



DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

JULY / AUGUST 2014

The Way to a New Life

the laws of

G R A C E

P O W E R
T O L I V E
F R E E

— What's holding you back from the victory you're longing for?



the laws of

GRACE

POWER TO LIVE FREE

FREEDOM MUST COME FIRST; THEN

the power
IS PRESENT TO LIVE SIN-FREE.

by Dr. Dennis Burke

Every truly rich relationship between two people is based on important and meaningful qualities, such as honesty and the desire to know one another's interests and hopes. A person can never really feel trusted or appreciated when he or she encounters only expectations, obligations, and performance evaluations.

Our relationship with God is based on the same core qualities, for we know He has focused His promises on our interests, hopes, and needs. He has given us the capacity to enjoy this rich life in Him based on the grace and righteousness Jesus has provided for every person through His death and resurrection.

God has established a covenant relationship with us that guarantees we qualify for everything He wants to bring into our lives. He has taken the laws of His Kingdom and literally written them in our hearts.

In Jeremiah 31:33-34, God announced that this new covenant would create a very different relationship with His people. He also declared that the time was coming when He would no longer relate to mankind only according to the Law and the Covenant He had given through Moses:

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them



to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

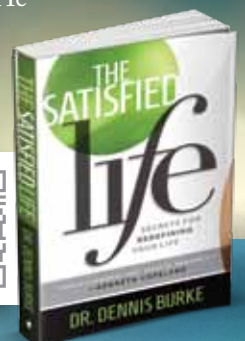
God was paving the way to create a new dwelling for Himself inside His people. The moral and religious laws that were guiding and teaching God's people revealed how to live in total freedom from sin's power; however, they provided no power to live up to all they commanded.

Galatians 3:24-25 describes that Law as our teacher: “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

Those laws were governors and rules to live by, and they continue to be valid for people to this day. The entire world knows these commands and has them as the foundation and standard of civilized living.

But God's intentions for man was so much more than to merely provide rules and standards to live by. He wanted to be at the center of every person's life. He wanted to reveal to each person the rich relationship He could provide.

“...WELL-MEANING PEOPLE DECIDE THEY CAN HANDLE THE TEMPTATION AND ACTUALLY END UP PUTTING CONFIDENCE IN THE WRONG THING.”





So what are the laws God writes on our hearts if they are not regulations? To answer that, we should first look at the place those regulatory laws have under the New Covenant.

The Apostle Paul wrote of the Law given to Moses to the Corinthian church, describing it with some surprising words in Second Corinthians 3:7-9. He stated that the Law written and engraved in stone was *the ministry of death and of condemnation*. Paul's point was this: The law revealed sin, which resulted in condemnation and, ultimately, in death. This is what Jesus has redeemed us from—sin, condemnation, and death.

What is also certain is that these

are *not* the laws God has written in our hearts. He is not writing laws within us that will bring condemnation and death. The Gospel has come to *free* us from sin, condemnation and death—from *every* work of the devil.

I am convinced that a sense of condemnation keeps most believers from receiving God's promises and victories. Those who live with guilt over their past failures and sins won't have what it takes to stand in the face of the devil's attacks. They won't have the strength to stand up to the weakness of their flesh.

The truth is, Christians who feel condemned about past sins haven't really embraced the sacrifice Jesus has made for them. When Jesus offered His own body as a sacrifice for sin, He was condemned on the Cross and took on Himself the punishment and spiritual separation from God for the sins of humanity. Now God's eyes of justice don't see one trace of sin in the life of the believer. He has said He will remember our sins no more. His sacrifice has cleansed us once and for all.

All those who have received Jesus yet who still live under condemnation for sins are being robbed of the freedom Jesus has provided for them. There is nothing further He can do for those who remain in a state of condemnation.

How do feelings of condemnation come to us? Why do we find ourselves faced with those feelings again and again? There is a destructive cycle well-

meaning people get stuck in that keeps them weak and prevents them from breaking free. It begins with temptation. Everyone faces temptation. But these well-meaning people decide they can handle the temptation and actually end up putting confidence in the wrong thing. Instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to resist and conquer the temptation, they put their confidence in their own ability—in the flesh.

