

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

# Insights

*The Way to a New Life*

MARCH / APRIL 2008



God's Love  
*without Limits*

# God's Love *without limits*

The stain of sin has given birth to every major religion in the history of the world. The deep yearning to be accepted by God is a core desire shared by every person born on this earth. In countless ways, people have worked to feel that they are in some way worthy to be blessed by God or at least that they are able to fall on His mercy in their unworthiness.





But God took it upon Himself to deal with the problem sin created. Knowing that people would never be able to solve the sin problem themselves, He provided a foolproof plan that would bring anyone who received His provision by faith into a new life of complete liberty.

This divine plan for our total freedom was one of the biggest issues the Apostle Paul dealt with in his letters to the early churches. In the book of Romans, he devotes more to this subject than to any other. Romans 1:16,17 reveals the foundation for what will follow in Paul's letter to the Romans:



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

“The just shall live by faith.” This statement from Habakkuk is repeated in Galatians and again in Hebrews.

*The Contemporary English Bible* translates verse 17 this way:

“The good news tells how God accepts everyone who has faith, but only those who have faith. It is just as the Scriptures say, ‘The people God accepts because of their faith will live.’”

When you are just and accepted by God, you are free to live by faith in Him and His Word.

So why is it that people continue to live distant from God and with a nagging sense of condemnation? Why are so many true Christians still struggling to grow in faith?

When people are more in tune to their own failings than they are to God's love for them, they focus on the wrong thing. They don't realize that the finished work of Jesus

has completely delivered them from all that their sin has done to keep them distant from Him.

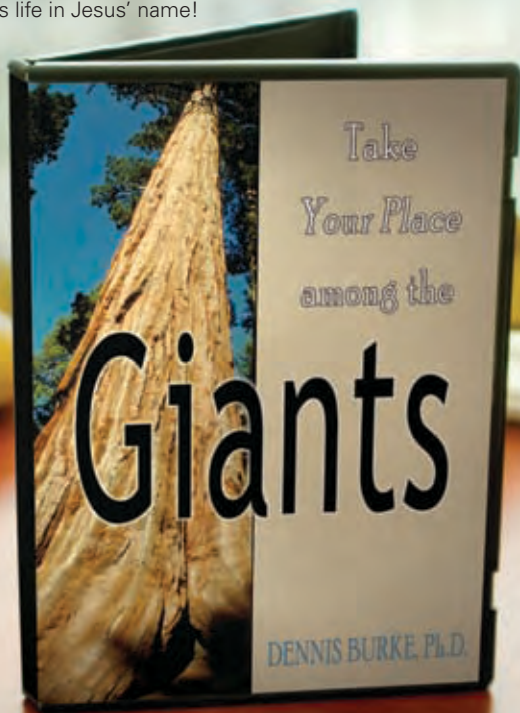
The point of Paul's statement is that the good news of Jesus reveals God's plan to bring everyone into a position of rightstanding with Him — accepted, clean, and forgiven. The Law revealed sin and the separation from God that sin causes. Through His Son's death and resurrection, the Father revealed that sin's power to rule over people had been destroyed.

# standtall

**From the beginning**, God has always had His giants of faith in His Kingdom — men and women who are driven by their spiritual hunger to rise up and influence their generation for God. Yet the great majority of Christians feel like they are just a moment too late and a step too far behind those spiritual giants to ever be used by God in a great way.

But you don't have to be a part of that sad number. This stirring message by Dr. Dennis Burke will inspire you to run with the giants, tapping into God's wisdom to pursue the fullness of His good plan for your life!

It's up to you. You don't have to live in the shadows any longer. You're a child of the light, and the faith of our fathers of the Kingdom is alive in you. The giants are back in the land, so rise up and take your place of influence and authority in this life in Jesus' name!



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When Adam sinned, the ruler of sin and death was authorized to bring his evil power into the earth for the first time. Adam's authority and influence to dominate and multiply on the earth according to God's instructions was now subjected to Satan — the one Adam had chosen to obey.

God's desire to ultimately free mankind from the rule of this rebel spirit required that the Law be given to people. They had to know what it would take to live in God's system in order to receive His blessings.

Yet the Law didn't empower people to live by its requirements. As a result, it only revealed their inability in themselves to obtain God's acceptance and approval. The Law of God was true and right, but it was weak in a crucial respect: It did not bring the ultimate answer that would free people from the sin that bound them.

Then Jesus came to earth and destroyed the works of the devil. Nailed to the Cross, Jesus bore the punishment and paid the price for man's sin, taking upon Himself all of its consequences. Ever since the Fall of man, sin had separated man from God. But on the Cross, the sinless One took that separation upon Himself so man could know rightstanding with God.

