

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

The Way to a New Life

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

new beginnings

Believe in the Love God has for you

By Dr. Dennis Burke

the fulfillment of God's *Eternal* dream

By Vikki Burke

A woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful floral top, is shown in profile, blowing a dandelion seed head. The background is a soft-focus green field. The word "Believe" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the right side of the image, with the dandelion seed head acting as the letter 'e' at the end of the word.

Believe

There was something very different

about the Apostle John. He was the youngest of all of Jesus' disciples, but a quality lay deep within John that set him apart from all the other disciples. You can see that difference at the Last Supper and again at the foot of the Cross as Jesus hung there agonizing (John 13:23; 19:25, 26). You can even see it after Jesus was raised from the dead (John 20:2-8; 21:7).

In each of these instances, John is referred to as the disciple "whom Jesus loved." Even more revealing is the fact that John is referred to in this way in only one Gospel: the one he wrote himself. John described himself as "the one whom Jesus loved."

You will never love God with all your heart until you have received His love for you.

On the surface that could sound like arrogance, yet it actually points to something very powerful. It points to the revelation John had about himself—that Jesus loved him!

Throughout John's Gospel and the epistles he later wrote are found the Bible's deepest insights into God's love for us, as well as how to live in that divine love. John gives us more truth regarding God's love than any other writer of the New Testament — insight that originated in a deep, abiding knowledge of God's love for him personally.

different from God's love. Natural love is conditional. A person usually has to meet someone's expectations in order to be loved. Then later the recipient of that natural love needs to requalify — and then requalify again. In fact, in order to be loved by some people, a person needs to requalify almost daily!

The New Covenant has freed us from our own limited understanding of love and has revealed love on an entirely new level. Even the Old Testament was limited in



in the LOVE GOD has for you

By Dr. Dennis Burke

agape

It was only during Jesus' ministry that this word became a picture of God's love.

Four times the Apostle John refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. John wasn't saying that he was the only disciple Jesus loved but that he knew he was loved by Jesus. It was a love John had come to believe in without reservation.

This God-kind of love is the Greek word agape — a unique word in the Greek text of the New Testament. Agape is a word that was nearly absent from Greek writing before the time of Jesus. It was only during Jesus' ministry that this word became a picture of God's love.

Of course, the God-kind of love is the highest love that exists. Agape knows no limits or boundaries as to how wide, deep, high, or far it will go to demonstrate its love. Agape will sacrifice itself for the sake of the person so deeply loved. This love has no strings attached. It is not looking for what it can take from a relationship, but rather for what it can give. Agape so values the object loved that nothing will turn it away.

The message of the entire New Covenant centers around this simple fact — God's love for you is unconditional. This means you don't have to try to qualify for His love. You already qualify to receive it! You have no conditions to meet, and there's no pressure on you to measure up. Your Heavenly Father loves you just as you are, and nothing can separate you from His love.

The Apostle Paul said it this way: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Typically, the way people love one another is very

its emphasis on love. The Law given to Moses focused on how people must love God. It pointed to people's obedience to God as the qualifier for receiving His love. On the other hand, the New Covenant provides the revelation of God's love for us — a love that has no limits.

You will never love God with all your heart until you have received His love for you.

First John 4:19 says, "We love Him because He first loved us." Look at the Message translation of this verse: "We, though, are going to love — love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first."

The actual text leaves out the word Him. This difference is slight, yet the rich meaning deepens: We love because God first loved us. Our ability to love without requiring people to first qualify for our love comes only by receiving the love God has for us.

In First John 4:16-19, John, the Apostle of Love, sheds light on how we can grow up in our own walk with God by receiving His love.

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us."

Your choice to abide or to stay in God's love fills you with confidence, boldness, and a fearlessness that can come no other way. You find a new depth of inner strength to face and to beat all opposition, because now you have the supernatural power that agape love generates.



The power of the God-kind of love surges through you and flushes out fear. You need not fear failure, people, or disease — first, because you are loved, and, second, because you are empowered by His love.

Can you see yourself standing tall in the face of Satan's threats? You will when you believe there is nothing that will separate you from God's love and the resources of His Kingdom. It is your Heavenly Father's delight to give you His Kingdom (Luke 12:32).

Always remember — the focus of the New Testament is not on your love for God as much as it is on your coming to know the love He has for you. His love in you will drive out fear and every fear-fed issue in your life.

Consider the various things in life that are driven and fed by fear:

Anger can be rooted in a person's fear that he won't get his way without intimidation.

