

***Messages of Hope and Encouragement for Such a Time as This!
(Esther 4:14) SERIES***



Jesus last words on the cross were, "It is finished." His blood gave us redemption, freedom, healing and deliverance. We must learn to walk in the finished works of Christ.

***Walking in Victory with Jesus
Overcoming Fear and Shame***

***by
Gary L. Selman***

Messages of Hope and Encouragement for Such a Time as This!
(Esther 4:14) SERIES

Walking in Victory with Jesus – Overcoming Fear and Shame

Copyright © 2022 by Gary L. Selman.
Published by First Call Advisory Group LLC. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-959198-09-3

Scripture quotations marked AMPC are taken from the Amplified Bible Classic Edition (AMPC).
Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by
permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman
Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version,
(NIV). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan.
All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NIRV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's
Version®, NIRV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of
Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Written by Gary L Selman; Audio files narrated by Frederick Gray; Audiobook Internet version,
design and implementation copyright © 2018-2020 Frederick Gray;

Rights assigned to Gary L. Selman, Dec. 13, 2018;

Access all 365 messages at our dedicated site:

www.GodEncouragesMe.com

A Time to Sing Songs of Praise & Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOp889W0u9A>

*“In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies
triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever
be put to shame, but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.”*

(Psalm 25:1-3, NIV)

*“He was despised and rejected by men, A Man of
sorrows and pain and acquainted with grief; And like One
from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we
did not appreciate His worth or esteem Him. But [in fact]
He has borne our griefs, And He has carried our sorrows
and pains; Yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken,
Struck down by God and degraded and humiliated [by Him].
But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was
crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our
wrongdoing]; The punishment [required] for our well-being
fell Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.”*

(Isaiah 53: 3-5, AMP)

*“Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors
and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.”*

(Romans 8:37, AMPC)

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain.

Dedication

I dedicate this Series to you, our current and future Kingdom Partners, and want to express my **heartfelt appreciation and praise for your commitment to help Christians integrate faith into every arena of their lives especially their work life.** We grant you **unlimited use of these materials.** We ask that you comply with US Copyright laws, and refrain from selling copies without prior written approval. I cordially invite all parties with an interest in becoming a Kingdom Partner to contact me. Together, we can take God's Word, Grace, His Truth and Light to the world and leave a mark that cannot be erased.

In approximately 460 B. C., God used Mordecai to warn his niece (Queen Esther) of an impending threat by Haman to kill God's people. Queen Esther heard his warning, took immediate action and God's people were saved. Today, I echo Mordecai's words to you . . .

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

(Esther 4:14, NIV)



www.dfwairportchapel.org
www.OURFAITHATWORK.com

Foreword by Michael Bianchi

Gary Selman and I became friends about 15 years ago when we both participated in a Christian CEO group in Houston, Texas. Through the years our friendship has grown, as has my respect for Gary as a leader and servant of Christ. He has served me personally as an example, a mentor, and an inspiration to serve our Lord and Savior.

When Gary asked me to write the Foreword for this book, I was immediately struck with 3 powerful emotions the first of which was intimidation. My name is not Dollar, Maxwell or Dobson; how can I possibly add value to Gary's work? I will answer this question later. Further, I'm older than Gary which makes the point that our maturity in life and in faith, is not determined (although helped) by our age. Jesus tells us in Luke 6:40, *"Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher."* I can assure you that I'm not fully trained and I'm not as mature in my faith as Gary is, yet I have found his work to be profoundly applicable to my life and I'm confident you will also find it so. Further, I know that he exemplifies the leadership that the Apostle Paul wrote about, *"As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience. . . And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us."* (Titus 2: 1-2, 7-8, NLT)

I am both humbled and honored (the other 2 emotions I felt) that Gary asked me to write this Foreword for his compelling work. I know that Gary and I share a common passion, heart, and ministry to help people achieve victory over Satan's strongholds in our lives. In this book, you will learn about engaging the enemy with a forceful and violent faith, finding joy at the finish line, releasing hurt and disappointment, overcoming Satan's weapons of choice, being free of fear and shame, how our words become our destiny, living in faith, and so much more. This book will add value to your life!

I believe you will find the devotion "Satan is Crushed Under My Feet (Rescued by Jesus)" on page 30, to be one of the most powerful writings outside of the Bible you will ever encounter. We would all do well to read it at least weekly and learn and apply it, along with the rest of this book to our daily lives. Finally, Gary shares a significant prayer on page 68 that expresses how our words, and our choices will enable us to Walk in Victory with Jesus! How can I possibly add value to this writing of Gary's? I don't need to. It speaks the truth for itself. May God bless you!