Did Jesus deserve the consequences of sin? No, He did not. Yet He took sin upon Himself and was made sin in order that you and I could be made His righteousness. Do we deserve His righteousness? No, we did nothing to deserve it. Just as Jesus received what He did not deserve, we now receive what we do not deserve. His love has made it freely available. We are now made His righteousness — blameless and pure by faith in Him.

None of this is the result of our doing what is right. Rather, it's the result of our receiving God's free gift of righteousness. Paul tells us what then follows in Romans 5:17 (*The Contemporary English Bible*):

“Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has been so kind to us, and He has accepted us because of Jesus. And so we will live and rule like kings.”

We now rule like kings over our own lives based on our believing and receiving.

The way of the world system is to be rewarded for what you do. If you act right and do right, you will get ahead. This is the way it is in business, on the job, and in personal relationships. You will see the best only if you do it right. Although that is as it should be, there is also another law in God's Kingdom. God's way is to bless first — not because you act right or do right, but because you believe right.

God's system is based on faith, not on works or personal effort. This is so contrary to our common way of thinking.

When people are more in tune to their own failings than they are to God's love for them, *they focus on the wrong thing.*

God is the first to give, first to bless, first to forgive, and first to love. All of these benefits come to us for no other reason but that we turn to Him and believe.

All religious systems have similar elements they share. One is that if you do good deeds, you will receive the benefits of what you do. The Law of the Old Testament is clear about this: If you do good, you will enjoy good things in life; if you don't, you will be cursed.

The message of the Gospel is that God has blessed those who will believe. The Law of the Old Covenant could not bring the blessing of God's love without conditions. The conditions had to be met, or the blessing could not be given. The demonstration of God's love toward people was restrained by the sin that ruled in them.

But the Father desired a way to express without limits His love toward man. Jesus was the revelation of that divine, limitless love. He blessed those who came to Him, and He healed those who had not yet followed Him. Jesus even healed those who came to Him while breaking the Law of the Old Covenant.

For example, one day a woman with a disease crawled through the crowd of people surrounding Jesus, believing that if she could just touch the hem of the Master's garment, she would be healed. According to the Law of Moses, this woman's disease made her unclean and required that she avoid coming in contact with any person. But in spite of the Law, the woman acted on her faith and was made whole.

God's love and compassion, revealed through Jesus, moved in the woman's body to heal her because she believed. She had touched the heart of all Jesus came to express — that God's love is without conditions. Jesus had come to fulfill the Law, which meant He would reveal more about the real heart of God than the Law was capable of revealing.

Now in Christ, we are called to rule and reign as kings in this life through the power revealed by Jesus. However, living by faith becomes a powerful reality in our lives only when we learn that God's love and blessing are unconditional.

Paul confirms this in his letter to the Roman church.

Let's look again at Romans 5:17 (NKJV):

“For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

Notice the two things Paul said a believer is to embrace: the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. The person who will reign in life is the one who receives both the divine influence of God's grace within and the free gift of being made just and right in His sight.

This kind of confidence has been a missing link for

## pärt'ner • shĭp'

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...your time

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so many of us. It's been easier to see our sins than God's forgiveness of our sins. It has been easier to cave into our weaknesses than to stand strong and confident in His grace.

God said He would not remember your sins once you have repented of them.

# abundance & blessing

If you had the power of prosperity and longevity, would you apply it? If you possessed the confidence that God would lead you successfully through a crisis, would you fear it?

When you discover the secrets of God's covenant of blessing, lack will be turned into abundance, those things that have been stolen from you will be restored, and you will be empowered to stand in the place of victory. This covenant will guide you from troublesome times

to peace—where there is nothing missing and nothing broken.

The covenant you share with God is designed to saturate you with His goodness. Abundance and blessing will rain on anyone who dares to step into position and receive it. Discover the secrets of abundance today!

