

Insights

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

The Way to a New Life

THE POWER OF THE UNCOMMON BELIEVER

Our Special Blessed Friday Event!



pg.6 | *New book by Dr. Burke*



Dear Vikki,
 I want to thank you. I have read your book, *Some Days You Dance* (several times), and it is life-changing. I thank you so much for making the difficult choice to be open, honest, revealing — for being the first on to jump off the high dive! I had a break down in 2006, in part from being a “human doing.” When Brother Copeland raved about your new book, I bought it, read it, and it just hit the nail on the head! I’ve raved about it to anyone who will listen. I love your story, your humor, your drama, your presentation, your teaching. You have a special place in my heart! I’m so glad you found the freedom to be YOU and for helping me to find mine! I’ve come a long way.

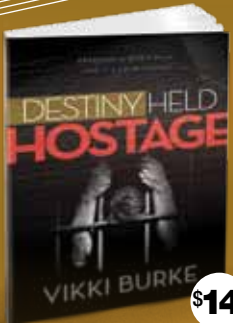
by Dr. Dennis Burke

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For many years

I have admired people who had the vision to receive God's best and blessing. Stepping out in faith on God's Word to receive His best requires a person who is absolutely committed to God's plan for his or her life and steadfastly focused on His promises.

Yet over the years I have become even more impressed by those who have not only the vision to step out in faith, but also the fortitude to finish.

Yes, those who start out fast and strong are inspiring. But those

who *finish* their race and complete their divine assignment are the real heroes of faith.

We have come to know that laying hold of God's promises by faith and receiving them personally for ourselves can change any situation. Every promise that God has given is a reason for the confident expectation of godly hope. His purpose in every promise He has made is to lift our lives and bring real results to us. When we receive His Word in faith, it works in our hearts to keep our hopes alive. When we fix our focus on His Word, it will sustain us to see each of those promises come to pass.

It was this kind of hope that kept Israel alive during the years they lived wandering in the wilderness. A generation had passed since the exodus from Egypt. The children of those who had been enslaved in Egypt were finished with the complaining and excuses of their parents. They were positioned to receive from God and to take their place in His plan.

Finally the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan River, leaving forever the wilderness they'd wandered in. As they stood in the land God had promised them all of their lives, it was time to see those divine promises become tangible.

Like Israel, believers today have promises of

provision, protection, health, and peace that they can receive freely. God's grace has freely given His children all things to enjoy. Yet it is the uncommon believer who will find the path to actually have these promises become a manifested reality in his or her life.

Our example is Israel pursuing the Promised Land. God had already given the land to them, but it still had to be taken and possessed. It is the uncommon believer who will possess what grace has provided.

Keep in mind that throughout all those years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God provided for His people. The manna fell from Heaven, and water flowed supernaturally from a rock to sustain them. But sustenance for the sake of mere existence was not the full extent of God's plan or promise to them. He wanted them to take possession of a land that had been overrun by others. He wanted them to possess what had been given to Abraham their forefather and to flourish in His abundance.

When the Israelites stepped across the Jordan River into the land promised to them, the first city they came to was Jericho. The fortified walls seemed impenetrable. But God would give Joshua a plan that would bring the walls down and place the city in Israel's hand.

Notice the divine

strategy laid out in Joshua 6:1-5:

"Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua: 'See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.

