

Insights

The Way to a New Life



Each of us reaps a harvest based on what God has asked us to do, not on how important it seems.



Vikki Burke

A woman with brown hair, wearing a blue and yellow patterned tank top and yellow pants, is climbing a rock face. She is wearing a blue watch on her left wrist and a black watch on her right wrist. She is using climbing gear, including a blue harness and a green rope. The rock face is reddish-brown and has some green moss or lichen on it.

GREAT VICTORIES COME AS A RESULT OF GREAT CONFLICT.

Learn how to develop your unshakable faith

Dennis Burke



Unshakable Faith

THERE IS CERTAINLY SOME SHAKING RIGHT NOW POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY. BUT JESUS TOLD US TO CHEER UP AND TO ALLOW HIM TO EMPOWER EACH OF US TO REMAIN UNSHAKABLE!

by Dr. Dennis Burke



Through Dr. Burke's new book, learn to unlock your personal mission and access God's bountiful grace to **RISE TO THE OCCASION.**



Recently during a meeting where I was ministering, a man came to me after I had finished speaking. He was so excited as he started to tell me what had happened that morning—he had experienced a huge miracle! He explained that after he'd gone through surgery on his foot, he had been left with a limp and a lot of pain, which doctors had told him would be a permanent condition. The thought that this was to be his new life had left him depressed.

The night before, during my meeting, this man heard about the power of God and received a mighty infusion from the Holy Spirit. But it was the next morning that he realized what had happened. There was zero pain, and he was not limping—at all! The dark future of chronic discomfort and disability that this man had been told was his lot had been erased. He had received a true miracle!

This leads us to a truth that we all must have settled in our minds: The current situation is subject to change. The lie is that nothing is more permanent than our current condition or situation. But the

truth is, everything is subject to change when we allow God to work in our lives!

In every kind of problem or strategy of the devil, there is much more to be considered than the way it appears. The fear that comes from the appearance of things can be paralyzing—unless we change our perspective. Jesus gave us a treasure of wisdom to help us know how to look at a situation differently. He knew we would all face the storms of life.

For instance, when Jesus was facing the biggest storm of His life, He made the most amazing statement. Notice John 16:32-33 in *The Message Bible*:

I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.

Jesus was at the end of His ministry, and the dark clouds of betrayal were already gathering. He was about to be arrested, tried, and murdered. He knew it was coming, yet He still said, "...I've conquered

the world"! His victory was complete before He ever stepped fully onto the battlefield. Today our battle has already been settled as well before we ever step into the fight.

There is certainly some shaking right now politically, economically, and internationally. Beyond that, many people are facing personal trouble and shaky times right now. But Jesus told us to cheer up and to allow Him to empower each of us to remain unshakable!

The promise of this verse implies we will live through some shaking. Although we all face challenges that come to shake our faith, we really do have every reason to hope and believe that each trial we go through is going to turn

We all face challenges that come to shake our faith.

We have every reason to hope that each trial we go through is going to turn out all right

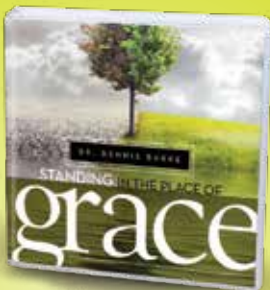


That kind of strength isn't automatic or accidental.

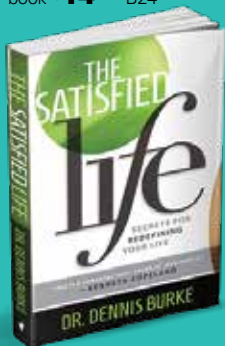
IT IS THE RESULT OF INTENTIONALLY TAKING A POSITION OF FAITH.



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out all right for us as we put our trust in God and follow the guidance of His Word and the leading of His Spirit. We have been empowered to conquer the shaky circumstances and outright attacks against us in the mighty Name of Jesus!

Great victories come as a result of great conflict. We see person after person in the Bible who faced huge giants in life. Of course, David faced an actual giant by the name of Goliath. David wasn't known by very many people until that day—but from that day forward, he had clearly won fame as “the giant-slayer”!