Michael Bianchi
Ordained Minister, Author, Coach,
Founder, A Different Church and www.DefeatingSatan.org

Preface

While I wrote the Daily Devotionals I have included in this book over 10 years ago now, the title and subject matter in this Volume have become very personal for me over the last month. An annual visit to my Dermatologist revealed that I had skin cancer on my face on my nose. My doctor was concerned and said we needed to address this immediately. We scheduled a date for inpatient surgery. A week or so later, I returned for a two-phase 6.5-hour procedure that was one of the most painful procedures I have ever endured. During surgery, she removed the primary cancer cells she found initially, only to discover I had a secondary form of cancer that was embedded deeper. The next round of surgery was focused on this tissue. While I waited for lab results from the 1st round of surgery, Satan immediately began his assault, trying to get me to give up and cave in to fear. Over the entire process, I cried out to the Lord in pain and asked Him to help me. I literally spent several hours singing softly, “Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so.” I repeated these words over and over. His peace comforted me and helped me endure the pain, the unknown, and to resist the fear.

As I write these words, I have to smile because I go back tomorrow afternoon for a follow-up visit. I have worn bandages on my face (nose) for the last 3+ weeks. Occasionally when I peek at the wound when we change the bandage, Satan tempts me to give in to fear and says, “This does not look right. You will have an ugly scar on your face. Everyone is going to notice this!” I have been comforted by the Holy Spirit’s reminder, “Jesus carried visible scars as well. They were proof of His time on the cross.” His words comforted me and assured me that my scars will become part of my testimony and my journey with Christ Jesus. So, I see this book now as part of my growth and journey. I can even smile at God’s perfect timing. I declare and will continue to declare boldly for all to hear, “I am Walking in Victory with Jesus.” I will not fear or walk in embarrassment (shame), but will carry my scars joyfully and willfully share my testimony when others ask, “What happened there?” I praise you Lord Jesus that you are with me now as I type these words. You will be with me tomorrow in the Doctor’s office. You are with me Jesus always until the moment this life ends, and I join you in heaven for all eternity!

May you find peace, joy, and comfort in these pages. In your own moments when Satan tries to get you to give up, cave in to doubt, fear and unbelief, simply sing these words that many of us learned as a child, “Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so!”

Praise for the Devotionals

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/6%20Praise.mp3>

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my Heavenly Father, Almighty God and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the calling that they placed on my life. God has blessed me with a set of gifts and talents that have allowed me to honor Him with my work life, pursue my passions and make a difference in the lives of others. I am richly blessed, for I truly love what I do.

I want to express my love and appreciation to Pastors Creflo and Taffi Dollar and Assistant Pastor Ken Terry, of (WCCI) who faithfully and diligently teach the Gospel of Grace (Jesus Christ) and lead me in my walk with God. I extend a deep and heartfelt appreciation to Pastors Archie and Melissa Collins, Department Leaders and Stewards, and our church family at WCC- H. It was a privilege and honor to serve and worship with you.

To my inner circle including John Simmons, Dick Harris, Stanley Wells, Quincy Hodge, and Chuck Niederhofer who eagerly read my email devotionals in the early days, I thank you and praise God for your loving friendship, support and encouragement. To my devotional subscribers and LinkedIn connections across the globe, I love you and want you to know that you are God's beloved. I am honored to be able to teach you and help you honor God by integrating your faith into your daily work life. I am humbled by your feedback; amazing praise reports and testimonies as to how God is using these books to speak revelation truth and encouragement into your lives. I'm told by several pastors that they use the devotionals to teach other pastors and ministry leaders, create sermons and Bible study lessons.

Special Note to the Reader: Why Now?

This SERIES represents a collection of my body of work that spans four decades. It is a reflection of my experiences as a Management/OD Consultant, Business Owner, Career Transition Coach, Executive Coach, Speaker and Author. You will discover that I am very candid and transparent about my life as a Prodigal Son (Saul - phase) and my new life (Barnabas - phase) once I came to my senses and came home to My Heavenly Father's House. Drawing from these diverse areas of my life, my writing style and content focus vary but one constant remains — my deep desire to help people, to make a difference in their life. I pray the mix of writing styles (*Devotionals, Presentations, Study Lessons, Checklists, Life Application Exercises, Prayers and Faith Confessions*) is beneficial to you as you walk out your own personal journey to spiritual maturity.