But there is no power in our flesh to overcome the strategies Satan devises against us. This confidence in their own strength fails these people, and they end up yielding to the temptation to sin, which then brings condemnation and shame. Their shame and weakness keep them vulnerable to future temptations, and the cycle begins all over again.

Instead of having confidence in ourselves, we are told to flee from temptations. We are not to "handle" them—we are to *flee* from them. And as we flee, there is grace and strength to remain free from that sin and the condemnation that always follows.

When the woman was caught in adultery and brought to Jesus, He didn't condemn her for her adultery. He told her to go and sin no more (John 8:11)! She was freed from the sin and the condemnation. People in churches often have this backwards. People have been made to feel that they are to sin no more, and if they do this, they will be free from condemnation. The freedom must come first; then the power is present to live sin-free.

The New Covenant laws of grace are now present and written upon our hearts, given to us to produce a life of intimate relationship and fellowship with God. As we continue this study, we will see that these New Covenant laws are much more than rules of conduct—they are the spiritual systems of faith, life, liberty, and love that God has provided so we can live "above the common," extraordinary lives in Him!

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures are taken from the New King James Version.



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THE VERDICT IS IN:

Not guilty!



“I’ve done so many wrong things,” the woman sobbed. “I’ve even stolen money.

by Vikki Burke

I’ve made so many bad decisions throughout my life. I’m such a bad person. How can God ever forgive me?” What made this woman so shameful and guilt-ridden? What was it that paralyzed her progress in God? It’s a condition more dangerous than a dreaded disease. It’s a constant, nagging awareness of past sins and failures that are deeply imbedded within the consciousness.





Sin consciousness will destroy your faith and confidence in God. You may believe that God will keep His promises—just not for you.

Through an awareness of wrongdoing, the devil can warp Christians' minds with unbelief. He nags them about their shameful past and horrible thoughts. He reminds them about all the terrible things they've done—even if the past was only yesterday.

The woman in this story was deeply religious. She had believed in God all her life. That was never a question. But God's forgiveness and goodness was not real to her. The bad decisions and secret sins that she harbored had been haunting her for a long time—until she concluded that God could never do anything good for her. Her last days were filled with hoping for forgiveness—but never confident that she'd received it.

Sure, this woman read her Bible, listened to the Word daily on CD, and confessed healing scriptures. But there was a constant mental awareness that she would never receive the peace and healing she so desperately desired.

Here is the key that many people in this situation miss: They're not saturating themselves in the Word of

God to *get* God to heal them; *healing already belongs to them.*

Saturating yourself in the Word fills your heart with the truth and fights off unbelief — and unbelief is the number-one reason people don't receive the manifestation of their healing.

Do you remember when a man came to Jesus and asked him to heal his son of seizures? The man told Jesus that he'd taken his son to the disciples, but they were unable to help him. Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it left the boy. Later when his disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't cast out the demon, Jesus answered them saying, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."¹

Unbelief is simply getting your eyes off God's Word and onto the symptoms,

“...unbelief is the number-one reason people don't receive the manifestation of their healing.”

the diagnosis, and the fear. You have to saturate yourself in the Word of God to get so full of the truth that *nothing* can convince you anything else is true!

The Bible says that when God promised Abram he would be the father of many nations, Abram "...did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised, He was also able to perform."²

When a person begins to waver and doubt what God has promised, James says that person is being *double-minded*.³

¹Matthew 17:20–21 NKJV | ²Romans 4:20–21 NKJV | ³James 1:8 | ⁴Romans 8:11 | ⁵Philippians 3:3 Ben Campbell Johnson

»» testimonies

DEAR VIKKI,

I just started reading your *Insights* May-June Newsletter and when I read the first page regarding Vikki's new book *Destiny Held Hostage*, my spirit jumped because the timing was perfect. My husband received a hurtful comment from one of our sisters in Christ after a Bible study and I have been trying to say just the right thing to bring him out of it but nothing has worked...until I read him this first page, beginning with the statement, 'Don't let anyone steal your Destiny...'

