



DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

The Way to a New Life
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2010

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PACKED FOR THE

JOURNEY

3
BLESS

YOUR FAITH WILL TAKE
YOU WHERE YOU'VE
NEVER BEEN

PACKED FOR
THE JOURNEY



BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

There are defining moments in everyone's life. Those moments can be good, or they can be not so great. But regardless, they can mark a person's life — many times for the remainder of his or her life. It is the way a person chooses to respond in those defining moments that often has a very long-lasting impact.

One of the greatest scriptural examples of this principle is found in the life of Abraham. Paul states in his letter to the Romans that Abraham was the father of the God-kind of faith. In other words, Abraham was the first to embrace the power of believing what God said to him above anything else he saw in the natural.

When we first find Abraham in the Scriptures, he was still called Abram—born in the city of Ur of the Chaldeans (located in modern-day Iraq). The city of Ur was one of the great ancient cities, situated approximately 140 miles south of the great city of Babylon and the influence of the Babylonian king. It is very possible that the king of that time was Nimrod—

the Babylonian ruler reputed to have attempted the building of the Tower of Babel, which is described in Genesis 11.

The Web Bible Encyclopedia points out another very important point: that “Chaldees” is a mistranslation of the Hebrew word Kasdim, the Old Testament name of the Babylonians. Ur was one of the oldest and most famous of the Babylonian cities. Its site is now called Mugheir, or Mugayyar, located on the western bank of the Euphrates River in southern Babylonia.

Abram’s home was subject to all the influences of the Babylonian kingdom. This makes God’s first words to Abram, found in Genesis 12, very significant. The Lord directed Abram to leave his homeland and family. God was moving Abram away from the Babylonian system of influence and way of thinking, pointing him in an entirely new direction. This was a moment that would redefine every aspect of Abram’s life.

As I pondered this point in Abram’s life, it reminded me of the time God moved Vikki and me from our home and families in southern California. We both grew up in the South Bay area on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Not long after giving our lives to Jesus, we understood that God’s assignment on our lives was to minister His Word around the world. At that point, we were really still just kids — but we were clear about our future. We knew that God had a plan for our lives.

We also realized that God wanted us to leave California, move to Texas, and become part of the ministry of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Although our actual time working for the Copelands was short, we knew that God had joined us to their ministry for life. We would go on to establish our lives in Texas, staying closely associated with Kenneth and Gloria, their family, and their ministry.

Vikki and I still remember well the moment we embarked on our journey to Texas. We pulled away in our rented moving truck with our Doberman Pinscher named Duke and our bird Nahum as my mother waved farewell to us from the curb in front of her house. She was our last stop before we started our adventure of faith.

We had accepted an assignment from God that meant we would leave everything familiar to us, including our friends and families, to go fulfill His plan. We sensed that it was a decision that would define our lives — and that it did! We were right where God wanted us, and we knew it immediately upon our arrival to Texas.

Of course, that wouldn’t be our only defining moment, just as Abram’s move to a new land wasn’t the sole defining experience of his life. Many years later, Abram would again hear a word that redefined him — so much so that God would change his name to Abraham, meaning the father of many nations.

In Genesis 17:4, God told Abraham, “As for Me, My

covenant is with you....” Abraham’s faith in God’s word to him regarding this covenant became the defining aspect of his life. Abraham’s decision to believe God’s words above his own feelings or physical condition is one of the most amazing aspects of his life. It is the very reason God later called him the father of our faith.

In the same way, it is faith in the word God has given each of us today that will redefine us. Remember, Abraham’s faith wasn’t only a matter of believing something to be true; his faith also led him to move his entire clan out of the Babylonian system.

Our faith today is useless if it doesn’t lead us into direct action. Faith that is alive is faith that believes and acts like God can and will move in our lives.

You really can come out of the pain and problems of your past — but it will only happen in a lasting way when it is done by faith in God’s Word to you. You can see your financial life turned right side

up. But you must let yourself be redefined by the way God does things.

The Babylonian system Abraham walked away from continues to drive the everyday lives of most people all over

...A MOMENT THAT
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the world today. This system started as the counterfeit to everything God wanted to provide for His people.