1. In the title above, I use the words, **"Why Now?"** I will answer this question in the pages: "COVID 19: A Desperate Act By Satan and A Defining Moment"; "A Spiritual First Responder", and "Call to Action: A Great Awakening in the Marketplace." These pages are my answers to **"Why Now?"** and show my sense of urgency. I pray these pages and the books in this SERIES create a sense of urgency in you as well to RISE UP and be a light in the darkness.
2. The Devotionals are taken from my *"SPECIAL EDITION Arise SHINE Be Encouraged"* Volumes. They are atypical in that they all have a Title, Subtitle and Audio Link. Devotionals are grouped into Chapters with unique life themes to help the reader find inspiration that speaks to their specific need. Pay special attention to Subtitles. They reflect the life issue addressed in that individual message. **Ex. A Foolish Thing (Counting vs. Trusting) --- see page 42.**
3. Special content in this volume includes:
 - **34 Written Messages with Audio Links; 66 Audio Only Links, almost 5 hours of listening time. Listen to all of the recorded messages as I have found they speak to me more deeply than reading them.** Scripture tells us, "So faith comes from hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the [preaching of the] message concerning Christ."
 - **1 Presentation:** "Overcoming Fear: Live by Faith and Win Every Battle All the Time"
 - **2 Kingdom Life Study Lessons:** "Spiritual Warfare: The Battle in Your Mind"; "Renew Your Mind Before the Battle Begins"
 - **1 Article, "A 9/11 Reflection and Remembrance" and Video Interview with Fr.- Greg McBrayer, American Airlines Chief Flight Dispatcher & Chaplain; Click on the link to watch the video:** <https://vimeo.com/526430112>
 - **Spiritual Growth and Development Resource Kit**
 - **Article & Video from Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)—Must see Faith and Recovery:** <https://religiousfreedomandbusiness.org/value-of-faith-based-recovery-support-316-billion>
 - To access all 365 Audiobook Devotionals go to: www.GodEncouragesMe.com
 - See our website for Blogs and FREE resources: www.GarySelman.com

Contents

<i>Dedication</i>	5
<i>Foreword by Mike Bianchi</i>	6
<i>Preface</i>	7
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	8
<i>Special Note to the Reader: Why Now?</i>	9
<i>COVID 19: A Desperate Act by Satan and a Defining Moment</i>	12
<i>A Spiritual First Responder</i>	14
<i>Call to Action: A Great Awakening in the Marketplace</i>	16
<i>Introduction: Are You Showing Up Ready for the Battle?</i>	19
<i>Spiritual Warfare: The Battle in Your Mind</i>	20
1. <i>Study Lesson: Renew Your Mind Before the Battle Begins</i>	21
<i>How to Win the Spiritual Battle for Your Mind</i>	25
2. <i>Soldiers Telling War Stories (Satan Falls from Heaven)</i>	26
3. <i>What Business Do We Have with You? (Satan's Enemy)</i>	27
4. <i>Back Off Satan! (Be Clear Who Is Talking to You)</i>	28
5. <i>Window of Opportunity (Beware the Thief)</i>	29
6. <i>Satan Is Crushed Under My Feet (Rescued by Jesus)</i>	30
7. <i>Serpents, Scorpions and Satan (No Fear Here)</i>	31
8. <i>Wrestling in Prayer (Zealous and Persistent Prayer)</i>	32
9. <i>Violent Faith (Be Bold, Get Up and Fight)</i>	33
<i>Stand Firm in the Face of Adversity</i>	34
10. <i>Lessons from the Classroom of Adversity (Let God Lead You)</i>	35
11. <i>The Secret to Peace (Overcoming Adversity)</i>	36
12. <i>A Willing Spirit (Good Intentions Are Not Enough)</i>	37
13. <i>Down, But Never Out (I Am Ready for a Fight)</i>	38
14. <i>Do You Have Walk-on-Water Faith? (No Fear Here)</i>	39
15. <i>A Thorn to Keep Me Humble (Pain Serves a Purpose)</i>	40
16. <i>Joy at the Finish Line (Refuse to Give Up, Cave In or Quit)</i>	41
17. <i>A Foolish Thing (Counting vs. Trusting)</i>	42
18. <i>You of Little Faith (Giving In to Fear)</i>	43
19. <i>A Moment of Truth (Letting Go of Hurt and Disappointment)</i>	44
20. <i>Job Search Is a Journey in the Wilderness (Trust God)</i>	45
<i>Satan's Weapons of Choice: Fear and Shame</i>	46
21. <i>What Does Scripture Say About Fear?</i>	47
22. <i>Victory Over Fear</i>	49
23. <i>What Does Scripture Say About Shame?</i>	50

