dr. Dennis
Burke

a new awakeni

The Jesus Movement of the late 1960s through the early 1970s swept thousands of people into a radical relationship with Jesus. It was during this move of God that Vikki and I both found Jesus and became believers.



Standing in the Place of Grace
by Dr. Dennis Burke

Learn the deeper meaning of receiving God's grace

Become more fully acquainted with the gift of God's grace

Find out how to stir up the grace-gift within

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Falling in
LOVE
with Jesus
remains the
true center
point for our
life in God.



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During this time, there were people coming to know Jesus—from the rebellious young generation to the White House staff—and all were being referred to as “Jesus Freaks.”

As one of the newly saved, once-rebellious, long-haired ex-stoners of the day, I thought that moniker was just because of the way I looked. But I later found that “Jesus Freaks” was used to identify all who had made Jesus the Savior and Lord of their lives.

There were some very powerful components Vikki and I experienced personally that seemed to be common among this new breed of believers. It’s important to look back at this past awakening called “the Jesus Movement” because we are on the verge of a new awakening, which will again move through every strata of society. As two who lived through days of spiritual awakening once, we’re confident a lot of the same thinking will emerge again.



escape the

I use the word “radical” often when I think of the Jesus Movement because it seemed that every aspect of that move of God had escaped the box of religion.

So many of us had a deep hunger for Jesus and were on a quest to know Him. Everything that mattered revolved around Jesus. His love, His way was the cry of our inner man.

“Radical” meant walking away from everything I’d known—and that included many of my friends. This new life meant Jesus was involved in every part of my life and He had a say in all of my decisions. Pursuing my hunger for His life, His love, and His light on my path was the new radical life for me. This was revolutionary for me, and the revolution was on!

He loves me just as I am.

It was very clear that my life, and the lives of so many at the time, had been spiraling out of control. I came to Jesus with psychedelic drugs and the hippie/rock music counter-culture as the backdrop of my personal history. I needed to know Jesus accepted me without being condemned for the way I

looked or the clothes I wore.

During these days of looking for a church to connect with, I found that not many welcomed the prospect of “my kind” attending services. I didn’t fit the normal look of a churchgoer and was clearly not welcome in several of the churches I first visited.

Thankfully, I wasn’t put off by the coolness of so many Christians directed toward me. Even the Christians in my school at the time would have little to do with my kind. None ever talked to me about the love God had for me.

One day I did find a different kind of church. It was on a Saturday while I was passing by their new building. I saw a man kneeling down, planting flowers in the beds, and I introduced myself. “My name is Dennis Burke. Can you tell me about this church?” The man I was speaking to stood up. He suggested that I go with him to get more flowers, and along the way, he’d tell me about the church. I was happy to go.

It turned out that this man was also a deacon in the church. He began to tell me all about the Holy Spirit. I really understood very little of what he said to me that day, but it all sounded amazing. So the following day I showed up at church, where I saw my new friend, who also served as a greeter. He nearly shook my arm off as he welcomed me. I may have been the only “long-hair Jesus freak” there that day, but I knew I’d found a home.

My new friend’s name was Ed Dufresne — a man who would later become a minister of the Gospel himself and take the power of God around the world. Ed helped me make the transition into a new way of living — living by the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit.

I found that God didn’t reject me while I cleaned up my life. Instead, He took me into His love and set me in His family unchanged—and He let me know He loves me without condemning me for anything.

This lets me know something about this new awakening: It will sweep through the worlds of both the “down-and-outers” and the “up-and-outers.” People from all walks of life will begin to crave a real, not a religious, experience with Jesus Christ. The message of God’s love will take on a new, fresh sound that will answer the hollowness of living selfishly, angry or disillusioned by life itself.

He doesn’t want me to stay as I am.

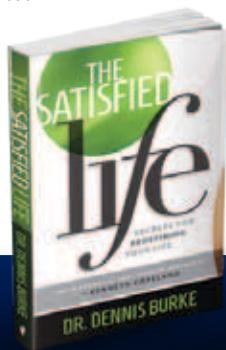
It was also clear to me that I couldn’t continue to learn God’s ways and plans for my life without yielding to His process of real change in my life. I wanted the changes. I didn’t want to continue in the direction I had taken. The drugs and many of the people I had been close to were dangerous, and I knew it. I already had several friends who had died overdosing or who had been killed while making a drug deal. It was a dangerous road I was on, and I knew it.

The idea that God’s grace will

One day I did find a different kind of church. I may have been the only “long-hair Jesus freak” there that day, but I knew I’d found a home.

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*Unless otherwise indicated, scripture references are taken from the *New King James* version.

box of religion

Intimate fellowship with Him is the key to everything else in life — to enjoy being in His presence and to know He is enjoying it as well.

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We will see people from every walk of life and with every kind of vice finding their hope

bring us into a relationship with Him without our having to change to “measure up” is the exact message of the Gospel. But God’s grace also teaches us how to live a new life in Him, free of every destructive thing we have allowed to hinder us in the past.

He is in the business of separating the sinner from the sin. For me, that would mean changing nearly every priority, friendship — and certainly every vice — that I had in my life. But I welcomed the changes and never looked back. The “Jesus life” was exactly what I’d been looking for without knowing it, and it was all I wanted.

Coming into this new awakening, we will see people from every walk of life and with every kind of vice finding their hope and answers for life in Jesus. He will receive every single one and begin His work of restoring them to His original intent for every person. He will show them His love and help them walk away from the bad habits, wrong thinking, and destructive lifestyle that has been stealing from them and taking them down a poisonous path.