The people building the tower of Babel said they would make a name for themselves (Gen. 11:4). In contrast, God said

testimonies

BLESS 3

Can you think of at least 3 people in your life who could really use a fresh Word from God?

We invite you to share the love of the Lord through any DBM resources you see in this issue of *Insights*, or at our Web site:

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THIS Christmas BLESS 3

DEAR DENNIS AND VIKKI,

What a blessing you have been to my life on a daily basis! I wake up each morning to turn off my iPhone alarm, and there you are with my morning devotional that just hits me right where I am. And I can't help but punch the "forward" button—I always know someone else that can use a similar word.

Which brings me to my next thought: I just want you to know I'm going to pass along your ministry this year at Christmas time.

You've challenged me to cut out the clutter in my life and I have begun to live stress-free to such a point I may never even go to the mall again during the holidays—at all. It occurred to me I can bless just about every member of my family through your teaching—in essence, "one-stop shop" through your catalog. For instance, my mom who is struggling—even at her age—with self image (she has specifically told me this) and has been held back for so long stepping into her unique calling in ministry. I'm definitely going to order *Transforming Your Self Image* to bless her.

Then, there's my sister-in-law whose husband (i.e. my brother) died three years ago Christmas Eve, leaving behind 4 children under the age of 12.

This is such a sensitive time for her and her family, but she is so full of faith and will soak up good Bible teaching. I'm definitely going to have to send her *Aim Your Child Like an Arrow*—or maybe *Stress-Free Living*? I can't decide. Maybe I should send her both!

And finally, a work associate of mine has often remarked how frustrated he is that others seem to be more successful in business while he seems to be doing all the right things but continues to struggle with finances. I will get him the *Secrets to Financial Freedom*. I know all the books are less than the CDs, but for him the CDs are essential because I know he'll probably just pop them directly into iTunes and listen on the road. I doubt he'll sit still long enough to read a book!

And for my son, the avid reader, and my older brother? Well, I guess the list goes on!

Again, thank you, Dennis and Vikki, for blessing so many through your faithfulness and your ministry!"

—M.S. | PLANO, TX



3
BLESS

From faith to finances,
self-image to Godly parenting—
make a difference in the lives of
3 people this Christmas, and do it
all stress-free on our Web site at
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to Abram, “I will make your name great.”

Babylon was a magnificent city with walls and gardens that remain among the most impressive achievements of the ancient world. Yet with all of its enviable beauty and convenience, its system and its way of viewing life was designed to be the counterfeit to trusting God. Thus, it was absolutely necessary for Abram to be separated from all of those influences. He had to develop a different concept of living that would keep him closely connected to the greatness of God.

Today we are facing the influences of the same system. It is the counterfeit to God’s favor and blessing. It is the substitute for faith. If we look solely to the government, the medical community, the financial banking industry, or the pharmaceutical companies for our help or answers, we have not yet stepped into the power our covenant with God is meant to produce.

It is no wonder so many Christians today still struggle with the same issues as unbelievers do. Often the reason is that they

are unbelieving believers. Of course, that sounds ridiculous, but it is entirely possible. People can believe in God, yet not believe He will do what He has clearly said He wants to do. Consequently, they believe and yet remain in unbelief.

Please don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying that those in government, medicine, banking, or pharmaceuticals are evil people. There are many fine Christians who are serving God and people in all of those sectors.

However, it’s vital for you to know where your faith lies and where your help comes from. Your faith is on the solid foundation of God’s

Word. Your help comes as you allow the Holy Spirit to take hold of your life and situation and empower you to stand by faith inside the grace He has provided for you.

You can ignite the redefining of your life and make today a defining moment. Go back through the promises God has made regarding your life. His Word is full of blessing, power, and spiritual strength. Follow the faith of Abraham, and believe what you find in Scripture. Allow those discoveries to separate you from a dependence on other sources for your answers and help.

As you take those steps on a daily basis, you will find your life becoming more and more defined by your relationship with God. He will lead you to live free from the systems of the world and empower you by His grace, which resides within you by His Spirit.

You are not a citizen of the Babylonian system, a citizen of this world’s system, or even a citizen of this nation alone. You are a citizen of Heaven, and you possess all the rights and privileges of Heaven’s citizenship.