24. Victory Over Shame	52
25. Jesus Became Our “Shame-Substitute”	53
26. Guilt vs Shame	55
Our Defense Starts with Faith in God and His Word	57
27. Faith Starts with Believing	59
28. What Does Scripture Say About Believing?	61
29. Presentation: Overcoming Fear: Live by Faith and Win Every Battle All the Time	64
30. Prayer for Faith and Courage to Overcome Fear and Unbelief	68
31. Our Victory Rests in Jesus’ Victory on the Cross	69
The New You Is Full of Grace and Truth	71
32. Christ is Here (Jesus in Me)	72
33. Too Blessed to Be Stressed (Public Testimony of God’s Blessings and Favor)	73
34. The Body of Christ Meets Reality TV (Christ Started “Makeovers”)	74
35. Spring of Living Water (Drink and Be Satisfied for Eternity)	75
36. Justified by Grace (Grace Changes Everything)	76
37. Grace Increased All the More (New Levels of Grace Every Day)	77
38. Greet Your Troubles with Joy (Joy Is My Welcome Mat)	78
39. The Word Became Flesh (Jesus, the Man Understands all I Go Through)	79
40. In Weakness I Am Strong (Jesus and His Divine Strength Show Up)	80
41. Understanding Mind and a Hearing Heart (Pray for the Wisdom of Solomon)	81
42. Scripture Is Fulfilled (Trust Jesus to Lead You into Your Divine Destiny)	82
43. Showered with Grace One After Another (Start Your Day with Grace)	83
44. Take Nothing for the Journey (All You Need is in the Name of Jesus)	84
45. Knowing vs. Walking in the Truth (Trust Jesus and Put the Truth to the Test)	85
46. Clark Kent or Mighty Man of God? (Put on Your “G-Suit” and Walk in Boldness)	86
47. A Final Word of Encouragement	87
Appendix	88
48. Recommended Reading	89
49. About the Author	90
50. Contact Us	91
51. Who We Are – Our Divine Calling	92
52. New Books Coming Soon	93
53. Access Our Books and FREE Resources	95
54. Our Kingdom Partners	96
Spiritual Growth and Development Resource Kit	99

COVID 19: A Desperate Act by Satan and a Defining Moment

In early March 2019, I joined Os Hillman and over 200 Kingdom-minded Change Agents at the Culture Shaper's Summit in Washington DC. I left there with a sense of excitement and a fire in my spirit. I began to pray and ask God, "What do you want me to do?" Months went by without an answer. As I greeted 2020, suddenly I learned along with the rest of the US and most of the world about the Coronavirus (COVID 19). According to an article in the American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC) dated **January 1, 2021**, entitled "**A Timeline of COVID-19 Developments in 2020**", we know the following facts about the pandemic: **January 9, 2020**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports mysterious outbreak in Wuhan, China; **January 20**, 3 US Airports begin screening for Coronavirus; **January 21**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms the first US case; **January 31**, WHO issues a Global Health Emergency; **February 3**, US declares a Public Health Emergency; **March 11**, WHO declares COVID 19 a pandemic; **March 13**, President Trump declares COVID 19 a National Emergency. The article goes on to indicate that as 2020 ended, the US surpassed 20 million infections and more than 346,000 deaths. Globally, cases rose to 83,832,334 and 1,824,590 deaths. As of **July 26, 2021**, the numbers are: **194M cases and 4.16M deaths**. While most of the world including the US rushed to create vaccines to prevent infections, vaccine development and distribution faced challenges. Here in the US, we fell short of President Biden's ambitious goal of at least one dose of the vaccine into the arms of 70% of American adults by July 4th. Sadly, low levels of vaccinations coupled with the outbreak of a more deadly strain (Delta) have ushered in a new "global surge" as many hoped we were nearing the end of the pandemic. **The Delta strain is more contagious, more deadly and has already spread to 124 countries** as drug companies scramble to come up with booster shots and new approaches just as government leaders and health experts try to create a strategy to combat and defeat this new enemy.

