

Insights

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

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The Way to a New Life



Vikki Burke

Say what God
says about

your family,
your future
& your life.

Put on a new you

Let God's grace
transform your
thinking!

Replacing Toxic Thinking

with God's
pure grace

Our emotions are amazing — God-given and designed to bring us a great deal of pleasure. But we all know that although they can be our best friend, our emotions can also become an enemy that betrays. They are our connectors to deep joy or immense sadness, as well as a full range of ups or downs. Our emotions are our feelings, which result from what we hear, see, touch, and reason.

It makes a difference how we feel about things, because our feelings can be comforted and they can be hurt. In either case, it is so important for us to learn



how to keep ourselves in a frame of mind in which our emotions serve us rather than lead us.

Are we being led by our emotions, or are we following our heart? Are we guarding our heart from being violated as Scripture instructs us, or are we hardening our heart as a reaction to being hurt, which the Bible warns us about?

How many people have been hurt in life, only to become hardened and cynical? They may even justify their cynicism by pointing to a myriad of past events that hurt them. Sadly for them, they have continued to be controlled by those past events without realizing it.

Research has shown that the way we think will bring physical reactions and even physical changes. Of course, we know that a sudden scare will bring a flood of adrenalin and a jump in heart rate. We are familiar with many different physical responses to a thought or emotion.

The wrong kind of thinking can actually rewire a person's brain. Toxic thinking will bring long-term problems and has been linked to mental diseases.



But it actually goes much further than we may have realized. The wrong kind of thinking — such as holding on to thoughts and failing to forgive someone from past hurts or offenses — can actually rewire a person's brain. Toxic thinking will bring long-term problems and has been linked to mental diseases.

God's Word gives us the answer and the means to replace this toxic thinking. When we realize that He has made a deposit in our inner man, we can find all we need to begin to turn around our emotions and our old patterns of thinking.

Notice what James 1:21 instructs the believer to do: "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

The Word planted within at the new birth is the means for the re-creation of the new believer. Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us that old things are passed away and all things have become new.

Yet many of us still experience the old emotions and ways of thinking that continue to rise up and try to control our lives. What is the problem? It comes down to an understanding of how we are made.

As a triune being, God made us in His likeness and image. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In His likeness, we are spirit, soul and body. At the new birth, the spirit comes alive and a person is truly reborn — now born of the spirit.

At that point, Heaven becomes real, and the promise of Heaven eternally is the reality.

But James 1:21 says that the Word is able to save your soul. The soul—which includes the mind, will, intellect, and emotions—is not automatically changed or "saved." Our thoughts and feelings are changed through the process of receiving the Word in our hearts and allowing the power of His truth to transform us from the inside out.

Romans 12:2 (*Phillips*) is very clear about this:

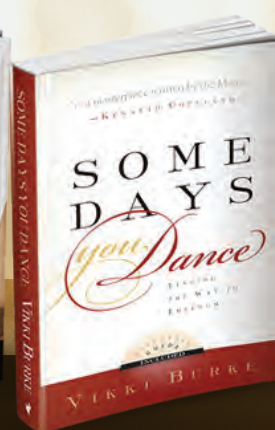
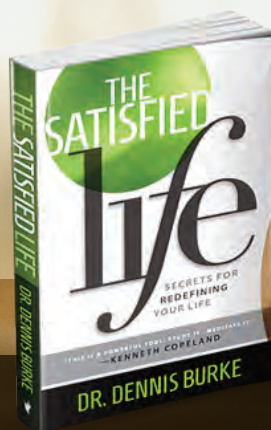
"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity."

God is remolding our thinking from the inside. We can break the mold that keeps us squeezed into the limits with which sin and the world have imprisoned us.

His Pure Grace Means Your Struggle Is Over

Romans 12:3 (*Message*) adds to this: "Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him."

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Some Days You Dance
by Vikki Burke
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Follow your spirit

Living in His pure grace, we now understand ourselves by who He is in us and the work He is doing in us to conform us to His image. The power to change toxic thoughts and feelings comes from the strength His grace provides to walk in His love and life even in the face of hurtful or troubled situations.

The struggle is over when we can lean on the grace within us. His pure grace empowers us to replace toxic fears, grudges, and memories with a

steadfast love that believes He will turn things around.

Pure Grace Is Not Cheap Grace

Having received the grace that changes us from within, we are provided with all we really need to bring those changes into the way we live. We receive His grace while everything is wrong in our lives. But the renewing of our minds is the process that causes all that has been wrong to turn into God's right way of living.

In John 8, we find the account of a woman caught in adultery being brought to Jesus. The law required that this woman be stoned to death for her sin. Yet Jesus did not condemn her but instead told those who did: "Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone." The accusers slipped away one by one until only Jesus remained. He then said: "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (vv.10–11).

Here is a very powerful truth: We are not condemned but are free to go and sin no more. We are free to live free. We haven't been given freedom to keep living in the same weaknesses and fears. We are free to live above all of the life-robbing ways of the past! This is what pure grace does.