So let this be a defining time in your life. Like faithful Abraham, stand strong in the Lord, and know that today you are defined by His Word, His system, His covenant, and His Kingdom.

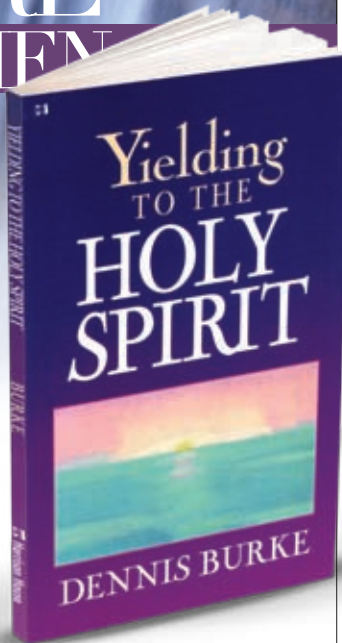
“Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead” (Romans 4:20–25 *NLT*).

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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RESTORE STRENGTHEN BUILD

The work of the Holy Spirit is to take the treasures of His wealth and bring them to the surface in your life. From the moment of the New Birth, the Holy Spirit comes to you working to restore, build and strengthen the areas of your life which have suffered from the impact of sin. A fresh personal visitation of the Holy Spirit is the only way to remain in the stream of God’s vision.



Start your day, armed with *the Truth.*



testimonies

So many will begin their mornings tuning in to TV news, or fill the quiet with the empty banter of early morning secular talk shows. We all know starting off right can prepare us for victory. Why not fuel up with strength-boosting encouragement and insights from God's Word?

Following are just a few testimonies from the growing number of believers who have chosen to brighten their mornings with the light of God's Word through the DBM *Enriching Life Daily* devotional emails:

"Thank you for saying yes to the Lord and following after His heart. Your daily inspirational are so anointed... clear, precise and Life giving. You and Dennis follow the heart beat of the Lord. Jesus continue to bless all you put your hand to and increase your circle of influence for His Kingdom. Much love in Him..."

"Thank you for this email, it was exactly what I needed today. God bless you for the work you are doing in extending God's kingdom."

"Thank you for your daily emails...they are such a blessing to me and help me with my walk with God. I look forward to them everyday and they encourage me in God's Word daily!! I am so thankful for God bringing you into my life through my church. You are awesome and thank you so so much! Blessing to you both..."

We close this issue of *InSights* with an actual morning devotional from the DBM daily email devotional, *Enriching Life Daily*:

Kingdoms in Conflict

Have you ever wondered how Jesus was able to sidestep the booby traps that were set for Him? What kept Him from being drawn and lured into Satan's snares?

Religious leaders frequently ambushed Jesus with an onslaught

of hostile questions, yet He skillfully dodged each one. No matter what others did He remained in complete control of every situation.

If we could identify the secrets that kept Jesus from getting ensnared in the traps set for Him, then we could apply

continued on back

upcoming meetings

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Nov. 7, 2010

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Living Water Bible Teaching Institute
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Nov. 19, 2010 - Nov. 21, 2010

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760-948-0745

Dec. 5, 2010

New Life International Outreach Center
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-386-6129

Dec. 17, 2010 - Dec. 19, 2010

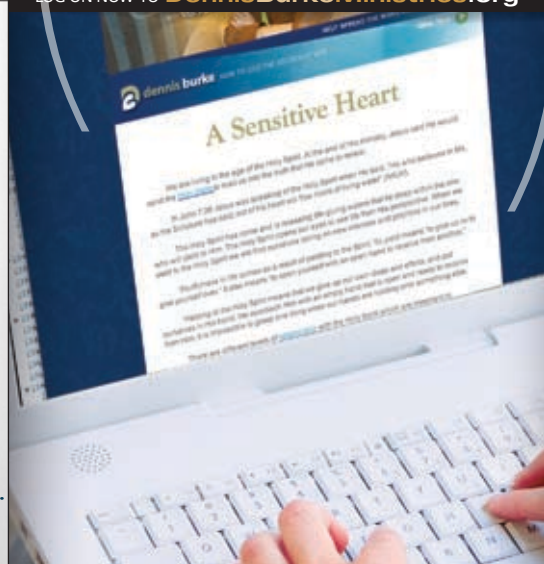
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dennis & vikki burke



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those principles and sidestep the traps set for us. One thing is certain: Jesus never allowed human opinion to affect Him. Proverbs 29:25 warns, "Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the Lord means safety." I like the way *The Message* states it: "The fear of human opinion disables...."

