

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014

The Way to a New Life

Learn how
to activate
your faith

*find your
freedom*

You are
not just a
Survivor

Take your stand in the courtroom
of Heaven, and say what God says
about what belongs to you.

GRAC

THE LAW OF FAI

Spiritual laws

Just as there are **natural laws**, to control the actions and every natural part of the universe, there are also **spiritual laws**.

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You have probably heard this before. It is the third of Sir Isaac Newton's laws of physics. Although the significance of this law may not be clear to all of us, it is something that impacts us every day. You have to remember when you think of laws that there are different kinds of laws. >>

by Dr. Dennis

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spiritual
LAWS
natural

Some regulate our conduct. For instance, speed-limit laws are there to control and regulate our driving and help protect us.

There are also natural laws that reveal systems and design. These would include the laws of physics, mathematics, chemistry, and many more. These natural laws control the outcome of actions and every natural part of the universe. Amazingly, God designed and calculated all of this before He ever spoke the words, "Let there be light" in Genesis.

Just as there are natural laws, there are also spiritual laws. These laws have been written within the person who has made Jesus their Lord. With the new birth comes the New Covenant, the new commandment of the God-kind of love, and the spiritual laws and systems this new believer can learn to live by.

We may want a particular outcome. But regardless of how much we want it, if we are doing things contrary to the laws and systems God designed, we will not see the results we desire.

For centuries, man wanted to fly like the birds. Yet until the discovery of how a birds' wings created lift, man never would fly. But in 1903 two brothers succeeded in bringing together the laws that create lift, and they demonstrated that we would indeed be able to fly.

These laws of God's grace are not a new set of rules and regulations. They represent a revelation of the systems He has established for successful living on the level of our original design. All of these laws were in man from the beginning until sin entered the picture. When Adam and Eve sinned, these laws were broken.

Now these new laws have been written in the core of a believer. Just as in Moses' time, God wrote on stone the moral laws that have governed humanity, He has now written the laws of His New Covenant of grace within each believer.

Hebrews tells us, "And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. First he says, "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts so they will understand them, and I will write them on their minds so they will obey them." Then he adds, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds" (Hebrews 10:15-17 NLT).

He reveals these laws in the New Testament. Here is the first one:

Law No 1 The Law of Faith

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith" (Romans 3:27).

This law is alive within us and links us to all of the power and resources of God's Kingdom. Faith in His Word changes things! Jesus has told us to have the God-kind of faith.

In Mark 11, Jesus demonstrated what faith in God looks like. He said that if we would speak to the mountains, they would be removed. Too often people are speaking to God about their mountains when Jesus said to speak to the mountains. Jesus spoke



to the tree, and it withered. The point is this: Faith in God brings His way of doing things into everything we face.

It is impossible to see God move in our lives by relying on a system other than the one God has given us. For that reason, it is impossible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) says, “So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

The life of faith sees God as the One who rewards people who will take on His way of doing things. We choose to believe Him and His way.

Second Corinthians 4:13 says, “And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke,’ we also believe and therefore speak.”

Sometimes our soul races away like an untamed horse with the distractions of life. But simple faith will remain locked in on God’s promise and continue to speak His Word with the confident expectation that His Word will prevail.

Faith believes what God has said. Proverbs 4:20-23 tells us exactly

how to remain focused when the circumstances around us are screaming failure:

“My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

Joshua 1:8 gives us a further glimpse into the way we must maintain this law of faith:

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

You maintain the operation of the law of faith in your life by giving attention to God’s Word and keeping His Word in your mouth.

The life of faith will remain focused on God’s Word and His way of doing things. The law of faith will work in all who will let faith flow from their hearts.

This law of grace can be summed up this way: When we deal with God according to faith, He deals with us according to grace. Our faith gives us access to His grace and activates all that grace has provided.

We will look at the remaining laws of grace in the next issue!

If something has been lost or stolen from you, God wants it restored.

Wherever you’ve been wronged, He wants things made right.