His face lit up like a Christmas tree and he said to me, 'We have to order that book.' He remembers so well how I was during and after I read, *Some Days You Dance*. I could not put the book down. That book helped me forgive my mother and several other things that I have been carrying around all these years that are too long to go into. It literally CHANGED MY LIFE and set me free!"

DEBORAH & RANDY ADAMS

Members of Oasis of Faith Christian Center, Hesperia, CA

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Double-mindedness is very dangerous. James goes on to say that such a person cannot think he will receive anything from

God because he is unstable in all his ways.

The woman mentioned earlier, like so many other Christians, needed a revelation of what had transpired when she made Jesus the Lord of her life: The very life-force of God was born within her as she received the nature of God. The nature that had dwelt in her being—the nature of the devil—was removed, and God’s nature moved in.

Because that transformation isn’t felt or seen physically, many people doubt that something that powerful actually took place inside of them when they were born again. But the truth is, the very same dynamic power that raised Jesus from the dead has inwardly transformed each believer.

The Apostle Paul says, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give

life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”²⁴ God’s dynamic power re-created your dead spirit and made it alive in the same way that His power raised Jesus from the dead!

Your human intellect cannot grasp this transformation as a reality. No, you have to receive this spiritual awakening by faith and begin to renew your mind to what God has said about you! If you don’t, you will continue to be haunted by your past.

Of course, this transformation takes place in everyone who is born again, but not everyone lives in the reality or fullness of it. Like the women in this article, many Christians never progress beyond their own performance to accept God’s free gift of righteousness.

Paul said after we receive Christ, “We no longer depend on our performance to achieve a relationship with God.”²⁵ What does it mean to be made righteous in God, anyway? It means we have been made right in God’s sight—He doesn’t hold us hostage to our past. We are free

continued on back »

upcoming meetings

dennis & vikki burke



July 20
Praise Center Church
420 W Murray Ave
Visalia, CA 93291
559-733-2744

July 27
Faith Church | 4080 South Danville Bypass
Danville, KY 40422 | 859-236-4995

August 8-10
Abundant Life Worship Center | 6070 Hobbs Rd
Salisbury, MD 21804 | 410-749-8834

August 17
Jasper Christian Center | 12696 Hwy 78 East
Jasper, Alabama 35501 | 205-221-1747

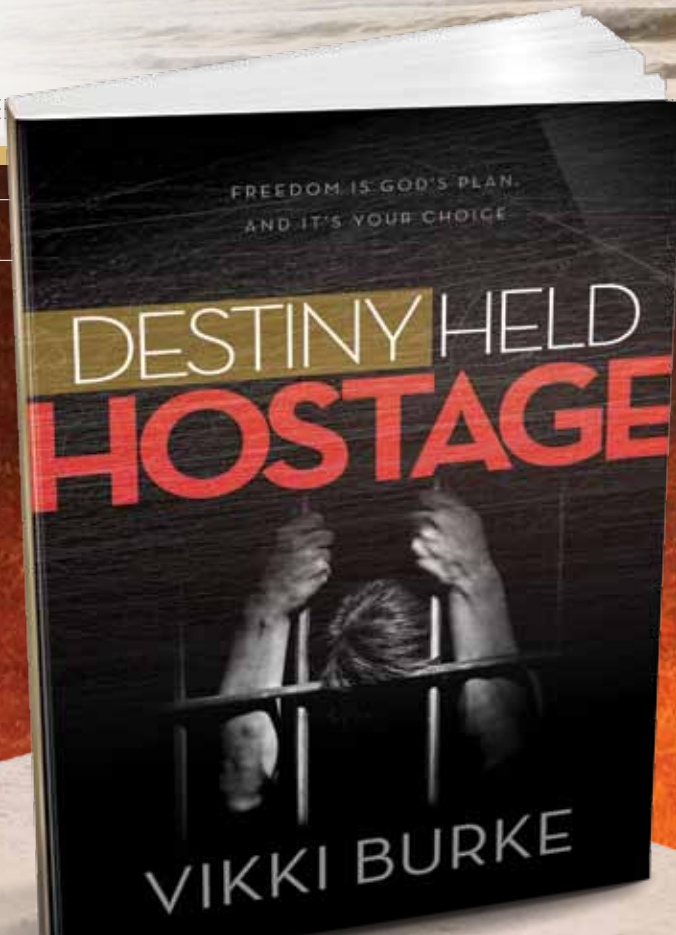
August 24
Word of Life Christian Center | 3100 19th St NW
Rochester, MN 55903 | 507-271-2328