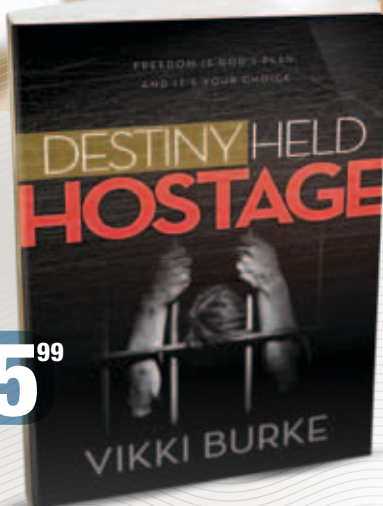
I had a zeal to bring people into their own personal radical experience.

As a young Christian, I knew nothing about the different denominations

within Christianity; I didn’t know much about the Bible; and I certainly didn’t know much about church life. What I did know was that Jesus had changed me inside and out. I knew He loved me and was living in me to show me how much His love would do. I knew I was developing an intimate relationship with Him. I knew that this life was just what I had been looking for. And I knew that what I had experienced was going to help so many others who were looking as I was.

It wasn’t long after I found the church God had led me to that a few other young people started to come. Soon I was not the only “long-haired hippie-type” coming to the church. One day Vikki walked in—and my life would never be the same. We became friends as we found common ground, along with several others, in having been delivered from similar things and in our burning zeal for Jesus. We started meeting for prayer on nights when there were no church services. We looked for others who, like us, wanted Jesus more than anything and were ready to share our newfound life.

Before long, we were looking to share our experience with as many people as possible. We’d go to our familiar hangout at the beach or walk through the crowded shopping mall just for the opportunity to



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share Jesus. Although our knowledge of the Bible was still very limited, God's love in us just couldn't be contained. We had a passion to give others what we'd discovered. We were just grateful to be able to give out to others what God had freely given to us.

I had found what I believed was worth dying for. More importantly, I'd found what was worth living for!

In the days that are now ahead of us, we are going to find people as they have always been: Some will be hungry for what is real, and some will be hostile. Although there is always a risk in offering answers to people regarding their deepest needs, the relevant believer today will be ready and willing to take the risk.

Prayer was more about God than about me.

Often the pursuit for God can get lost in the pursuit of the wonderful things He does. We are created for fellowship with God, and we must know that true fellowship isn't centered around needs and wants but around the joy of being together.

It was this hunger for God's presence that brought my friends together for prayer. We would meet at someone's home or at the church when there wasn't a service, praying and worshipping for hours. We were focused not on

ourselves but on Jesus Himself. We sang and worshiped, calling on Him to fill us afresh with His Spirit. It was more about Jesus than anything.

Falling in love with Jesus remains the true center point for our life in God today. Intimate fellowship with Him is the key to everything else in life—to enjoy being in His presence and to know He is enjoying it as well. As Philippians 3:8 says, "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

There was a deep knowing that His Word was my connection to understanding His ways.

Of all the wonders of my new life in Christ, the most life-sustaining was the realization that God has made a covenant through Jesus with every person who will believe. I learned that He is a covenant-keeping God and that I could learn to trust Him and take Him at His Word. Knowing God's Word became my connection to walking in His will and grasping His ways.

This new awakening will be filled with simple trust in God's Word. People will run to hear His Word proclaimed and taught. They will receive His promises like a child receives with simple trust the word of his mother. Where there has

continued on back

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been a famine of God's Word, the revelation of His Word will flourish. People will restore His Word to its rightful place in their lives.

There are days ahead that will be filled with the power of the presence of God.

When the presence of God fills a place and His Spirit moves on people with power, people know it. Of course, His presence is actually everywhere already. But something different happens when people so honor and worship the Lord that He is able to move through them beyond the limits that distractions and misplaced priorities impose.

God moves where He is wanted—and we demonstrate what we want by what we choose to pursue.

When our little group of "radical" new believers would meet together for spontaneous prayer and worship, the power of His presence would fill the room.

We would be filled with joy—sometimes shouting, other times weeping, but always rejoicing and sensing His presence. The gifts of the Holy Spirit would flow through us, along with words of encouragement. We were part of His Body. His family was building itself up. It was Jude 20 in action: "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, praying in the power of the Holy Spirit."

The more my newly saved friends and I were built up in those times of worship, the more power we knew we had in our lives. We learned that God's family is His powerhouse—the house or dwelling place of His power.

The awakening is upon us and around us! Everywhere people are asking questions and looking for what is real. It's up to us to let people know that there is only one reality — the ultimate reality — Jesus Christ. He is our Way, our Truth, and our Life!



Dennis & Vikki Burke

upcoming meetings

Hattiesburg, MS : January 10-12

Victory Church | 1208 E Hardy St
Hattiesburg, MS 39401 | 601-544-8485

San Antonio, TX : January 17

Omega Church | 3737 Roosevelt
San Antonio, TX 78214 | 210-923-2220

Brooklyn Park, MN : January 23-24

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 763-315-7000

Kahului, HI : February 7-10

Faith Family Fellowship | 420 N Wakea Ave
Kahului, HI 96732 | 808-244-4992

Punta Gorda, FL : February 21-22

New Life Family Worship | 28330 Bermont Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982 | 941-639-1700

Lancaster, CA : February 28-29

Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries | 456 E Ave K4 Suite 7
Lancaster, CA 93535 | 661-972-9072

Winkler, MB : March 6-7

Victory in Christ International Church | 390 1st St S Unit D
Winkler, MB R6W 2R6 Canada | 204-331-4182

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