



DARKNESS IS THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT, EVIL IS THE ABSENCE OF GOD." ALBERT EINSTEIN

"JUST AS

This absence of light and divine life in Adam and Eve changed them instantaneously and changed man's nature for all of

history. It was their sin that plummeted this planet into turmoil and trouble. Their sin gave evil access to God's crown of creation.

It was not God who brought this evil upon mankind. Albert Einstein said, "God did not create evil. Just as darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of God." It is the same with life and death. God did not create death. Death is the absence of life.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were filled with and surrounded by the life and light of God, inside and out. God's life permeated and protected them. But when they submitted themselves to the temptation Satan brought to them, they died spiritually and their protective shield of life went dark. And when God's light and life was removed, darkness and death settled into their nature. Men and women would learn to live by a different system – by the sweat of their brow.

But in Christ, we are infused by God's grace with the light and life of His glory once again. It is His life, born into us when we receive Jesus by faith, that restores us to God's original design. This is when our studies of the laws of grace written within the believer become so vital.

The second law of grace in our study is found in Romans 5:2:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

This law of the Spirit

of life, written in our hearts and minds, reveals the raw power of God within. The Greek word zoe is the word for life. It

refers to divine, supernatural life — life that supersedes death. This life of God that resides within us is the same power by which Jesus was raised from the dead.

Notice what Romans 8:11 (NLT) says:

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just

On the other hand, if we are moving away from God's perfect plan for our lives, that abiding sense of His peace will go "flat" within. Although God will allow us to do what we want, He will always provide His clear witness that lets us know whether or not we are moving in His plan.

You can train yourself to be sensitive to God's leading. Don't rush into decisions, but pray in the Spirit and follow the witness of His life written within.

Every believer has this

for out of it spring the issues of life."

John 6:63 – "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

Proverbs 18:21 – "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

The law in our hearts is life. We learn to live by the zoe life within. God has removed the guilt and condemnation that accompanied sin and has filled us with His love

God did not create death: death is the absence of life.



as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you."

The law of the Spirit of life written within means the power that raised Jesus now floods through your body and gives life to you. It is more than natural life — it is divine, supernatural life. When the body is attacked physically, we're not waiting for God to send His healing power. His zoe within us is more than enough to heal and restore our mortal bodies. Our faith accesses what His grace has provided.

This same divine life within us serves as the inner compass and witness of God's direction according to His plan. The more sensitive we become to the Spirit of life within, the more we recognize His leadership. The more we move toward His will in a specific area, the stronger His peace and power become.

guidance system within. The law of the Spirit of zoe is written within every child of God, giving each one the same capacity to live in this place of confidence and power.

The new birth brought God's life back into the innermost part of a person. There are numerous scriptures that paint the picture of this divine reality:

John 14:6 – "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Proverbs 4:23 – "Keep your heart with all diligence,

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and His grace to live in the confidence of our rightstanding in Him.

The third law of grace is found in James 1:25:

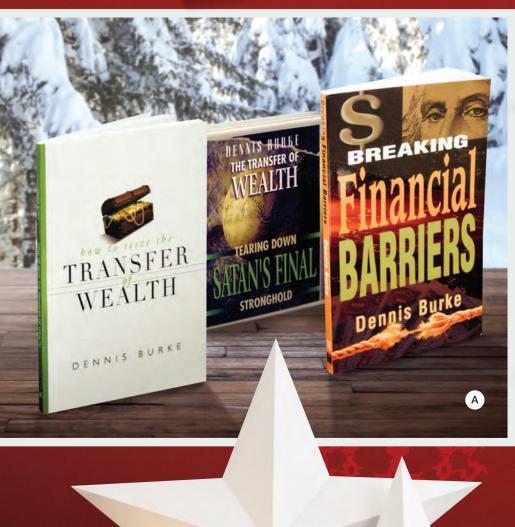
"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not

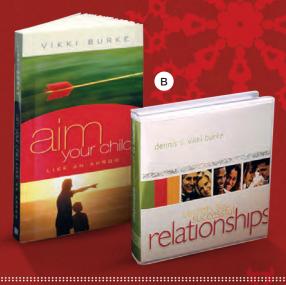
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Teachings from Dr. Dennis Burke













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a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

Liberty and freedom was God's design for mankind all along. The Christian life is to be a continual experience of the freedom we received and had written within our hearts in the new birth. We are free to live free in Christ.

That means that every stronghold, habit, addiction, or bondage that remains in our lives has no right to remain. We have been declared free from it all, and it is this law of liberty that liberates us!

Liberty has its price. Freedom is not free. Thankfully, Jesus paid the price for our liberty. And as John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

None of the weaknesses of our past have a right to hold us today. We are declared free, and God's Word in our lips releases the power we need to be free indeed!

Second Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." The indwelling Spirit is the author of the law of liberty written within. He has made you free! Although our sins have robbed us of the kind of freedom God has given us, we don't have to be without His freedom for another moment.

Realize this: The word for "sin" is from a compound word in the original Greek, the first part meaning negative and the second part meaning an allotted portion. Sin therefore represents anything that robs you of your allotted portion, which is the true measure of your life. But, thank God, the law of liberty reconnects us to everything He has provided to make us free.

So say it boldly today: "I am FREE!"

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



When I hear of something tragic or hurtful happening to a believer, instead of allowing it to affect me negatively I always remember what Jesus did when his cousin, John the Baptist, was murdered by Herod.