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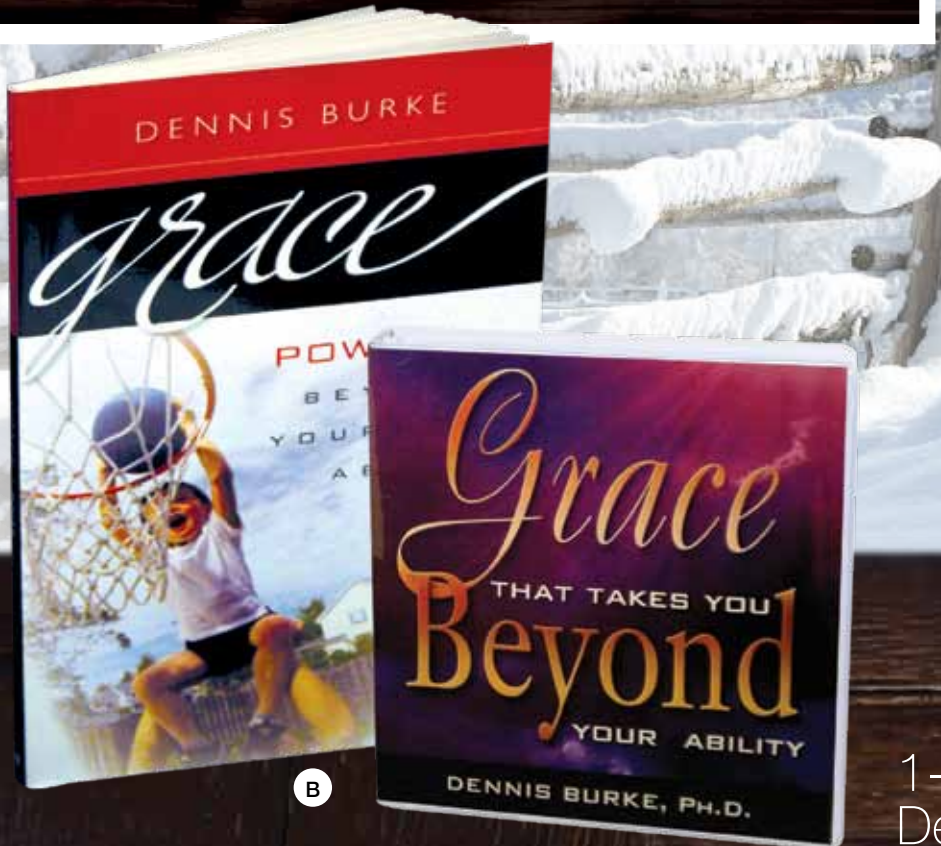
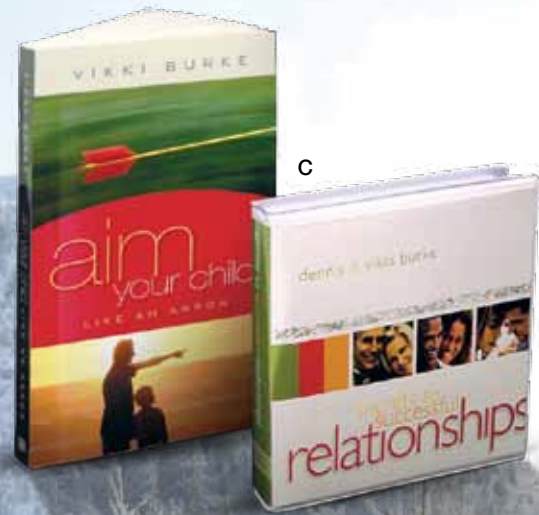


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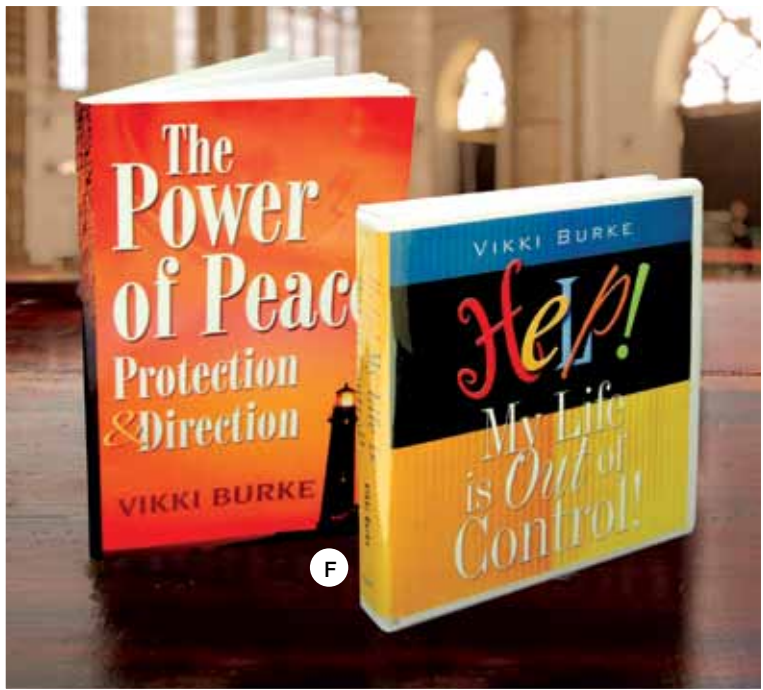
His purpose in every promise is to lift our lives and bring real results to us.