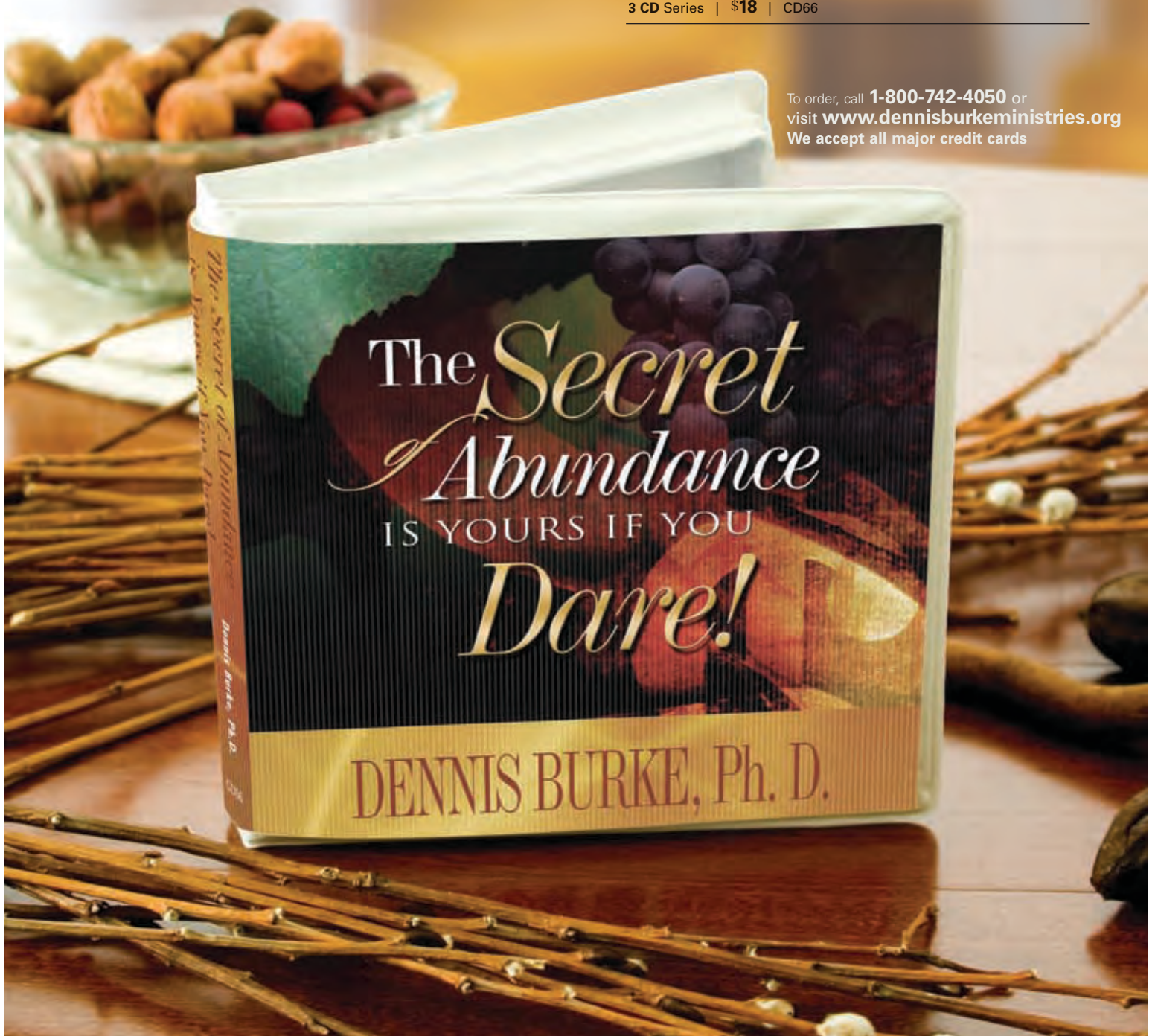
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## God wants a relationship based on His love, *not your failures.*

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted” (Isaiah 43:25, 26).

Notice that it is for God’s sake that He will not remember your sins. He wants a relationship based on His love, not your failures. He won’t bring up your sins. And you’ll find that the more you grow in His love, the less you will feel it’s important to bring up the sins of others around you.

This brings us to an important issue. There is a very big distinction between sin and sins. Sin is the condition or the spiritual prison wherein mankind has been bound. The condition of sin separates people from a relationship with God and blinds them to His love for them.

On the other hand, sins are wrong behaviors and actions. Such actions are common to the sinner, but even people who are translated out of the kingdom of darkness behave sinfully at times.

The condition of sin prevents people from obtaining a position of rightstanding and fellowship with God. When a person receives Jesus as his Savior, he is redeemed from that spiritual prison of sin and is made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). That person can still commit sins that violate his righteous conscience. However, those sins don’t change what the Father has done to translate that believer into His kingdom.

“The Father has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have our redemption through His blood, which means, the forgiveness of our sins” (Colossians 1:13,14 *AMP*).

Jesus’ blood sacrifice removed us from the control and dominion of the kingdom of darkness. We are now in a new Kingdom — the Kingdom of the Son and His love.

Does your wrongdoing remove you from God’s Kingdom and place you back under the control of Satan’s wicked kingdom? Do you become a sinner again? Do you once more become cursed? Are you transferred out of the Kingdom of God’s love back into the kingdom of darkness?