Cheap grace doesn't move us into true freedom. It says we are not condemned, but it doesn't reveal the real power that results from it. Real grace—pure grace—is empowering and liberating.

Isaiah 40:2 declares of Israel that "... her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." This is also true of us! The war for our freedom from lack, disease, addictions, fear, toxic thinking, and any other debilitating thing brought about by sin is sealed and settled. God gives us double—more than enough to live free from the toxic troubles within. We have received above and beyond all we will ever need to live out of His rich deposit of abundant grace!

The most amazing grace has been given to every believer.



Because of His promise and provisions for us, there is an open door into God's presence and power. You can discover for yourself the path into right-standing with Him and the ability to receive from Him. In this series you will discover:

- » The powerful place you can take for God's blessing to multiply in you
- » The grace of God to recover from betrayal and the deepest pain
- » There are promises God has given to surround His people with peace and protection
- » There is restoration for your mind and emotions
- » You have been designed by Him to enter into your greatest days and His greatest blessing!

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Stop parroting the negative stuff you're always hearing from the world and the devil, and say only what God says—about yourself, your family, your future, and your life.



Advance *in life*

by Vikki Burke

BY SPEAKING THE WORD

A daily diet of the Word, accompanied by training and practice, will go a long way toward taking us from Pee Wee to Pro in our Christian life. But there's something else we have to do too.

If we want to finish this game like champions, we must get out there on the field and actually play offense. We must execute the scriptural strategies that will flatten our opposition and advance the ball.

What exactly are those strategies?

One of the most vital is this: Speak the Word of God!

Stop parroting the negative stuff



upcoming meetings

dennis & vikki burke



Stillwater, OK : March 8

Solid Rock Church | 2917 East Sixth St.
Stillwater, OK 74076 | 405-743-4128

Lancaster, CA : March 15 – 16

Antelope Valley Springs of Life Ministries
456 E-Ave K-4 Suite 7
Lancaster, CA 93535 | 661-972-9072

Firebaugh, CA : March 17 – 18

Firebaugh Faith Fellowship | 355 Highway 33
Firebaugh, CA 93622 | 559-659-2571

Columbia, MO : April 5 – 7

Family Worship Center
4925 E. Bonne Femme Church Rd.
Columbia, MO 65201 | 573-441-1140

Canada : April 10 – 12

The Faith Family Church | 5833-53 Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4L4 Canada
403-340-3880

LADIES MEETING WITH VIKKI BURKE

Culpepper, VA : April 25

Culpepper Center | 137 S. Main St.
Culpepper, VA 22701 | 540-825-1708

Forest Park, IL : May 17

Living Word Christian Center
7600 W Roosevelt Rd
Forest Park, IL 60130 | 708-697-5000

kings reign by

you're always hearing from the world and the devil, and say only what God says—about yourself, your family, your future, and your life.

God's Word is powerful. When we speak it and release our faith, it clears a path for His will to be done. It removes hindrances, straightens out twisted situations, and brings the promises of God to pass for us. It bulldozes demonic obstacles out of our way.

The prophet Isaiah described it like this:

“Listen! I hear the voice of someone shouting, “Make a highway for the LORD through the wilderness. Make a straight, smooth road through the desert for our God. Fill the valleys and level the hills. Straighten out the curves and smooth off the rough spots. Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!...Shout!”¹

If you're wondering how our words could possibly make that much difference, read the first chapter of Genesis. You'll see that we live in a word-created, voice-activated system. God made everything in this universe by speaking. He said, “Let there be light!” and there was light. He said, “Let the dry land appear,” and it did.

God's words still carry that same creative power today. As He says in Isaiah 55:10-11, “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”

The only difference between God's Word at creation and God's Word now is this: We're the ones speaking it. He has entrusted it to us and instructed us to declare it by faith over our lives. As His children, created in His image, we've been commissioned, in Christ Jesus, to reign as kings in life, by divine decree.

Think about that. Kings reign by speaking. They don't pick up shovels and do physical labor when they want something done. They give commands...and so should we. That's how we're supposed to exercise our spiritual authority. We're to go into speaking mode, use scripture, and say what God says about the situations that concern us. We're to use words to forbid evil things and bring forth good things.

Just as God did in the Book of Genesis, we can send out our words and they'll accomplish what we send them to do.

That's why Jesus said:

“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22-23, *KJV*).

It Starts with Your Heart

Think of words like the gear shift in a car. When we speak in agreement with God, our lives



speaking

That's how we're supposed to exercise our spiritual authority. We're to go into speaking mode, use scripture, and say what God says about the situations that concern us.

move forward. But when we speak contrary to His Word, we either sit idle (at best) or move backward.

Our words are always working, either for us or against us. So if we want to keep making progress, we'll have to be quiet sometimes. We must learn to zip our lips—especially when people mistreat us and our flesh gets riled up, because that's when we're most likely to throw our verbal gearshift in reverse.