If fear disables, then fearlessness must enable. We see this principle continually operating in Jesus' life. Human opinion didn't affect Him at all. Again, speaking to powerful leaders, He said, "Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me..." (John 5:41 *NLT*). Now, that's fearlessness!

Because Jesus was mindful of the spiritual climate and culture of this present world, He was able to look beyond human actions or opinions and identify their source. In other words, He followed the fruit to the root.

Jesus understood that although people harassed and attacked Him, they were not His enemy. He dealt with the root—the kingdom of darkness. Jesus knew full well that He was in a spiritual battle against spiritual opponents. He recognized the evil author and its kingdom that was behind each attack. Aware of this unseen conflict with the powers of darkness, Jesus never retaliated when people attacked or insulted Him. He understood that the enemy often used people as bait to ensnare Him.

"Fighting fruit" is a waste of time, yet too often we spend all our time trying to deal with problems at this level. But if we want to permanently affect fruit such as opposition, criticism, or personal attacks through other people we must follow Jesus' example and deal with the root.

This knowledge equipped Jesus to sidestep every trap the enemy set for Him. And His life wasn't trouble-free as many suppose. Jesus was despised and rejected, a man of sorrow and familiar with grief (see Isaiah 53:3). He faced angry mobs, accusations from powerful leaders, beatings, and ultimately crucifixion. Yet He never defended Himself or retaliated against people. Consequently, when His life was over, Jesus could honestly say that the prince of this world had no claim on Him (see John 14:30).

Jesus had to navigate through dangerous, mine-infested waters in order to avoid Satan's booby traps. An example of one of these traps set for Jesus is found in Matthew 22:15: "Then the Pharisees met together to think of a way to trap Jesus into saying something for which they could accuse him."

Although the Pharisees were responsible for setting a trap for Jesus, Satan was the mastermind behind the strategy. The Pharisees were merely Satan's pawns used to get Jesus to say something contrary to God's Word, and then the devil could accuse Him. He will use the same strategy on us unless we recognize he is behind the attacks and insults.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures come from the New Living Translation of the Bible.

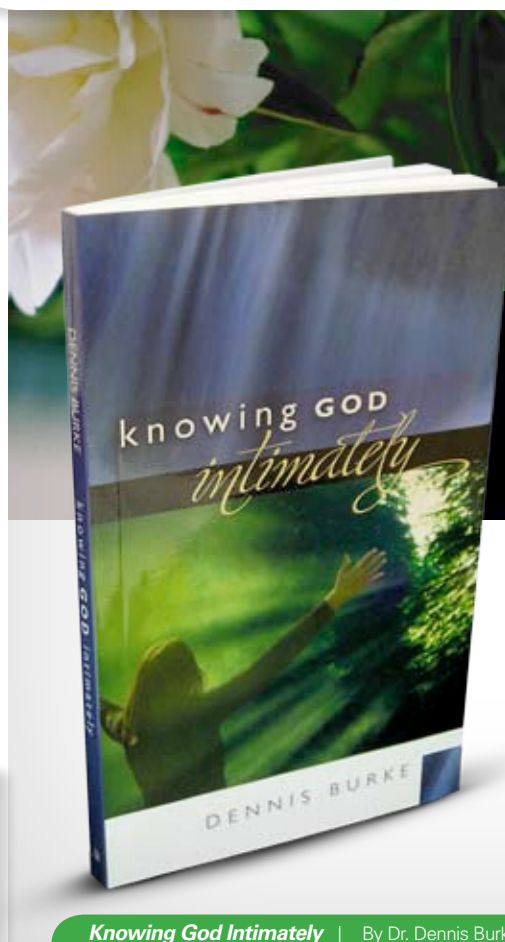
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