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Not just a survivor

by Vikki Burke

Judging by the T-shirts available, it's a big idea these days to be a survivor. Some people are apparently willing to pay good money for wearable billboards that say, "I survived..." — everything from hurricanes to bad hair days. While surviving beats the alternative, I want to make this clear: It is not God's best for you. God has not called you to simply endure and stagger across the finish line of life gasping, "Well, at least I survived."

God created you to be a victor, not a survivor! He promised not only to preserve you but to avenge you of your adversary—who, I should remind you, is the devil, not people!—and make you more

than a conqueror in every area of life. If something has been lost or stolen from you, God wants it restored. Wherever you've been wronged, He wants things made right.

If you want to see how God makes things right, read about what He did when He delivered the Hebrews out of Egypt. Setting them free from slavery alone didn't satisfy



you need to settle this:

God is not the unjust judge.
If you've been wronged in any
way, He is not responsible for it.

His sense of justice. The way God saw it, the Egyptians owed the Israelites big time for the years of work they'd been forced to do. So He instructed the Israelites to ask the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold, and clothing.

Under ordinary circumstances, such a request would have been utterly rejected. But these were no ordinary circumstances. God, moving supernaturally on



behalf of His people, “caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. So like a victorious army, they plundered the Egyptians!”¹

Think of it! Those Hebrew slaves were broke and in bondage one day — and wealthy and free the next. God’s love for justice made them rich overnight. That wasn’t something God did just once, either. The Bible tells us about many such incidents.

One of my favorites is the one recorded in First Samuel 30 of how David and his warriors returned to their camp at Ziklag after fighting

a battle and found nothing but a silent, smoldering pile of ashes. Their homes were in ruins. Their wives and children were gone—kidnapped by the Amalekites.

It was a gruesome scene. Nothing and no one was left. David and his men were so stunned and grief-stricken that at first all they could do was cry. The Bible says they wept until they had no more strength to weep. Personally, I’m grateful God included that fact in Scripture because sometimes when I’ve been hurt in an especially deep and painful way, that’s what I’ve had to do too. At first, I have to cry. David, who was a man after God’s own heart, proved that’s okay.

God understands when we’ve been blindsided by some horrific hurt that it may take us some time to process our emotions. He is compassionate and willing to help us through that process, but here’s the problem: Too many stop there. Once we’ve recovered our emotions and come to terms with what has happened, we decide to put the whole matter behind us. We just thank God that, by His grace, we’re still alive.

But that’s not what David did. He didn’t try to console himself and his men by saying, “Hey, guys, look on the bright side. At least we survived!” No, David knew better than that. He knew God had called them to be champions! So after strengthening himself in the Lord, David asked God a crucial question: “Should I pursue these enemies?”

And God answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely

overtake them and without fail recover all.”²

David and his men wasted no time obeying that command. Even though they were already worn out from weeping, they went after the enemy that had robbed and victimized them. And before the day was out, they found the Amalekites! They were spread out across the fields, eating, drinking, and dancing with joy because of the vast amount of plunder they had taken from the Philistines and the land of Judah. David and his men rushed in among the Amalekites and slaughtered them throughout that night and the entire next day until evening. David got back everything the Amalekites had taken, and he rescued his two wives. Nothing was missing: small or great, son or daughter, David brought everything back that had been taken. His troops rounded up all the flocks and herds and drove them on ahead. “These all belong to David as his reward!” they said (vv. 16-20).

Now, that’s what I call justice! Not only did David get back everything he’d lost, but he also ended up with more than he had when he started. He didn’t just get restored — he got a reward!

As God’s obedient children, you and I should expect Him to do the same thing for us. After all, this is God’s “M.O.!” God’s love of justice will cause Him to provide recompense, restitution, or repayment for any damages the devil has inflicted on us. But we must open the door for it. If we want to receive the restoration God has promised, we have to do our part.

What, exactly, is our part? Read what Jesus said in Luke 18, and you’ll see.

“There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she

upcoming meetings

came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily" (vv. 2-8 NKJV).

To understand the point, the first thing you need to settle is this: God is not the unjust judge. If you've been wronged in any way, He is not responsible for it. He has never, ever committed a single act of injustice.