Procrastination is rooted in the fear of not doing something well.

Shyness is based in a fear of people.

The need to try to control people is rooted in fear and insecurity.

Hoarding comes from a fear of lack.

Doubt originates in a person's fear that God's Word is not going to work for him.

These are some of the issues that will change when you receive a deep revelation regarding the truth that you are one whom God loves. Believing the love God has for you liberates you from the need to force your way through a situation. God can take care of the issues you have strained to control. He will flush out the destructive work fear has wrought in your soul to keep you tied up in your emotions. Then He will show you how to live freely from your heart — where His love reigns.

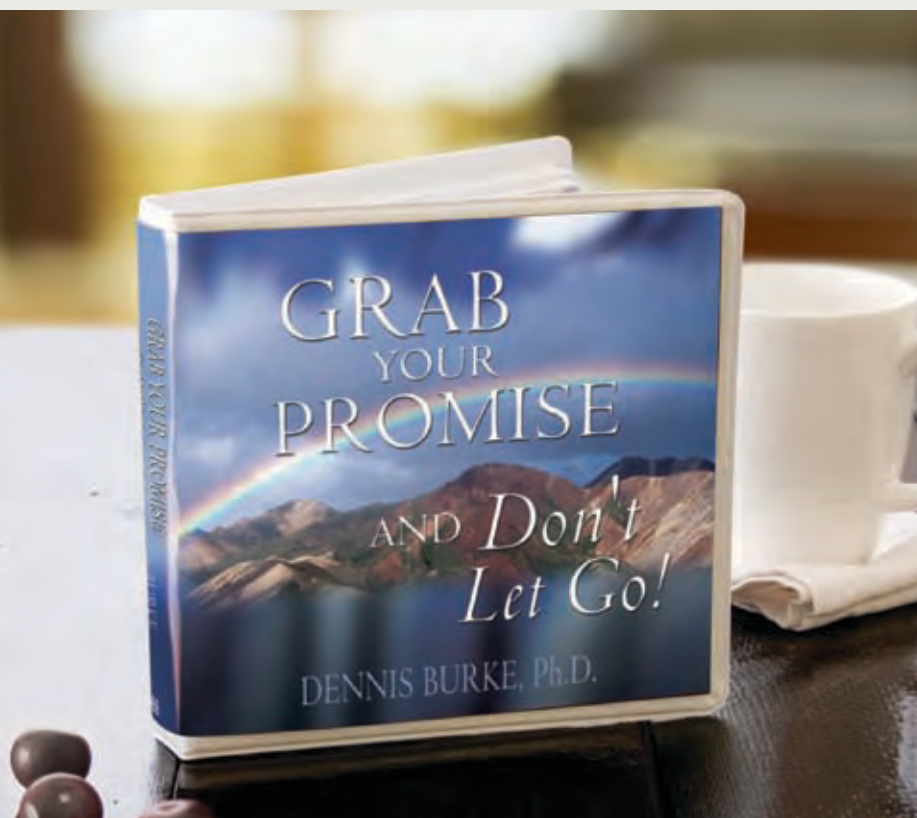
Looking back to where it all started in the Garden of Eden, you can see that as a result of sin, Adam's first response was to fear. God's answer to that fear was love, as manifested through the last Adam, Jesus. God's grace in sending His Son to redeem you is a revelation of His love. He has surrounded you with His love and grace, which has the power to overcome sin and all that sin has done to destroy mankind over the centuries.

Psalm 5:12 (*NLT*) says, "For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love." The Good News Translation says it this way: "You bless those who obey you, Lord; your love protects them like a shield."

When you believe the love God has for you, the shield is up and you are surrounded with love and protection. Declare it boldly: "You, Lord, have surrounded me with the shield of Your love!"

The Apostle John believed the love God had for him. John died as an old man — the only original apostle of Jesus to live out his life. Whereas all the other eleven apostles of Jesus were martyred, John was exiled to a life of hard labor on the Isle of Patmos. There he wrote the Book of Revelation. Later he was released from Patmos and lived out his life in Ephesus. The Bishop of the Church of Ephesus in 190 AD writes of the Apostle John, who "fell asleep at Ephesus."

This great Apostle of Love found the simple and sustaining discovery of living life as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." You can discover the same life-changing truth. Determine to grow up in the knowledge of the God-kind of love. Allow your spiritual foundation to be built on the same truth this old apostle discovered back when he was a young disciple of the Messiah — that you, too, are a disciple whom Jesus loves.