The very idea of winning implies a contest or battle. As believers, we are not naïve about the dangers and pitfalls we face. We know that our commitment to pursue God's great promises has put a target on our backs.

Most of our battles are waged hidden from public view—battles that are personal and often internal. But we have been given spiritual weapons to wield God's power through prayer and faith in His Word. We can be powerful, conquering, and fearless, no matter the threat!

But that kind of strength isn't automatic or accidental. It is the result of intentionally and diligently taking a confident position of faith in God's Word and seeing our own ability in the light of who we are now as believers.

Here is what the apostle Paul told Timothy to do in order to overcome the threats that come to us all. We find it in Second Timothy 1:7 (*Mirror Bible*):

“Become fully acquainted with his gift in you, there is nothing timid about it; the dynamic of a mind liberated in the spirit of love is fearless and unstoppable.”

These are such powerful words: fearless and unstoppable. These are the components of being unshakable. And the Lord has told us what is required to develop those qualities in our lives: We must become acquainted with who we are in Him and with the power of His grace-gift already born within us.

Each of us already has the inner substance to remain steady and unshakable. But we will only walk in the reality of that inner strength as we set our focus on God's power and His faithfulness to perform His promises. And we have to stay constant in that determined focus, even in the midst of the challenge we're facing. We have the choice to deliberately and consistently exercise our authority over fear and depression regarding the current threat. As we do, we position ourselves to receive our own miracle, just like the man did in my meeting.

And that is exactly what God has planned for you—life-changing miracles! You may need a physical, emotional, or financial miracle. Perhaps you need a miracle in your marriage or on the job. No matter what the shaking looks like in your own personal walk with Him, now is the time discover the power that continually resides within you in the Person of the Holy Spirit!

Cast off that heavy weight of oppression in the Name of Jesus! Then set aside time every day to soak in the Word and to fellowship with your Heavenly Father. As you do you will discover the fearless, unstoppable, and unshakable place in Him that is already yours by right as a child of God!

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





THOSE WHO LET THEIR FLESH RULE THEM ARE HAPPY ONLY WHILE PEOPLE ARE EITHER ON THE SAME LEVEL OR BENEATH THEM.

That should never describe us.

GOOD

keeps the books!

BY VIKKI BURKE

Dennis and I consider ourselves so blessed to have begun in ministry serving Pastor Herb Ezell—an amazingly wise man. With 40 years of ministry under his belt, he had developed many personal values that helped him navigate his way through life’s raging storms. As a disciple of his ministry, I allowed those values to become a part of my own DNA from a very young age and to form the foundation that shaped my life. They have remained a beacon of light that has spared me from certain

shipwrecks time and again through the years.

One of the priceless lessons that I learned from Pastor Ezell was that God keeps the books. Although it may sound like a simple adage, in reality it is a formidable insight that kept me afloat over some of the same issues that brought others down. It means that although others get more attention or admiration than I simply because what they do appears more important—it’s only what I do that matters.



It's irrelevant what other people do, right or wrong; God will deal with them accordingly. It's not my place to judge or compete with others—it's my place to live an upright life before God. And that's a full-time job for me!

This principle indicates that each of us reaps a harvest based on what God has asked us to do, not

on how big or important it seems to others. I'm not interested in the approval of people. It's only God's approval that interests me. Jesus said, "Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me,"¹ and I've decided to adopt His attitude!

When you know God keeps the books, it doesn't matter when you don't get a pat on the back for

what you've done. God promises that He will reward you openly.² This kind of carefree living takes the competition out of everything we do in life. And we can even help others accomplish their dream or teach them to grow without being threatened that it will take something away from us.

When we aren't in competition with others, we're not jealous when they succeed. God promises that He will never forget our good deeds.³ So when we help others with what they need, God will make sure we have enough when we have a need. We can take pleasure knowing that others might not have been successful without the help we provided. We can make others look good—without needing to bring attention to ourselves.