What are we to make of all this? I suggest that it was and continues to be a "Defining Moment" for mankind. Mike Van Hoozer, fellow Houstonian and Brother in Christ, wrote an amazing book entitled, "Moments: Making Your Life Count For What Matters Most." In 2010, I joined Mike and a group of other men once a week for coffee and a discussion of his book. It was a powerful learning experience that I will always remember. I've listed his book in the Recommended Reading in the Appendix. In his book, he defines moments and outlines 8 major categories of moments (Mountaintop, Valley, Defining, Missing, Courageous, among others). I am sure many of us have come to see COVID 19 as a "Defining Moment" in our lives. Yes, COVID 19 changed almost every domain of life for the entire world. Many "normal" activities came to a halt. It seems we are all eager to return to "normal." I urge you to see COVID from a spiritual perspective. We know from John 10:10 that Satan only comes to steal, kill and destroy. I suggest that **COVID 19 is a last-ditch desperate attempt by Satan to derail or prevent God's Great Awakening in the world and in the Marketplace**. Consider how COVID 19 has changed your

world. Were you impacted by the following: infection; sickness; hospitalization; loss of loved ones; testing; vaccinations; layoffs or furloughs; loss of income and financial lack; hunger; children at home instead of school; social isolation; anxiety or depression; suicidal thoughts?

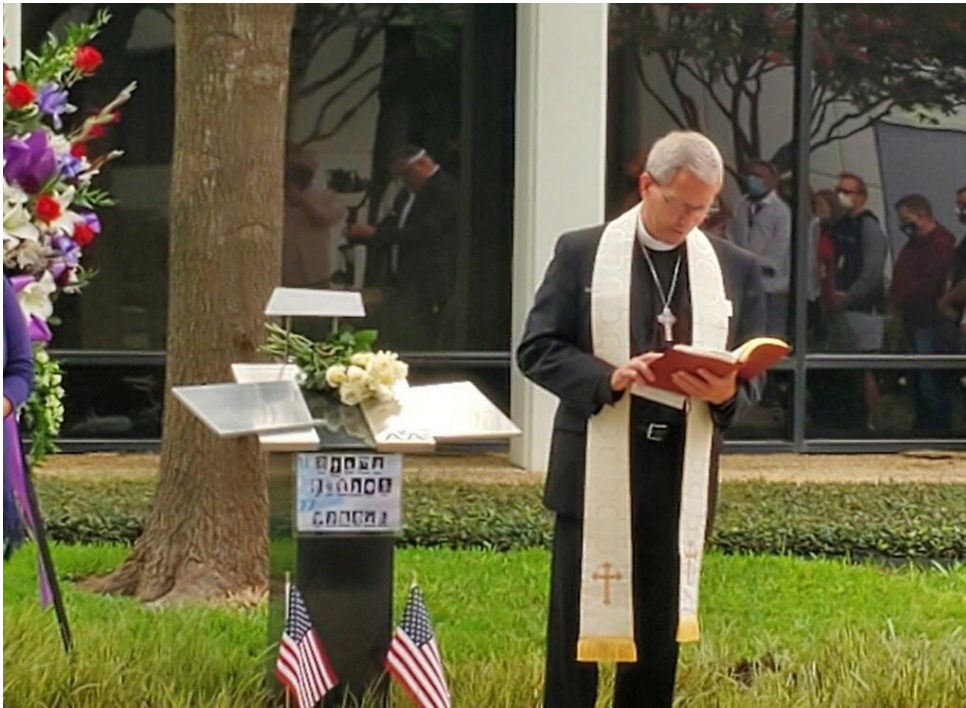
The global impact of COVID cannot be underestimated and it is not over yet! Like you, it has impacted my house and family in many ways. Yes, COVID 19 was a “Defining Moment” for the world and for me and my house. ***Are you satisfied with your response to this challenge over the last 18 months? Karen and I decided early on that we wanted COVID to have a positive impact on our lives. We have chosen to learn from it – to draw closer to God and be better off because of it.*** As Mike suggests in his book, “Seize the Moment” and grow in your faith walk and draw closer to God. We have taken this approach. How about you? Has COVID caused you to become angry with God and withdraw? Are you walking in EGO (Edging God Out)? I have witnessed many people including Christians do this. I have experienced many of the effects of COVID’s assault including furlough and total loss of income. Suddenly my 25+ year tenure as an Executive Coach was over. Soon after COVID hit, I was led by the Holy Spirit to begin a “Personal Sabbatical” and learn to rest after working nonstop for over 60 years. I am now 16 months into my journey – learning to Be Still, rest and trust God more than ever before. Yes, I was side-lined, but I learned to redirect my focus and assist Karen with household activities including grocery shopping, cooking, dishes, and caring for our Miniature Poodle (Joshua) as she cares for her 88-year-old mom (Queen Esther) who is now bed-bound and slips daily into the darkness and confusion of dementia. I praise God that I am at a place where I can praise God for the last year. ***In late January 2021***, God answered my question, “What do you want me to do?” He told me it was time to start writing again. I was excited to hear this instruction and began to sit with my fingers on the keys. I was led to work on this SERIES combining my earlier work: Daily Devotionals, Coaching Tools, Audio Books, Presentations and Kingdom Life Study Lessons. I’ve come to fully embrace the name a former client and Brother in Christ called me “Barnabas” which Scripture tells us is translated as “Son of Encouragement.” Yes, I have a new excitement and enthusiasm for this new season in my life as a full-time Christian writer. ***Messages of Hope and Encouragement for Such a Time as This!*** are a vital part of my faith journey and my decision to ***“Define the Moment”*** instead of letting the moment define me.

