

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

# Insights

MARCH / APRIL 2016

The Way to a New Life

Create Something

# new

“Let the Holy Spirit help you recreate yourself!”

by Dr. Dennis Burke





# Create Something

# new!

by  
Dr. Dennis  
Burke

Some time ago, Vikki started painting. She had never before felt she was all that creative. She had spent many years cultivating business skills and was clearly gifted as a leader and organizer. But when the Holy Spirit spoke to her to step back from all of that, He led her to discover another side of life. She found a wonderful world of creativity that has turned into some delightful times and revealed a real artistic flare in her. It has been exciting to watch Vikki take a new canvas and, with her



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artist's touch and creative eye, cause that canvas to tell a story.

The process is fascinating. She may start with a scene or a photo and then enhance it, change colors to suit her taste, and modify it to have the balance she's envisioned. She's the artist, and she can take whatever liberties she wants. If she feels she needs to make a change in color or a detail, she just makes the change. There are no limits. In the process, she has created some beautiful pieces.

There is a process to everything we create in our lives as well. Building a career, a family, and a financial future — each pursuit takes time to plan out a process that will produce the outcome we envision.

Can we really create our life with the same kind of approach as the painter? It's a matter of realizing that God has given us the ability to choose our life and our future and that we truly can create a beautiful picture. In spite of the appearance of things today, it is never too late to bring out a fresh canvas and start creating something brand-new.

If we won't do it for ourselves, someone or something else will fill our canvas in life. Too often we let other people or events in life dominate our personal canvas, leaving us filled with the things we did not really want.

The Holy Spirit is in our lives to help us create a masterpiece. He will lead and guide our course if we will let Him. It is like setting up a destination on a GPS device. We set the destination we want, and a route is created to direct us there. Once we are on course, it becomes much easier to make adjustments and corrections.

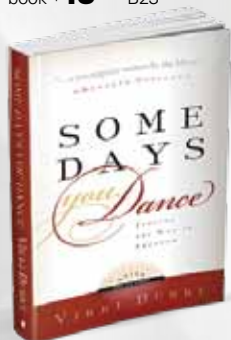
This is the point of Proverbs 16:9: "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Planning includes things we envision, imagine, devise, and paint on the canvas of our soul. When we yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to be involved in our plans, He will direct our steps to help us create the plan, and then He'll go on to help establish us and make us stable, preparing us to move in the direction of His predesigned plan for us.



We let other people or events in life dominate our personal canvas, leaving us filled with the things we did not really want.



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That is so powerful! So start painting the canvas of your soul with the colors of joy-filled living, financial wisdom and increase, favor and fulfillment in your work, and happiness in your relationships. Commit your plans to the Lord, and declare Proverbs 16:3 (NLT): “Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.”

It is clear that God doesn't plan for us to fail in life. He has made plans for us to succeed. In fact, He has said it clearly in Jeremiah 29:11 (NET): “For I know what I have planned for you,” says the Lord, “I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope.”

We can take His plan for our future and begin to paint the canvas of our soul. Every God-given desire, every promise, and every hope for greater peace and prosperity become the colors of life being lived to the maximum.

So let the Holy Spirit help you recreate yourself! Take out a new canvas, repaint the scene, rewrite the rules, re-orchestrate the music, or recast your role in life. That's the amazing thing: Through Jesus, you've been made a child of God who is led by the Spirit of God. Already a new creation, you now have His creative ability to paint a new picture on the canvas of your life!

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## The Right To Choose What Defines You

God has given you the freedom and the right to choose what you create on your life's canvas. Choose today:

- ❖ To create a new scene.
- ❖ To see things the way God wants you to see them.
- ❖ To see the good side of situations.
- ❖ To find the best part of a person.
- ❖ To remain upbeat in a beat-down world.
- ❖ To refuse to allow life to dictate your reactions, but instead to choose your actions.
- ❖ To not allow the pain and problems of others to become your pain and problem.
- ❖ To be compassionate toward people but refuse to slide into the dysfunction of trying to fix them.
- ❖ To make the decision to forgive and let it go.
- ❖ To focus on God's abundant love, provision, acceptance, and grace.
- ❖ To grow daily in wisdom and understanding of God's way of doing things and His way of viewing those you encounter.
- ❖ To be mentally and physically strong, spiritually and emotionally sound, and financially increasing.
- ❖ To refuse to behave in a way that undermines relationships, success in the future, self-worth, or your own well-being.
- ❖ To refuse to remain angry, hurt, or defensive.
- ❖ To live in the love, joy, and peace God has given you.
- ❖ To let the main thing be the main thing!

All of these choices will be strengthened by meditating on verses that will reinforce your decisions. Here are three scriptures from the *Mirror Translation* that will get you started:

Ephesians 4:23 — “Be renewed in your innermost mind! (Pondering the truth about you as it is displayed in Christ) will cause you to be completely reprogrammed in the way you think about yourself!”