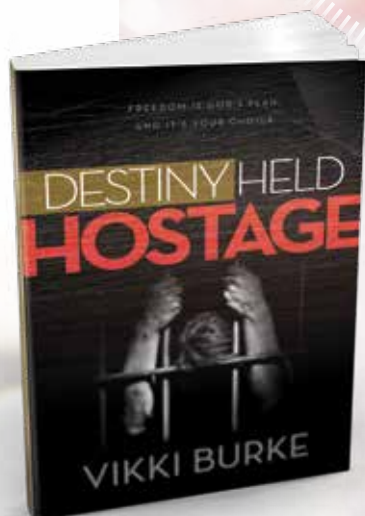
For me, it's rewarding to be part of a team working behind the scenes, knowing that each person involved adds his or her part to achieve the same goal. I have a lot of help just getting this article to you. I only write the article; everyone else does the rest. Our staff member (who does an excellent job!) submits the article to our editor (whom I need desperately!). Then it goes to the artist (who makes me look good!), and from there it goes to the printer and the post office. I'm perfectly content to do my part and allow the rest of our team to get the credit they rightfully deserve.

God gives us each a significant role to play that should be fulfilling to us. We should never feel threatened in that role by measuring ourselves against others—nor should we ever feel threatened that someone else might take it from us. Jesus made it clear that we are each a part of His Body and that we're all equally important.⁴ When we help others along the way, it sets the stage for God to help us. We can simply love helping people, because we know our place and we're not in

IT'S TIME TO LET GO OF THE HURT AND GRAB HOLD OF YOUR DESTINY.

I recently obtained a copy of Vikki's book, *Destiny Held Hostage*. It is so freeing! God has used your words, along with the biblical truths that you teach, to open my eyes to what I was allowing the enemy to use to hurt me and keeping me from my destiny. Thank you so much.

— Libby Dickson Hay



\$15⁹⁹

Destiny Held Hostage (B25)
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competition with them.

When David slew Goliath, Saul was delighted—that is, until others began singing David's praises. Saul became insanely jealous over the attention David received when returning from battle. Saul should have been grateful to David for saving his kingdom, but instead jealousy drove him to try to murder a man whose only crime was to experience success on the battlefield on King Saul's behalf!

Those who let their flesh rule them are happy only while people are either on the same level or beneath them. That should never describe us. Each of us can make the decision to rejoice when people accomplish more than we do—and to celebrate all the more if we've had a part in getting them there!

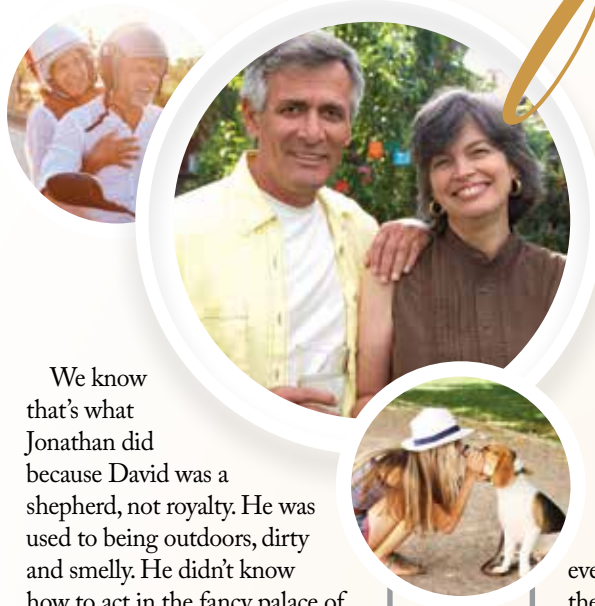
Saul's son, Jonathan, who was next in line to rule Israel, demonstrated this kind of attitude with David. Jonathan recognized that David, his closest friend, was anointed to be Israel's next king—not himself. Many people would have fought to the death to save their rightful position, but not Jonathan. He was confident enough in the anointing on David's life that he risked his own life to help his covenant friend.

When Saul plotted to murder David, it was Jonathan who provided the inside information that enabled David to escape Saul's treachery. Jonathan could have easily become jealous or bitter of David, but instead he helped put David in the position that, in man's eyes, belonged to him.

