

# INSIGHTS

you have an extraordinary

# ADVANTAGE



**We've been given an extraordinary advantage in life. We've been designed by God for great things.**

And in Christ, we have received deposits of His grace and greatness that will empower us to see it all come to life.

Peter tells us it is receiving God's promises to us that empowers us.

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who

called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires (2 Peter 1:3–4 NLT).

Receiving a promise from God's Word by faith unlocks the power within those Words. He enables us to stand in a new place, receive on a new level, and possess everything He has given us.

His promises cover every aspect of life — spirit, soul and body. We've been given His nature, power for healing,

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE



**“CALEB SPOKE WITH CONFIDENCE AND AUTHORITY AS HE STOOD UP TO THE MAJORITY. THE OTHERS ALLOWED THE THREATS OF THE GIANTS TO BECOME LIKE BLINDERS IN THEIR MINDS.”**



power for renewing our mind, and the list goes on.

Of course, there are also oppositions we face. We have an enemy and his kingdom

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arrayed against us to prevent us from obtaining God's plan.

However, we can have confidence that the power to prevail in hard times is stored up like a reservoir within each of us. Tapping into that supply takes maintaining God's point of view when fears and uncertainty around us scream for our attention. The *way* we see things is as important, or sometimes more important, than *what* we see.

Our perspective in life is a product of the mindset we've maintained. Often, having a particular perspective can put us at odds with the opinions of many people. Following the crowd can seem so much easier. Yet, so many times people will follow the crowd and miss God's very best.

This is exactly what happened when Israel was in the wilderness. One of the pivotal moments for Israel was the conflict between the twelve spies that Moses had sent into the land God had promised to them.

Notice Hebrews 4:2— from *The Passion Translation*: “For we have heard the good

news of deliverance just as they did, yet they didn't join their faith with the Word. Instead, what they heard didn't affect them deeply, for they doubted. For those of us who believe, faith activates the promise and we experience the realm of confident rest!”

Every one of them had the same promises from God. Everyone saw the same giants. Everyone saw the same fruit in the land. What made Joshua and Caleb have such a different report when they returned? It was their perspective founded in faith.

When faith in God's Word dominates our perspective, we see beyond the trouble



**WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM, STOP YOUR INNER DIALOGUE, AND FLIP THE SCRIPT TO THE VOICE OF FAITH....”**

to embrace the result. While Joshua and Caleb saw God's promise attainable through faith, the ten could not see past the threat of failing because of the giants in the land.

For two of them, possessing God's promise was in their sights. For the majority, their fear of failing was too great. The report of the majority caused Israel's perspective to melt in fear.

Jesus is our greatest example of this. Facing the cross, Jesus kept before Him the joy of knowing sin's grip on mankind would be destroyed through Him. That strengthened Him to endure even the cross and suffering of

separation from the Father. He became sin for us.

Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God! (Hebrews 12:2 TPT).

Jesus kept His eyes on the results of His endurance — our total deliverance.

Even during His ministry, Jesus endured the pressures arrayed against Him. Hebrews 5:8–9 in *The Mirror* translation gives powerful insight of how He did it.

Acquainted with sonship he was in the habit of hearing from above; what he heard distanced him from the effect of what he had suffered. By his perfect hearing he forever freed mankind to hear what he had heard.

His habit was to hear. And He has given us the ability to hear what He heard. Hearing from above will put a protective distance between us and the pressures arrayed against us.

What are we listening to? While this certainly includes the voices around us, this is mostly referring to the voice within us. Our inner dialog can be a source of strength, or a stumbling block to our faith.

The continual commentary in our minds will either feed



## UPCOMING MEETINGS



### CALIFORNIA, MO | APRIL 2-3

New Life Christian Center | 29248 Highway 87 N  
California, MO 65018 | 573-338-2154

### JOHNSTOWN, OH | APRIL 5

Faith Life Now Church | 2407 Beech Road  
Johnstown, OH 43031 | 740-964-7400

### SCOTTSDALE, AZ | APRIL 23

Living Word Scottsdale | 8551 E. Anderson Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85225 | 480-964-4463

### ONTARIO, CANADA | APRIL 30-MAY 1

Capital City Church | 1123 Old Montreal Road  
Ottawa, ON K4A 3N6 | 613-833-1700

### SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA | MAY 6-7

The Word Church | 1802 49 Avenue  
Lloydminster, SK S9V 1T2 | 306-825-9673

### SUMMERVILLE, SC | MAY 21

Covenant of Life Church | 10755 Highway 78 East  
Summerville, SC 29483 | 843-875-1794

### EDINBURG, TX | MAY 28

World Harvest Family Church  
1000 Trooper Moises Sanchez Blvd  
Edinburg, TX 78541 | 956-383-8967

### PENSACOLA, FL | JUNE 18

Encounter Church | 825 West Nine Mile Road  
Pensacola, FL 32534 | 850-449-1275

## TESTIMONIES

**"I have been so blessed by Vikki's books and can certainly relate as a Mexican-American woman living in a dysfunctional situation growing up. God has miraculously brought me to where I am today. So many roads and detours I've taken to finally get to where I am today: a single parent raising two sons, now a grandma, earning an MA and a Doctorate degree, and the list could go on. We are not alone when we go through trials and tribulations in our lives."**

—I.B./Texas

our faith or our fear. Having our point of view established by God's perspective sets the tone for His plans to prevail.