"Well, if God isn't the unjust judge in this situation," you might ask, "who is?"

The devil, of course! He's the mastermind behind everything that's been stolen from us, the culprit behind every evil plot and plan. And the feisty widow in this parable showed us how to deal with him—she boldly called for justice to be done! She wasn't nice about it either. She didn't make quiet, polite little requests. She was so determined to get what legally belonged to her that she got downright fierce. She troubled the judge and wore him out. The Greek words used in the original Scriptures basically say that the widow applied pressure to him until she depleted his strength. She buffeted him as if she was a warrior. There wasn't anything timid about this widow.

It's a good thing she was too; otherwise, that unjust judge would have ripped her off! Since he had no compassion and no fear of God, he would have gladly deprived her of the justice she was due if she hadn't verbally assaulted him day after day until he just...couldn't...take it...

Those Hebrew slaves were broke and in bondage one day — and wealthy and free the next. God's love for justice made them rich overnight.

anymore.

If you think the widow's attitude doesn't sound very "Christian," think again. Jesus said that God's Kingdom advances when "the violent take it by force."³ He said His people receive the recompense they've been promised by crying out "day and night" to be avenged of their adversary!

According to the dictionary, when someone asks to be avenged, he is requesting immediate compensation for damages that have been caused. The person is demanding that the perpetrator of the injustice who has been committed against him be forced to repay them for the losses he suffered.

That's what the widow in the parable did, and we should do it too—with the same kind of persistence and boldness of faith!

It takes boldness and persistence to break through the devil's resistance. He's not going to give back what he's stolen from us just because it's right. He's a liar, a thief, and a bully. Like the unjust judge, he'll try to stonewall our demands for justice. So if we don't demand it, we won't get it.

This kind of audacious, insistent prayer isn't for the

continued on back

dennis & vikki burke



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you can be sure you'll see results

Take your stand in the courtroom of Heaven, and say what God says about what belongs to you.



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fainthearted. It requires spiritual fortitude. But that's okay, because God has provided the strength to sustain us!

So start using your voice to apply pressure day and night to the kingdom of darkness. Take your stand in the courtroom of Heaven, and say what God says about what belongs to you. Declare His Word by faith, confident that God will do what He said and recompense you for whatever the devil has stolen from you!

If you'll do that, you can be sure you'll see results. God leaves no doubt about it! He said, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth...it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."⁴

Even if Satan, playing the role of the unjust judge, opposes you for a while, stick with it because he does not have the final say. There's a Greater Judge who has far more power than he. God Almighty, your Heavenly Father, is the ultimate Judge, and it's His will for you to get justice. It's His will for the wrongs in your life to be made right again and for every evil thing the devil has used against you to be turned for your good!

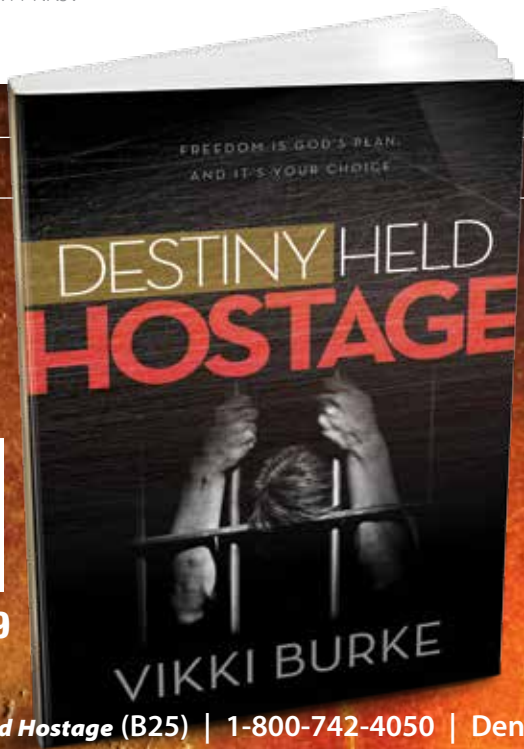
⁴Isaiah 55:11 NKJV



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