No, the sacrifice of Jesus has changed you forever. You are a new creation. You live within a new system and kingdom.

Of course, sins and wrong behavior remain wrong. The point is not that people can live without restraint or commitment to God and still expect to live in His blessings. But Paul’s message is that the blood of Jesus did more than the blood sacrifices offered by the priests annually under Old Covenant Law. Those sacrifices had to be repeated every year. The entire nation would repent and offer a sacrifice — but their atonement was good only for one year.

Then Jesus came to the earth. Jesus offered a perfect sacrifice once for all — one that is good for all eternity. No other sacrifice will ever be required. All He said is that you must believe.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Feb 29-Mar 5**

Faith Family Fellowship | Kahului, HI | 808-244-4992

**Mar 9-10**

Kern Christian Center | Bakersfield, CA | 661-664-1000

**April 4-6**

The Word Church of Lloydminster  
Lloydminster, SASK S9V 1T2 CAN | (306) 825-9673

**May 5-9**

ICFM Convention, Dallas, Tx

**May 14-26**

Rick Renner Ministries | Russia | (918) 496-3213

**May 15-16**

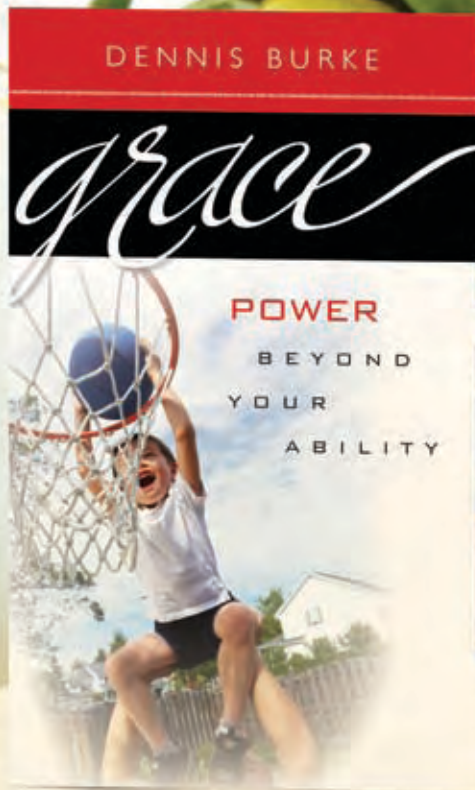
(Mrs. Burke)

Word of Life Christian Center | Birmingham, AL | (205) 833-8500

**May 31-June 1**

Echos of Faith Christian Center | Chino, CA | (909) 627-0927





**I**f ever man had a need, it is for grace from God. From the most talented person to the one who feels least qualified, grace from God is desperately needed.

Grace is God's empowering within your heart to do what you cannot do alone. When problems or insufficiency seem to stand in your way like a mountain, His grace keeps you strong and moving ahead into His perfect plan.

Grace grows as you come before the throne of grace and enter His presence. There you must absorb His love and attitude. You take on His character and compassion. He will impart to you His very heart to share with others.

Jesus has given you an entrance to the throne of grace to obtain all the strength and resources you need. Enter by faith and receive from Him.

If you will embrace the grace in which you are to walk, and if you will be a wise steward over it, you will flourish in the direction He takes you. It will be accompanied by a peaceful and satisfied soul.

His callings are callings of grace. You can grow in the grace of God and complete all He has desired for you.

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Of course, there will be the fruits of righteousness, one of which is right living. Our lives take on a new priority. God's will and His work now become our most important priority.

This is the key to the concept of the Sabbath. Under the Old Covenant, there was a day when people honored God, His work, and His laws by not working and by setting aside the day to worship, rest, and spend time with family.

Hebrews 4:10 indicates that when we enter God's rest, we cease from our own works. Thus, we see that Christ and His Kingdom are our Sabbath. Our rest doesn't refer to a day of the week. Rather, it is a rest from our own work and priorities. It is a time when we deliberately cease from our own works and enter into His rest. Jesus is our Sabbath!

The message of God's good news is that you're not blessed and accepted because you do everything right, keep all the rules, know all the right things to say, or always act just like everyone thinks you should act. You are blessed and accepted because you believe God and His Word!

The freedom you receive the moment you believe clears the way for you to enjoy intimate fellowship with God and to learn His way of doing things. Your right position with Him relieves the pressure to only "do" things and frees you become who He has made you to be. You are created to live as a child of the living God, enjoying a life of faith, of complete freedom, and of unconditional acceptance before Him!

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture is taken from the *NKJV*.

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