Again, I ask, ***“How have the last 3 years impacted you? Have you “Seized the Moment” and drawn closer to God, trusting Him to draw closer to you?”*** I pray that you have done so. I also pray that His Words and the work of my hands in this SERIES help you in that process. Yes, the world has changed. There is a great darkness that has swept across the land, but God is still on His throne. His Spirit of Light, Grace and Truth is here and ultimately Satan loses! We know the outcome. As Christians, we win! The battle was won on the cross and paid for with the blood of Jesus. Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ, like Paul, I beseech you. Like Esther, ***RISE UP, walk out your faith and be a light in the world.*** Be willing to participate in the Great Awakening and move of the Holy Spirit in the Marketplace. Will you RISE UP and walk in God’s glory? I pray as you read these pages and listen to the audio messages that you will. . .

Get Understanding, Walk in Expectant Hope and Be Encouraged!

A Spiritual First Responder

** Published in The Chaplains Corner: A 9/11 Reflection and Remembrance
Written by American Airlines Chief Flight Dispatcher and Chaplain, Fr. Greg McBrayer.
Used by Permission.*



As we approach the twentieth anniversary of September 11, 2001, there are few people who have a more vivid memory of where they were and what they were doing than those of us who were working as Flight Controllers on that day in our profession. As I reflected on the impact 9/11 made in our industry over the last twenty years, it occurred to me, that out of the tears and ashes of those dark days, the new American Airlines was resurrected. That event, and all the repercussions of it, brought each of us together here today. Each of us who were working that day can tell detailed stories of the events and impact it made upon us. At times, it seems it was just like yesterday, and at other times, like it was a lifetime ago. I still remember specific details of the conversations I was having with some of the flights I was diverting that morning, while the rest of the shift seemed to be a blur. It was however the following day, after a sleepless night of prayer and worry, amid the deafening silence of our normally noisy Operations Control Center, that my life was forever changed. As I looked at the anxious and fearful faces in that quiet Ops Control Center on September the 12th, it fully occurred to me our world and my life would never be the same. I had NO idea how true that revelation would be! It was in that silent

moment, I thought, “Dear God! We desperately need you here” and to my surprise, I heard God’s soft still voice clearly say to me, “that’s why I placed you here.”

At that moment, I couldn’t remotely comprehend what that revelation would mean, but I have never forgotten the profound peace that washed over me. On that day, the heading of the flight plan of my life and ministry changed forever. It became the “soul purpose” and calling of my life, which has provided me the opportunity to bring the **ministry of presence** into our profession. The ministry of presence didn’t visibly exist in our industry prior to its darkest days, which affirmed St. Paul’s words that “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose (Romans. 8:28).” The ministry of presence certainly proved to be a priceless blessing through the mega-merger challenges after 911 and most recently through the unprecedented challenges of COVID in our industry. From that faithful day long ago has arisen, “The Chaplains Corner.” These occasional “**Spiritual First Responder**” articles provide Chaplain PIREP’s (Pastoral Information Reports) with spiritual course guidance for your personal flight plans, as we care for one another on life’s journey. May God’s continued protection and provision be with you on your journey!