Do you wonder why some people seem to receive more from God than others? That's an important question to answer for yourself, for God has given you the responsibility to prepare to receive His benefits. In this series,

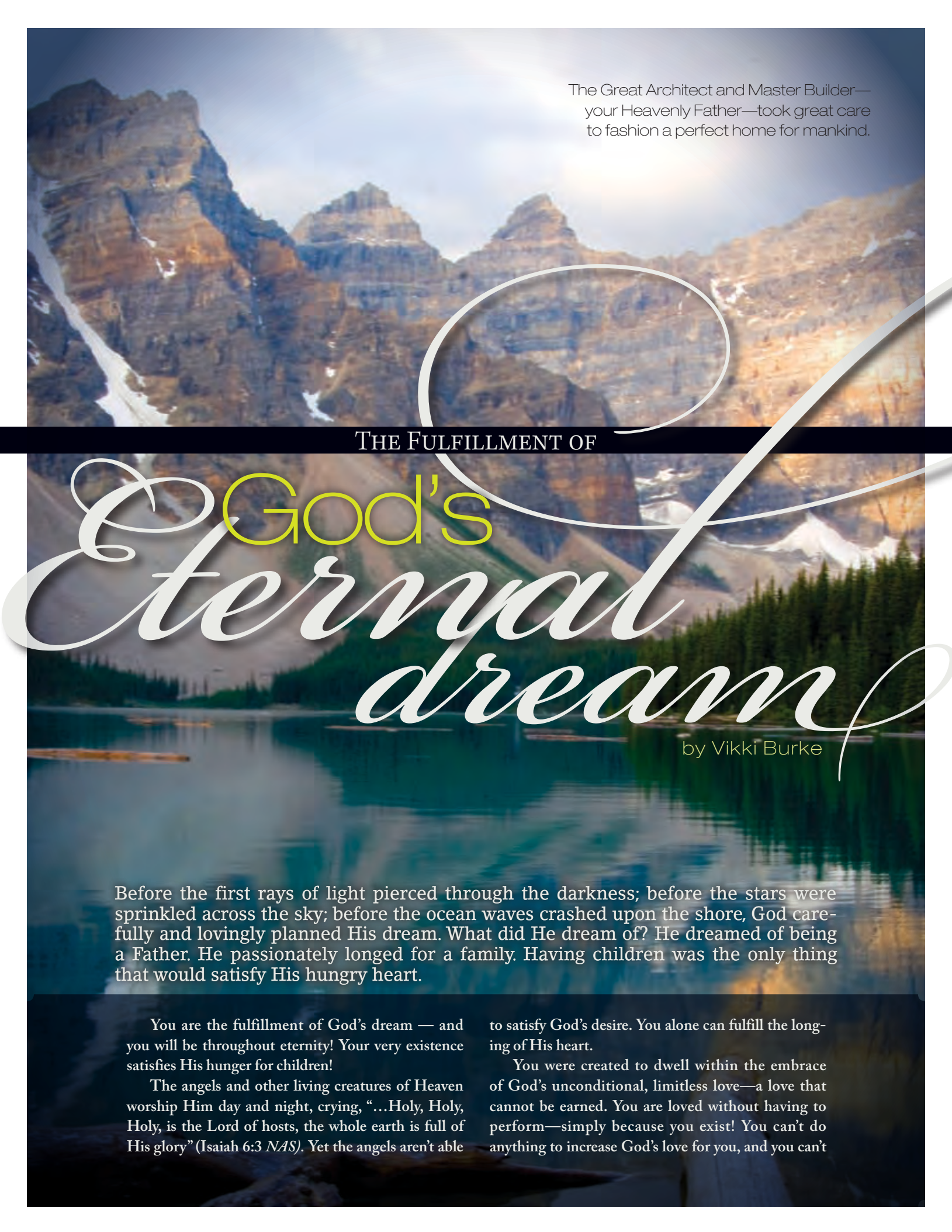
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The Great Architect and Master Builder—
your Heavenly Father—took great care
to fashion a perfect home for mankind.

THE FULFILLMENT OF

God's
*Eternal
dream*

by Vikki Burke

Before the first rays of light pierced through the darkness; before the stars were sprinkled across the sky; before the ocean waves crashed upon the shore, God carefully and lovingly planned His dream. What did He dream of? He dreamed of being a Father. He passionately longed for a family. Having children was the only thing that would satisfy His hungry heart.

You are the fulfillment of God's dream — and you will be throughout eternity! Your very existence satisfies His hunger for children!