September 13
Kern Christian Center
4701 Gosford Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93313
661-664-1000

VIKKI
(LADIES MEETING)

September 14
Kern Christian Center | 4701 Gosford Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93313 | 661-664-1000

September 28-29
Capital City Church | 1123 Old Montreal Rd.
Ottawa, ON K4A 3N6 Canada | 613-833-1700



RECLAIM YOUR DESTINY!

Christians everywhere have been blindsided by betrayal at some point in their lives. Worst case scenario? They lose their way completely, fail to get back on track, and wind up falling permanently short of their God-ordained destiny. If you’re a member of the walking wounded, it’s time to let go of the hurt, grab hold of your destiny.

In order to come out on the other side victorious with your destiny intact, you need to know the tricks of the enemy and learn how to outsmart the devil at his own game.

With the knowledge you’ll gain in this book, you’ll finally be able to silence the offense in your life and use your voice to declare His Word, confident that God will repay you whatever the devil has stolen!



continued from pg. 7

from guilt, shame, and condemnation—free to live at peace in this life.

A revelation of righteousness is the most important subject in the Bible because without this revelation, you will not believe that what God has done, He has done for *you*. You may believe He forgives, heals, restores, and blesses—you just won't believe that you are good enough to qualify for those gifts. Thoughts like these will keep you imprisoned to a life of performance.

Because your shortcomings are so familiar to you, it can seem like God hasn't overlooked them. But that's just it! He doesn't overlook them—He *obliterates* them! That's what happened when Jesus bore your sins and carried your disease. He paid the penalty for your sin—even though He was not responsible for it. And because He paid for your sin, you don't have to.

When this becomes a heartfelt revelation, the guilt and condemnation attached to your shortcomings melts away and you begin to see yourself as God sees you: *Forgiven. Accepted. Beloved. Healed. Blessed.*

The accusing, harassing voice of guilt and condemnation can destroy the blessed life God intends you to live. But His Word supplies your answer! “Now there is no accusing voice nagging those who are united to Jesus Christ, that is, those whose lives are directed by the Spirit rather than by old attitudes and patterns.”⁶

Once you lay hold of the reality of becoming a new creature in Christ, the awareness of your shortcomings and sin will no longer hold you in a prison. The familiarity of your past will fade into a distant memory that is replaced by what God has done for you through Jesus. You will no longer suffer from the debilitating effect of your past. The carefree existence God promises you will cease to elude you. Your past will cease to exist.

It's much like what happens in our judicial system. If a jury gives a verdict of “*not guilty*” to a person accused of a crime, all evidence attached to that crime is expunged from his record. To “expunge” means *to strike or blot out; to erase; to obliterate, to efface; to wipe out or destroy*. The crime once charged against this person will no longer exist. He is free to walk out the court room and forget he was ever accused.

The same is true for the Christian. The past failures and shortcomings have been expunged—*struck or blotted out, erased, obliterated, wiped out, and destroyed*. They no longer exist except in the minds of those who will not accept the verdict: *Not guilty!*

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This is what Christ has done for you: “When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's Cross.”⁷

Now if you fall short in any way, you can confess it to God and receive forgiveness according to First John 1:9: “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” Once you have been forgiven, you are made clean once again. Unlike many religions claim, there is no penance due; thus, there is never a need for a breach in your relationship with God. You are free to live a life of acceptance with Him. Nothing you do can change God's love for you, because your relationship with Him isn't based on your performance!

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