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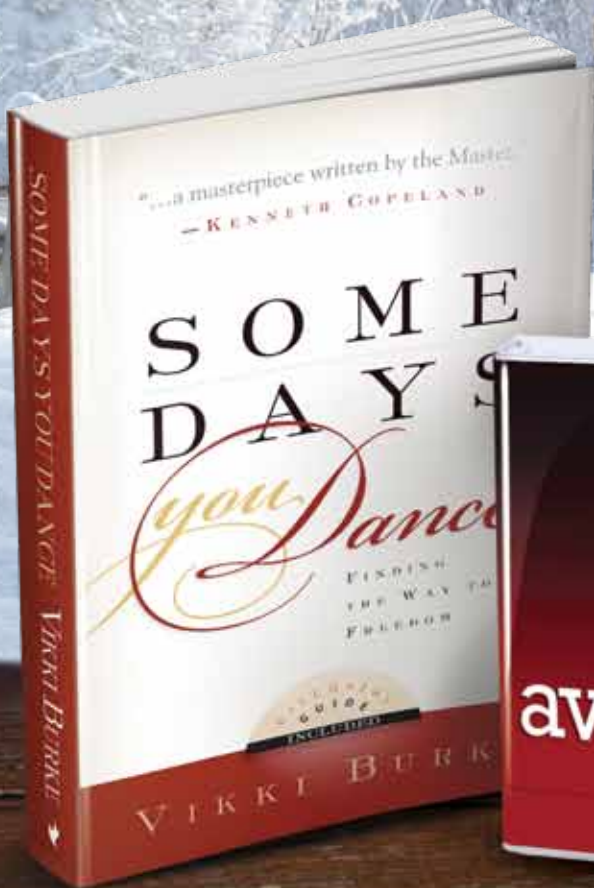
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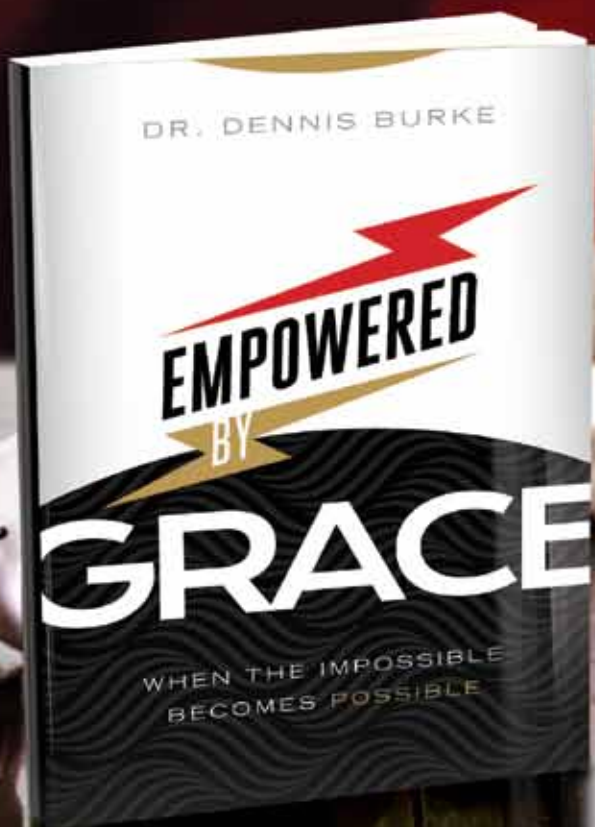
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And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark.

'But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.'

There were several details God outlined to Joshua that would be important to their victory over Jericho. They were to move into the land as conquerors, but the success of that conquest would require trusting God on an entirely new level and precisely following the details of His instructions. These details also provide instruction for us today on how to receive what God's grace has provided for us.

First, Joshua would need to see what was not commonly seen.

Joshua had to see that the battle he had not yet entered into was already won. He was to *see* things that he could not see naturally. He was to see that the king, the people, and the city were given to him. He could see this only through the eyes of faith in God's word to him. The battle hadn't even begun, but he was to see that it was already settled and won.

In the same way, God expects us to see things that cannot be seen. Eyes that truly see are uncommon. Proverbs 20:12 says, "The hearing ear and the seeing

eye, the Lord has made them both."

Seeing beyond the obvious, natural conditions into the unseen realm is vital to living by faith in God. We are made to live in the dimension of the Spirit as well as the natural, visible world. We are expected to see the reality of the Word before we see it manifested in this natural realm.

Second Corinthians 4:18 says, "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Second Corinthians 5:7 adds to that thought: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." *If we can see correctly, we can receive abundantly.*

The very fact that God has given us these powerful promises of victory over our enemy is evidence that we will have to face the devil and the trouble he brings. Every barrier placed in our path is there to stop our progress in God.

God has promised us success, just as He promised Joshua. It is a journey to be enjoyed. If we are not enjoying it, something is not as God intended. When we see God's Word through the eyes of our inner man as the ultimate reality, we are on the road to seeing with our natural eyes the changes we have hoped for.

My book, *How To Meditate God's Word*, has a chapter devoted to this subject of seeing with the eyes of our spiritual imagination. Our imagination is a very powerful part of our soul. We can learn how to capture every imagination to see ourselves and our situations in the light of His Word.

Without a God-given plan for action, our hopes will never be realized.

We can want the right things to happen; we can wish and hope for them. But without a plan, it will all be only a fantasy.

Second, uncommon results come from uncommon plans.