The angels and other living creatures of Heaven worship Him day and night, crying, "...Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3 *NAS*). Yet the angels aren't able

to satisfy God's desire. You alone can fulfill the longing of His heart.

You were created to dwell within the embrace of God's unconditional, limitless love—a love that cannot be earned. You are loved without having to perform—simply because you exist! You can't do anything to increase God's love for you, and you can't

do anything to stop it. You are the object of His love, whether you like it or not. That's what makes you so significant and valuable! There is nothing you can claim to have done to cause God to love you.

You are loved because you exist!

You are loved because you are God's dream come true!

You were created to have an unbroken love relationship with the Creator of Heaven and earth, to live and abide in His limitless love with every need met—nothing lacking, nothing missing.

Although God passionately yearned for a family, He didn't act impulsively from emotion like many humans do when they want children. Instead, His intense desire motivated Him to meticulously design a home for His children while they were yet unborn. And what a magnificent home He designed!

Oh, sure, God could have thrown together a makeshift home of rock or sand, and man would never have known the difference. But instead, He filled the earth with beauty and resources that would delight its inhabitants and serve them for as long as they

remained on earth.

Your Heavenly Father designed the earth with majestic mountains, with luscious green valleys, and with mighty rivers and rippling streams that flow freely throughout the earth. He painted the prairies with wildflowers, bursting with vibrant color and sweet perfume. God filled the forests with birds whose beauty and song fill our senses with delight. He filled the seas to overflowing with fish of every size, shape, and color.

All of this was created to bring pleasure and enjoyment to the family the Father loved—a family yet to be created!

Each year Dennis and I take a cross-country motorcycle trip with several of our friends. We have ridden through the Rocky Mountains, the Smokey Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Glacier National Park. With each trip, we find ourselves awe-stricken with the beauty of the mountains, rivers, trees, flowers, and wildlife. It is awe-inspiring to realize that God made all these natural wonders so we would receive pleasure—and we do that as often as possible!

The Great Architect and Master Builder—your Heavenly Father—took great care to fashion a perfect home for mankind. He planned and calculated this earthly home with great precision and accuracy—measuring, calculating, and weighing the hills and mountains so they'd remain in perfect balance, no matter how many holes man dug, how many mountains he blew up, or how much dirt he moved from one place to another!

Isaiah 40:12 gives us a glimpse of how this happened:

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance, and the hills in a pair of scales?”

Not only did God design a beautiful home in which His family could find pleasure, but He also filled it with every resource that mankind would ever need during their time on this earth. The Earth contains silver, gold, iron, copper, and every type of metal. It contains chemicals and every natural compound required to meet every human need. Year after year, the earth produces an abundance of grain, fruit, and vegetables that supports its ever-growing population. What's more, every plant and tree has an inborn ability to perpetuate itself with the seed it carries.

No, the Earth didn't come into existence as a result of a “Big Bang”! Nor did God flippantly throw a home together in which mankind could merely exist. Instead, He beautifully adorned and

When God gives you a dream, He also provides the path to its fulfillment. Many things in life might try to distract you from pursuing that dream. But no matter what obstacles have hindered your progress in the past, your dream will come to pass as long as you fix your eyes on Jesus and refuse to let the dream die.

In this powerful message, Dennis Burke takes you on a scriptural journey through the life of Joseph with one purpose in mind: to inspire you to hold fast at all costs to the dreams God has placed in your heart. Your part is to be faith-

ful and to focus on the goal He has set before you. God's part is to guide you through every storm and around every obstacle until at last you can declare with joy, “All that God has promised me has come to pass!”



Keep Your Dream Alive | By Dr. Dennis Burke | DVD | \$15 | DVD103

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Without question, you hold a most valuable and significant place in the heart of God.

lavishly furnished the earth for a very special purpose: to bless you and me!

Love compelled God your Father to design a perfect home for His future family, of which you are now a member. He designed a home where you could live without a need or a care—a home where you could walk and talk with Him daily. That’s how much you mean to Him! Without question, you hold a most valuable and significant place in the heart of God.

Gold, silver, or diamonds don’t delight God. Those treasures exist only for His children’s use and pleasure. He isn’t interested in foliage and vegetation except that they please and nourish mankind. Fish, birds, cattle, sheep, and exotic wildlife can’t begin to give Him a thrill the way a relationship with His children does!

God’s family is His greatest interest and aspiration. In fact, it’s only because of His intense love for His family that anything in the universe or on earth exists. Creation is meaningless without God’s children, and that includes you. You are His greatest priority.