Heartbroken, He went away to be alone but people had heard where He was going and were waiting for Him when He got out of the boat. When He saw their needs He was moved with compassion healing the sick and feeding the hungry.¹

When Jesus' response to John's murder was to do good

to us the most effective way to retaliate for what the devil does to us. You can adopt this offensive strategy to score points against the devil by getting out there and doing something good.

In fact, you don't have to wait for the devil to attack and then try to counter him by suppressing your fleshly reactions. Be proactive.



Purposely override your flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. Look for ways to be a blessing everywhere you go.

"For this is your calling—to do good and one day to inherit all the goodness of God."2

You'll be amazed how much easier it is to run roughshod over the devil and his temptations when you're focused on that calling. You won't have time to get offended. You'll be too busy obeying the Lord and pouring out His love to others. Galatians 5:16-23 confirms that. It says:

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit

against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law [of the flesh]. Now the works of the flesh are evident... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (NKJV).

As believers, we don't have to "work up" that fruit of the Spirit. It's already inside us. God put it there when we were born again. But we must practice yielding to it. We must develop it by seeking out opportunities every day to reach out to others with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness. Then we can not only avoid the devil's traps ourselves, we can help others avoid them too.

We can be the one to bring the fruit of the Spirit on the scene when someone does insensitive or hurtful things to others. My dear friend, Cathy Duplantis, does that all the time. She's always bringing God's goodness on the sceneand I've been the beneficiary of it more than once.

I'll never forget what she did for me one day back in 1997. My first book, Aim Your Child Like An Arrow, had just been published. I could hardly contain my excitement. So at the first opportunity, when I was at a meeting with a number of my friends, I gave a copy to a friend I highly respected. "This is my first book!" I said.

Anticipating her response, I waited for her to thumb through it or congratulate me.

But instead she tossed it aside without even looking

My face must have revealed my shock because Cathy hastily intervened. "Can I have a copy?" she exclaimed. "Would you sign it for me?"

I knew Cathy wasn't interested in a book about

raising children. Her daughter was already grown and married. But that didn't matter. She was on a mission to be a blessing. So she kindly reached out and restored the situation before it had a chance to upset me. She overshadowed the indifference of my friend with her enthusiasm, and undermined the devil's plan.

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That day, I was like a quarterback who'd thrown a pass only to have the receiver fumble the ball. Given the opportunity, the devil would have grabbed that ball and run with it. But Cathy refused to let him. Quick to respond in love, she recovered the fumble and scored the points that won the game. She not only salvaged that one play, she set an example for me I'll remember the rest of my life.

Cathy fulfilled her calling as a believer that day. She acted like Jesus "who went about doing good."3 Thank God, we can all follow that example. We can choose to recover and restore people instead of ignore them when they're hurt, insulted, or embarrassed.

And when you run into hurtful or insulting situations that leave you speechless,

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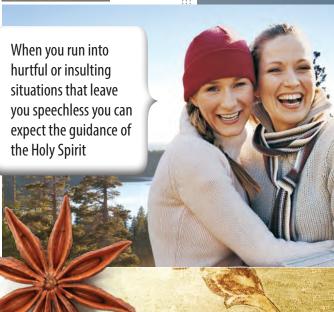
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like I did, you can expect the guidance of the Holy Spirit because the Bible promises He "will give you the right words when the time comes."4 That means, of course, you may be a lot quieter at times than most people. But that's okay. It's good to be a person of few words. God makes that quite clear. He says:

Don't talk too much, for it fosters sin. Be sensible and turn off the flow! (Proverbs 10:19).

A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is eventempered (Proverbs 17:27).

Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words (Ecclesiastes 5:2-3).

Dear friends, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry (James 1:19).

Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious, but a fool is consumed by his own lips. At the beginning his words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness-and the fool multiplies words (Ecclesiastes 10:12-14).

If you've always had a sharp, quick tongue, you might be groaning right now and wondering if there's any hope for you. But let me assure you, there is. You can start changing today if you'll begin to declare the Word over yourself in this area. Instead of saying, "I'm always getting mad and putting my foot in my mouth!" say, "I'm always quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. My words are gracious. I'm

sensible and use few words." Before long, you'll begin to notice a difference in your responses.

God Has Already Done His Part

God has already done His part. He's already put those qualities inside our born again spirit. "He has by His own action given us everything that is necessary for living the truly good life...."5

Now we must do our part. As the Apostle Peter said:

"Do your utmost from your side and see that your faith carries with it real goodness of life. Your goodness must be accompanied by knowledge, your knowledge by selfcontrol, your self-control by the ability to endure. Your endurance too must always be accompanied by devotion to God; that in turn must have in it the quality of brotherliness, and your brotherliness must lead on to Christian love. If you have these qualities existing and growing in you then it means that knowing our Lord Jesus Christ has not made your lives either complacent or unproductive. The man whose life fails to exhibit these qualities is short-sighted—he can no longer see the reason why he was cleansed from his former sins. Set your minds, then, on endorsing by your conduct the fact that God has called and chosen you. If you go along the lines I have indicated above, there is no reason why you should stumble..."

All too often, we stumble instead of scoring because we take our eyes off the goal. We get "short-sighted." We lose track of the fact that the whole point of this game is to do good, to be a blessing to others, and express the love of Jesus everywhere we go.

That's what we're all about. It's the big picture. So let's say like Paul did, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."6

Winners always have an offensive strategy. Let's play some serious offense and win this game.

- 4 Luke 12:12, MSG
- 6 Philippians 3:13-14, KJV





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