When we compete for a position that belongs to someone else, it will be hard going all the way—yet God meant life to be easy, not stressful. We are to be happy with the person God created us to be instead of struggling to be someone else. And when we choose to help others achieve their dream, God will help us achieve ours.

each of us

reaps a harvest based on what God has asked us to do, not on how big or important it seems.



We know that's what Jonathan did because David was a shepherd, not royalty. He was used to being outdoors, dirty and smelly. He didn't know how to act in the fancy palace of a king. But Jonathan took David under his wing and helped him without an ulterior motive or a hidden agenda.

Many people are called to be "king" like David. But without a lot of selfless, faithful Jonathans, a king might never reach his appointed place.

David never forgot what Jonathan had done for him. Even after Jonathan was killed in battle, David's heart longed to repay him in some way. So years later when he found Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth living in obscure poverty, King David returned all the property that once belonged to Mephibosheth's grandfather and brought him to live in the palace and to eat at the king's table like one of his own sons.⁵

Jesus said God gives sunlight to both the evil and good, and He sends rain upon the just and the unjust alike.⁶ That must mean that successful people face just as many problems as those who are unsuccessful—they just handle it differently. Maybe instead of seeing problems as barriers blocking their path, people who

eventually achieve success see them as an obstacle to be hurdled.

Someone else's success doesn't make your success less important. You can choose to be a bigger, more mature person who can be happy when others' dreams come true.

Mordecai, who was only allowed to stand outside the palace gate, wasn't jealous of Esther who lived in the palace. The role Mordecai played in Israel's survival wasn't as glamorous as Esther's. But although his part was behind-the-scenes, it wasn't any less significant. Esther couldn't have accomplished what she did without Mordecai's insight.

Remember how long Elisha spent serving the prophet Elijah? At one point, Elijah even tried to separate from Elisha, but the servant refused to leave. Elisha knew his place was to help Elijah. As a result, when Elijah died, God gave Elisha a double portion of Elijah's anointing.⁷

It was a servant girl who told Naaman that if he would go to the prophet in Samaria, he would recover from leprosy.⁸ Naaman made the trip to see the prophet and returned home healed and restored!



For more teachings, go to

dennisburkeministries.org



WE CAN MAKE OTHERS LOOK GOOD—WITHOUT NEEDING TO BRING ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

The first time we spoke in Singapore at New Creation Church, Henry Yeo was the pastor and Joseph Prince led worship. I distinctly remember the effect that the worship service had on me. I even mentioned to Dennis at the time what a big heart Joseph had. The next year when we returned, Joseph had become the pastor. When we asked how that transition occurred, we were told that Henry went to Joseph and said that Joseph was to become the pastor and Henry the administrator. That's the only time we had ever seen a pastor so unthreatened by someone assuming his or her position. But it wouldn't have happened if Joseph had been discontent, complaining and striving to be the pastor. And on the other side of Joseph's promotion, look at the ministry God had planned for him!

The apostle Paul said he'd learned to be content in whatever situation he was in. He had learned the secret to living in almost any situation in which he found himself.⁹ When you are discontent with your situation, you

may disqualify yourself or be blinded to the promotion God has for planned for you.

Everything God asks someone to do is significant. The world judges significance based on how big a task is. But what makes a task is significant is Who asked you to do it.

It's when people begin to compare themselves with what others are doing that they get in trouble. Paul explicitly warned against the dangers of comparison.¹⁰ When you compare yourself with others, you either determine that they're better than you are (condemning and criticizing yourself), or you decide they are beneath you (thus lifting yourself up in pride).

Neither outcome is what God has in mind for you. You are created in the image of God, and He has a plan designed for you to lay hold of and live out in great fulfillment. If you aren't living your dream yet, don't allow yourself to compete or be jealous of others who are. Realize that God keeps the books and He will never forget your good deeds!

⁹ Philippians 4:11-12 | ¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 10:12

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Spruce Grove, AB : November 20

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Hesperia, CA : December 9-11

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