God gave Joshua very clear direction. In verses 3-5 are details of how Israel was to approach Jericho. This was by far the strangest plan for military conquest in all of history. Yet, however strange and unusual, they were expected to follow the plan. They were to march around the city once daily for six days and seven times on the seventh day — for a total of thirteen times. Throughout these days of marching, the people saw no progress whatsoever. Nothing changed.

We need to learn a lesson from this. Although we don't always see progress, it doesn't mean things are not changing. God is working to turn things around. When we keep our focus on God and His Word, we won't let the lack of progress distract us from the truth He has promised.

God is the ultimate Planner. He has planned our lives on this earth and for all of eternity. He has specific plans for every one of us. It takes a mind renewed to a new way of thinking to receive His plan and to trust His way of doing things. But that is what God expects of us.

Without a God-given plan for action, our hopes

will never be realized. We can want the right things to happen; we can wish and hope for them. But without a plan, it will all be only a fantasy. When we have His plan, we can move with confidence, knowing that God is walking with us every step of the way.

Third, the plan will always require uncommon action. Intentions are not enough.

Every step forward into God's plan will require a fresh commitment to step out in faith and beyond feelings. Real change comes through receiving God's plan and then taking action. For many, the intention to do what they know has taken the place of actually doing it. Intentions alone are never enough. God does not bless our intentions; *He only blesses our action to receive what grace as provided based on faith in His Word.*

James 1:22 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." If we are not acting on what we believe, we weaken and deceive ourselves. Joshua received the plan and was bold to act. He commanded the people exactly as he was instructed. They were bold to obey and to expect to see the power of God bring down the walls of the city at their feet.

In the same way, the obstacles we face in life will also fall as we follow God's instructions and expect His promised outcome. It may mean we will do something uncommon. We may be led to give an uncommon offering, to reach out to bless someone in an uncommon way, to forgive someone when it would not be expected, or to show the love of God in a meaningful way.

Fourth, understand that uncommon giving is honoring to God.

All of Israel was told to bring the wealth of Jericho into the treasury of the tabernacle. They were to keep nothing for themselves but to give everything to God. In later victories, they would be free to keep much

MEETINGS



Dennis & Vikki Burke

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November 1**

Victory Christian Center
719 US 62 | Maysville, KY 41056
606-759-7211

**Moscow, Russia
November 14-15**

Moscow Good News Church Schjolkovskoye
Shosse Dom 5, Stroyeniye 1
Moscow, Russia 105122
011-7-495-7271470

**Molalla, OR
November 21-22**

The Country Church | 16975 S Hwy 211
Molalla, OR 97038 | 503-829-5575

**Hesperia, CA
December 4-6**

Oasis of Faith Christian Center
17250 Lemon St
Hesperia, CA 92345 | 760-948-0745

**Tulsa, OK
December 13**

Living Rivers Millennial Church
10441 S Regal Blvd | Tulsa, OK 74133
918-924-6509

**Hebbronville, TX
December 19-20**

Faith Life Christian Church | 1205 W Viggie
Hebbronville, TX 78361 | 361-527-3804

**Hattiesburg, MS
January 10-12**

Victory Church | 1208 E Hardy
Hattiesburg, MS 39401 | 601-544-8485

**Brooklyn Park, MN
January 23-24**

Living Word Christian Center
9201 75th Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55423 | 763-315-7000

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of the wealth, but not this time. This was their first victory, and God wanted to be honored first.

We honor God more in our giving than we realize. We also dishonor Him by our failure to give. When we give an offering to His work, we have given some of our own lives. Giving back to Him is to honor Him first and to give thanks for all He has entrusted to us. He wants to be a part of our financial life, and He will bless what we set our hands to do as we honor Him.

Finally, there must be a shout IN you that is louder than the voices AROUND you.

There is a voice inside you that is continually speaking to you, giving you a running commentary and engaging your spirit in conversation. It is the voice of God's Spirit. When the Word of God abides within, that voice will speak louder than all of the problems and difficulties that surround you.

God's Word will become as loud as a shout on the inside. In fact, that shout will ultimately come out! God told Israel to shout

to the walls of Jericho and then watch them fall. We can shout the Word of God to the walls standing in our path. Satan has *no* defense against the Word of God in the mouths of God's children!

It is more than thinking right — it is also *declaring* His promise with confidence and faith. Job 22:28 says, "You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways."

We declare a thing, and *then* it is established. *The declaration establishes what we have chosen to receive.* Of course, it is established in God, but it has also become established in us. That's when the light of God will shine on our path to show the steps that will lead us into the very things we have declared. What we believe in our hearts and declare with our mouths will release God's creative power.

So take the limits off! Remove the barriers are in your mind. Your future is brighter than anything in your past. You need not remain where you are today. Stand up and move forward to where you want to be — to where God has destined you to be all along!

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