Romans 12:3 — “His grace gift inspires me to say to you that your thinking must be consistent with everything that is within you according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned to every individual. Let the revelation of redemption shape your thoughts.”

John 7:37 — “You believe that I am what the scriptures are all about, then you will discover that you are what I am all about, and rivers of living waters will gush out of your innermost being!”

God has created His own beautiful plan and deposited it in your inner man in seed form. His Word is His plans and promises in seed form. His Spirit within will flow into and through your mind and emotions to make your life His masterpiece.

# Let the Holy Spirit help you recreate yourself!

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



# But God!

by  
Vikki  
Burke

God always wants to take us beyond what we can do on our own—beyond what we could even imagine. We may have dreams in our hearts that look too big to accomplish on our own. We may think we lack the talent, the money, the experience, or the connections to accomplish them.

Too often we let our current circumstances dictate and define our future. God may be speaking to our hearts about the need to prepare for a new season and a new assignment in Him. But we may be stuck in our natural reasoning, thinking, *That is way above my pay grade.*

That's certainly what Gideon thought when the angel of the Lord approached him to take on Israel's enemy. The Midianites had run the Israelites out of their land and forced them to hide in caves just to survive.





We can let our circumstances talk us out of God's promise, or we can...

# choose to believe



They would plant seed for food, but just about the time the crops were ready to harvest, the Midianites would arrive like locusts, destroying everything—leaving the Israelites with nothing to eat.

When the situation was at its worst, the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon with instructions to destroy the Midianites. Gideon couldn't conceive of God using him to accomplish such an impossible task. I can imagine Gideon looking over his shoulder to see if God had been addressing someone else. Then when Gideon realized he was alone, he answered the angel, saying something to this effect: "Are you talking to me? This is impossible! My clan is the weakest in all the tribes. And if that's not enough, I am the weakest in my entire family! Are you crazy? I'm not trained or qualified; this is way over my head. Find someone else!"

Gideon responded the way

we often do. First, he accused God of abandoning His people; then Gideon gave God a list of reasons why he was too weak to follow His directions. Completely ignoring Gideon's accusation, God addressed the young man's weakness straight on, saying, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you."<sup>1</sup>

Does Gideon's argument sound a bit familiar? Too often we think, *I will never accomplish what God has put in my heart — the odds are so stacked against me! I'm not qualified. Besides, I'm way past my prime!*

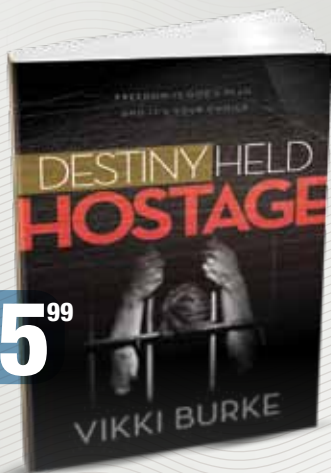
Abram certainly could have thought he had passed his prime when God announced to him that he would have a child in his old age. But instead of responding like Gideon, Abram didn't focus on his own impotence by saying, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." He didn't even look at Sarah's infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise, asking cautiously skeptical questions. No, Abram plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, and certain that God would make good on what He had said!

That's why it is says, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right." But that doesn't just apply to Abraham; it also applies to us! The same thing is said about us when we embrace and believe the

One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless! The sacrificial Lamb made us fit for and set us right with God."<sup>2</sup> Even though our situation may look impossible, God can make the impossible possible. It may look bigger than we are, but we can say, "God makes the impossible possible. I have friends in high places! God is able to finish the things He has started in my life!"

The Bible is full of people who faced impossible situations. When David faced Goliath, he was an untrained teenager whose experience was in tending sheep, not military training. He knew how to wield a rod and staff, not a sword. And his formidable opponent, Goliath, was a skilled warrior twice David's size. Had David looked only at the facts, he might have become discouraged and afraid, just like the rest of Israel's army. Or he could have reasoned that he was too ill-equipped with only a slingshot and a few stones. He might have talked himself out of fighting Goliath. But instead, David had the attitude: "If God is for me, who can be against me?"

At one time or another, we all face unfavorable facts regarding a situation in our lives. I am not suggesting that we deny the facts, but rather that we allow the truth of God's Word to supersede the facts—always adding God's promise to the equation. The giants may look huge, but God is bigger than any enemy we



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could ever face! We may be unqualified, but nothing can stop God's promise, His favor, and His anointing.

Sometimes the very thing God promises us seems so unlikely that our first thought is to laugh! When Abraham's wife, Sarah, heard God declare that she and her husband would have a son in their old age, she laughed. And if Abraham and Sarah had looked at the circumstances realistically, they might have given up. But Abraham did what we all must do to see God's promise come to pass: He believed God instead of his circumstances. He admitted, "Yes, I'm too old—but I serve a God who is a Master at making impossible situations possible! Yes, God's promise defies the laws of nature, but He can supersede natural laws!"

Whenever we face a situation that looks impossible, we can boldly say:

"I may not be qualified for a promotion, but God makes me stand out like Joseph!"