This is evident in Caleb's first words to Moses when he returned, "Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it'" (Numbers 13:30).

Caleb spoke with confidence and authority as he stood up to the majority.

The others allowed the threats of the giants to become like blinders in their minds.

# YOU ARE GIFTED BY GOD.

"FAN THE  
FLAME OF  
GOD'S GRACE  
GIFT INTO  
A BLAZING  
HOT FIRE"

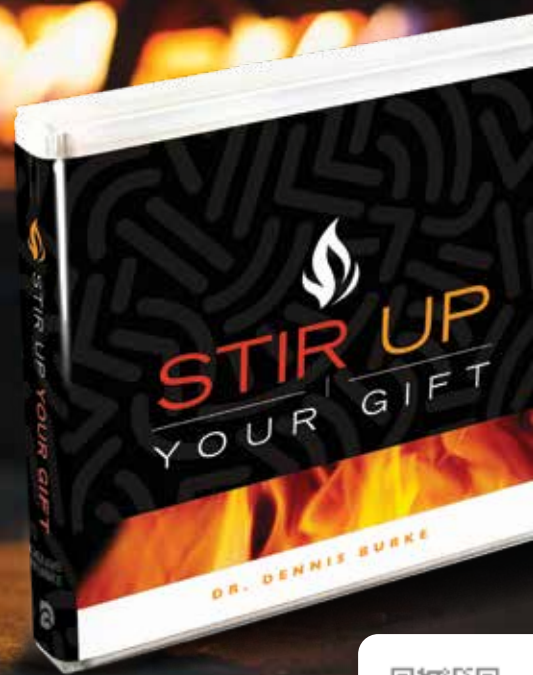
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But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we" (v. 31).

Fear distorted their perspective of who they really were—God's people. Fear caused them to see themselves like grasshoppers in their own eyes.

Perspective changes more than the way we see. It changes the flow of God's greatness within us. But when our thoughts align with His, we have more than enough power to prevail in any situation.

So, what about you? Are you in the habit of having bad reports change your perspective? Has the pressure around you stifled the power within you? Or do you see yourself standing strong in God's Word and your ability to conquer what you're facing?

I'm encouraging you to examine yourself. Give your attention to what is shaping your perspective. When you find yourself focused on the problem, stop your inner dialogue, and flip the script to the voice of faith

CONTINUED ON BACK ►

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filled words — turn ruminating into meditating. Focus your thoughts on the results of fearless faith and God's favor surrounding you. Declare His promise and let His Words on your lips dominate your thinking.

You can have this great infusion of God's grace and glory flooding through your soul when you stir up the grace gift within. His peace and power will fill you with faith's perspective.  
We're in crucial times where it's "all

hands-on deck." Every one of us is vital to God's plan and work. You are vital. Your prayers are vital. Your giving is vital.  
With God on the inside, you have what it takes to step up into extraordinary living.

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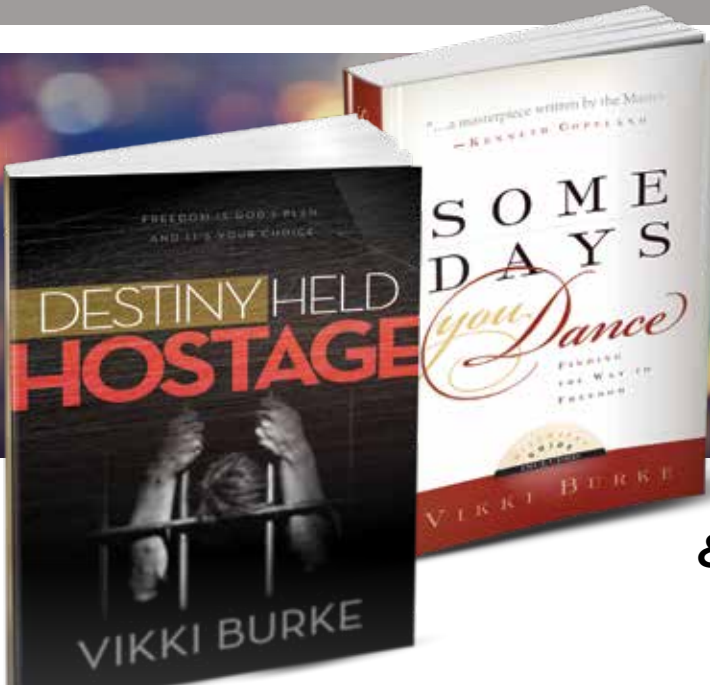
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