We can't talk out of both sides of our mouth and still expect our words to move mountains. We can't speak love and faith one minute and bitterness and spite the next, and enjoy the kind of power Jesus said we could have. The bad things we say will spoil the good, which is the reason James 3:9–13 gives us this warning:

“No one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Can you pick olives from a fig tree or figs from a grapevine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool. If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth.”

I know what you may be thinking. *If no one can tame the tongue, how can I consistently speak the right words?*

You do it by starting with your heart.

Jesus said, “whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”² So if you fill your heart with God's Word, you'll speak it almost

without thinking. The Word will flow out of you as naturally as milk flows out of a milk carton—because that's what's in you.

In fact, when you got born again you acted on Romans 10:9 that says, “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” The word *confess* in that verse is the Greek word *homologeō* which means *to say the same thing*. You said what God says about getting saved and it came to pass.

You can use that same principle in a broader sense by applying it to every aspect of salvation—including deliverance, protection, healing, and prosperity, and sanctification. By saying with your mouth what God says and believing it in your heart, you can receive everything He has provided. You can become all He has called you to be.

Doodling in the Dust

If you want to see an example of how to use words to win spiritual victories, all you have to do is study Jesus. He did it non-stop. Without fail. Even in complicated, pressurized situations.

Like the one He faced with the woman caught in adultery.

The Pharisees showed up with her right in the middle of one of Jesus' teaching meetings. Shoving her in front of the crowd, they asked Him a question. “The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”³

Just as in the other incidents we've studied, the Pharisees weren't looking for information from Jesus. They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against Him—which is exactly what the devil does to us. He uses agitation, hurt, and mistreatment to pressure us into saying something unloving, something contrary to the



Word. If we do, then he uses what we say against us. So we must train ourselves to stop and think before we open our mouth.

That's what Jesus did in this situation. He stooped down and silently doodled in the dust with His finger. Because His mission was to reveal the love of the Father while also upholding the Mosaic Law, His words had to be wisely chosen. So He refused to give in to the Pharisees demands for an immediate answer. He left them waiting for Him while He waited on God.

People often get sidetracked

We're to use words to forbid evil things and bring forth good things.



wondering what Jesus wrote in the dirt that day. But it doesn't really matter. What's important is the fact that He refused to let anyone pressure Him into speaking prematurely. He took all the time He needed to hear from God so that He would say the right thing. He taught us by example that silence is sometimes better than a quick answer.

Once He knew how to reply, He stood up and said, “The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone.”⁴ Then, uninterested in their

response, He went right back to doodling in the dust.

It was the perfect reply, of course. There wasn't a person in the crowd who hadn't sinned. None of them was qualified to condemn the woman. So they crept away and Jesus was free to express the love of God by saying, "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?"

"No one, Master."

"Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."⁵

Our words are so important. Like bullets fired from a gun, once they're spoken they can never be taken back. That's why it's always better to be too slow than too quick to

⁵v. 10-11, MSG | ⁶James 1:19

⁷The New Century Version

speak. James, the brother of Jesus, learned this perhaps by watching Jesus. He said, "...be slow to speak."⁶ When we're not sure what the Lord would have us say in a situation, waiting is always the right course.

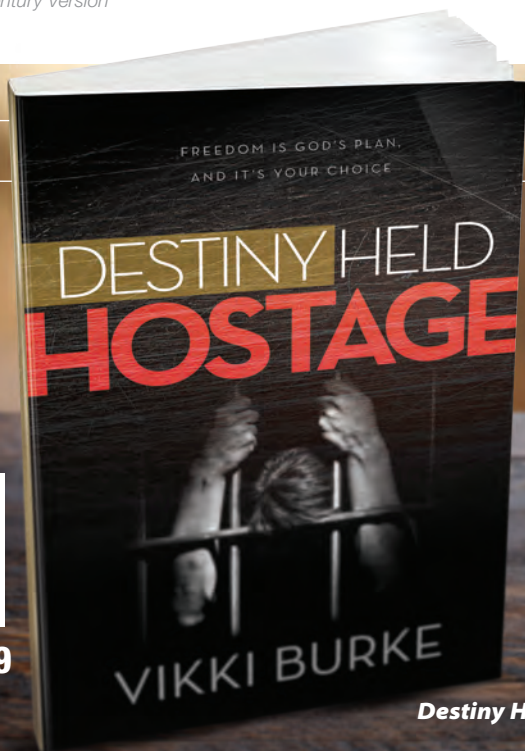
According to Proverbs 18:21: "What you say can mean life or death. Those who speak with care will be rewarded."⁷ Your future depends on that critical moment between the infraction and your response. So choose in advance when things are calm what you're going to do. Decide ahead of time to keep your mouth shut in every situation until you can speak with wisdom and love. In the end, you'll always be glad you did.



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