"I don't have the connections, but God can open doors that no man can close."

"The odds may be against me, but God surrounds me with favor!"

David, Abram, and Gideon lacked the strength or training to get the job done, but God made up the difference. We can let our circumstances talk us out of God's promise, or we can choose to believe what He says. When we factor God into every impossible situation, we open the door for Him to do amazing things for us.

Too many Christians have become discouraged and have adopted a "no way" attitude.

"There's no way that I will get out of debt on my salary."

"There's no way that I will have enough to retire when I reach retirement age."

"There's no way that I will beat this addiction after so many years

When we factor God into every impossible situation, we open the door for Him to do amazing things for us.

of dependency."

"There's no way that my kids will serve God after what they've been through."

When we speak words like these, they prophesy a future for us that we don't want! If we think or say our situation is impossible, it becomes impossible. We have to give God something to work with when we speak! God's power is limited in our lives when we think or speak negative or doubt-filled words. But God moves in the lives of those who consistently speak what He says!

Even when circumstances are unfavorable, we can choose to say what God says — words of faith like:

"Although I don't see a way out of this situation, God always causes me to triumph!"

"This problem looks like it's going to be the end of me, but God said no weapon formed against me shall prosper!"

"My dreams are taking longer than I thought, but God promised to finish the work that He began in me!"

We are called to make the choice to shake off the "no way" attitude, and add God to the situation!

God brought the Israelites out of slavery, parted the Red Sea so they could walk on dry ground, fed them manna from Heaven, and gave them water from a rock. They had seen great miracles on the way to the Promised Land. And when they arrived at its border, Moses sent twelve spies to check out the land and bring back a report. Ten of the spies returned saying, "The people are giants! We don't have a chance. We felt like grasshoppers compared to them." But two of the spies saw the same giants and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."<sup>3</sup>

The same God who split the sea and provided food and water in the desert can do the

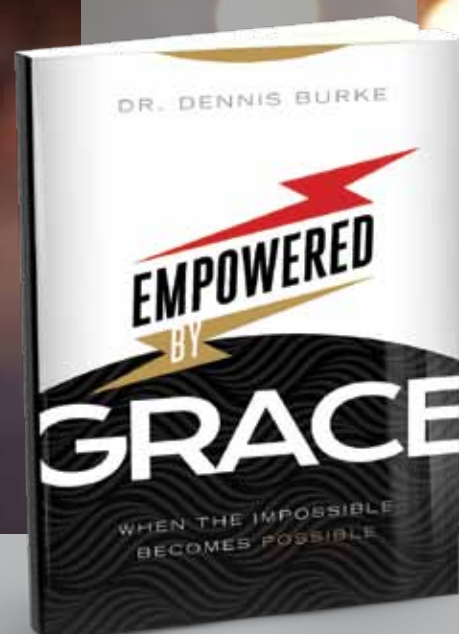
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IMPOSSIBLE  
MISSION  
BECOMES

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miraculous for us as well when we adopt the attitude of the two spies and refuse the "grasshopper mentality" of the ten! The Israelites would not have wandered for forty years if they had believed God's promise instead of the circumstances reported by the ten spies. Just think—they could have entered the Promise Land forty years earlier!

When we add God's promise to our situation, we will speak words that reflect our change of perspective to the way He sees it! We'll say things like: "This situation is temporary. God can turn it around! His favor and blessings are chasing me! God will give me beauty for ashes. He will turn my mourning into dancing."

We can expect God's promises to come to pass when we refuse to allow the facts to talk us out of it. When situations don't look favorable, we are to let God have the last word. Our attitude will change when His

promise come against our roadblocks!

It's up to you! You can get rid of every "no way" attitude and adopt the attitude of men and women like David, Esther, Paul, and Gideon.

Abraham saw the impossible becoming possible.

David took on the giant.

Paul announced, "God will supply all my needs!"

Esther faced a life-or-death crisis but believed she was there for "such a time as this."

Gideon believed God's strength was more than enough.

You may not feel significant in the world's eyes, but when you factor in God's ability, you become like these great men and women of God in His eyes. So begin to feed your faith with God's promises about your life. Then begin to speak them out loud, and prophesy your future — the fulfillment of dreams God has planted in your heart — until it all comes to pass!



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Firebaugh, CA 93622 | 559-659-2571

**Winkler, MB : March 6-7**

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

**Stillwater, OK : March 20**

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

**Frisco, NC : March 27**

Heritage of Faith Family Church | 52406 Highway 12  
Frisco, NC 27936 | 252-995-6677

**Elkhorn, WI : April 7-10**

Christian Life Church | 4521 County Rd F North  
Elkhorn, WI 53121 | 262-728-1463

**Lloydminster, SK : April 15-17**

The Word Church of Lloydminster | 1802 49th Ave  
Lloydminster, SK S9V 1T2 Canada | 306-825-9673

**Columbia, MO : April 24-25**

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

**Columbia, MO : April 26**

Roundtable Meeting  
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