Even while you were uninterested in a relationship with God—perhaps even while you had an attitude that held your fist in His face, accusing and cursing Him—His love for you was so strong that He overlooked your hostility and indifference. His love burned so intensely toward you that His Son, Jesus Christ, stood in your place to take the blame for your disobedience and defiance. Jesus paid the price that enables you to sit with Him in heavenly places today as a conqueror over death!

Love is the motivation behind everything God has done and ever will do for you.

Will you respond to the Father God’s invitation to meaning and significance in life—to a life with a sense of purpose and destiny? Will you allow the restless longing for acceptance to be at peace once and for all? Nothing else can fill the longing of your heart except God. Money can’t fulfill it. Fame will leave you lonesome and isolated. Power only brings a false sense of significance. Nothing will fill the cry of a human heart for significance and purpose except resting in God’s unconditional love.

Love created you.

Love developed an indestructible plan that would bring you into a permanent relationship with Him.

Love took responsibility for your transgression.

Love made you alive with Christ.

Love died for you and paid the debt that was against you.

Love seated you with Him in heavenly places.

Love Himself longs to have a deep, personal friendship with you; to walk with you and talk with you daily; to teach you to rule and reign with Him over all circumstances in life.

continued on back

testimonials

“We have been partners with your ministry for about a year. Our finances, especially toward the end of last year, have greatly increased and we know they will continue to increase as we continue our partnership with you.”
—W. and L. Cambra | Maui, HI

“You visited our church and prayed that God would give our six year old daughter two brand new kidneys. That following

Monday, a visit to the doctor revealed just that! We just want you to know that we really appreciate your ministry and have been partners with you for sometime now.”
—L. and E. Lupercio | Visalia, CA

“We are thankful for so much! Staying connected to your ministry has been vital to us. We have truly seen the benefits of partnership with you.”
—S. and L. Riebsomer | La Quinta, CA

Upcoming Meetings

January 6-8

River of Life | Chattanooga, TN | (706) 891-2120

January 13

Eastside Faith Center
Wichita Falls, TX | (940) 761-2399

January 15-17

KCM Minister’s Conference
Eagle Mountain International Church
Newark, TX | (817) 252-2900

January 20

Omega Church | San Antonio, TX | (210) 923-2220

January 26-29

Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries
Lancaster, CA | (661) 945-3822

January 30-31

Firebaugh Faith Fellowship | Firebaugh, CA | (559) 659-2571

February 3

New Life Fellowship | Caddo Mills, TX | (903) 527-3099

February 9-18

ICFM National Convention | Thailand | (559) 292-7721

February 29-March 5

Faith Family Fellowship | Maui, HI | (808) 244-4992



don't limit your dreams

There have always been men and women who refused to allow the restrictions of their surroundings to limit their dreams. These were people who stood head and shoulders above others stretching themselves and their faith to see God's plan come to pass.

Dreams are the God-given desires of your heart in seed form. God gave Joseph a dream, but he was no dreamer — at least not the kind more people think about.

Joseph didn't merely fantasize about the future, he believed the dream, he embraced his dream, he ran toward his dream, he refused to let go of his dream, and ultimately he lived his dream. He possessed the rare ingredients it takes to obtain remarkable results.

Joseph refused to compromise, but remained faithful to the dream God had given him. He would not let lies, hatred, abuse, and jealousy, turn him into a cynic. He kept his focus on the God he served and the dream in his heart.



Today, you have in your heart hopes and dreams — many of them are truly God-given. He expects you to unwrap them, nurture and feed them, believe and receive them. He has a beautiful course laid before each person waiting to be discovered.

Dreams Really Do Come True | By Dr. Dennis Burke | Book | \$7⁹⁹ | B16

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Significance and worth come from knowing you are loved and accepted by your Father and Creator. You don't have to prove anything to Him.

Here's His invitation to you:

“Come into fellowship with me if you are tired and burdened, and I will refresh and release you. Take the burden of responsibility I give you and thereby discover your life and your destiny. I am gentle and humble; I am willing to relate to you and to permit you to learn at your own rate; then, in fellowship with me, you will discover the meaning of your life. My fellowship will release you, and my companionship will direct you on your journey” (Matthew 11:29, 30 *BCJ*).

Your hunger for unconditional love and acceptance has been filled. Your heart's cry for Love's embrace has been answered. All that your heart desires resides within one realization: that you are the fulfillment of your Heavenly Father's dream.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures come from the *New Living Translation* of the Bible.

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