Note: Watch Greg’s moving 9/11 story and personal video testimony by clicking on the link below: <https://vimeo.com/526430112>

Call to Action: A Great Awakening in the Marketplace

“For if you remain silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father’s house will perish [since you did not help when you had the chance]. And who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this [and for this very purpose]?” (Esther 4:14, AMP)

Prophetic Voices Crying Out for Such a Time as This!

For almost 100 years, anointed pastors, writers and leaders in the body of Christ have been proclaiming a great awakening or **move of God in the marketplace. This awakening and move of the Holy Spirit is not coming – it is here.** It is time for each of us to RISE UP and walk in the Spirit. This move of God was in the works before COVID 19. This SERIES is dedicated to walking with and walking out God’s ordained plan. Now, let’s read what God’s messengers have said. Here are their words:

1. “The spiritual manifests itself in a life which knows no division into sacred and secular.” **Oswald Chambers**, Evangelist, Teacher and Author *My Utmost for His Highest*.
2. “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.” **Dr. Billy Graham**, Evangelist and Author.
3. “God has begun an evangelism movement in the workplace that has the potential to transform our society as we know it.” **Franklin Graham**, Evangelist, Missionary, CEO Billy Graham Evangelist Assoc. and Samaritan’s Purse.
4. “God is marshalling his people in the workplace as never before in history. God is up to something. The next spiritual awakening could take place in the marketplace.” **Henry Blackaby**, Evangelist, Founder Blackaby Ministries International and Author *Experiencing God, God in the Marketplace*.
5. “Spirituality in the workplace is exploding.” **Laura Nash**, Business Ethicist, Harvard University.
6. “The church in the workplace is the purest form of the body of Christ today due to its diversity. Workplace believers are less prone to denominational differences because they have a common goal of representing Christ in their workplaces. The movement will break down denominational barriers that have been held in the past.” **Os Hillman**, Speaker, Founder Marketplace Ministries, and Author.
7. “The most common self-inflicted put-down is “I am not a pastor”. “I am just a layperson.’ This is all part of a clever satanic scheme to neutralize apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers along with the entire army of disciples, already positioned in the marketplace.” **Ed Silvano**, Founder Harvest Evangelism, International Transformation Network and Author *Anointed for Business*.

8. "Indeed, as with first-century Christianity, it all begins in the marketplace, where the disciples of Jesus daily rub shoulders with the lost." **Bill McCartney**, Football Player and Coach, Founder, Promise Keepers Men's Ministry.
9. "Workplace ministry will be one of the core future innovations in church ministry." **George Barna**, Founder, The Barna Group (Marketplace Research Firm) and Author *Revolution*.
10. "We reviewed 52 movements in the body of Christ. We narrowed it down to 28, then 12, then 4 to invest our resources in the coming years. The workplace is one of those because this is an area where we see God working." **Chad Hammond**, Director, New Ventures (Division of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association).
11. "The workplace is where a majority of a church congregation, spends a majority of their time, interacting with a majority of the unchurched world. The Church on Monday is evidence that the Church on Sunday is real!" **Doug Spada**, Founder and President, WorkLife Inc., Author *Monday Morning Atheist: Why We Switch God Off at Work*.
12. "His doing nothing wonderful (his first 30 years) is in itself a kind of wonder." **Saint Bonaventure**, Italian Franciscan Theologian and Philosopher.
13. "Workplace believers seldom feel served by their churches in their jobs and careers on issues of faith and biblical ethics." **Pete Hammond**, IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship.
14. "There is a distinction between church work and the work of the church. Church work is what you do for the organized institution of the church. The work of the church is what is done between Sundays when the church is scattered all over the metropolitan area where it is located – in homes, schools, offices, on construction jobs, in marketplaces." **Richard (Dick) Halverson**, Pastor, Chaplain US Senate, Author *No Greater Power*.
15. "It is an error to think that those who flee worldly affairs and engage in contemplation are leading an angelic life...We know that men were created to busy themselves with labor and that no sacrifice is more pleasing to God than when each one attends to his calling and studies well to live for the common good." **John Calvin**, Theologian, Leader Protestant Reformation.
16. "In nothing has the church so lost Her hold on reality as in Her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments, and is astonished to find that, as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely selfish and destructive ends, and that the greater part of the world's intelligent workers have become irreligious, or at least, uninterested in religion. But is it astonishing? How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of life? The church's approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the church should be telling him is this: that the very first demand that his religion makes on him is to make good tables." **Dorothy Sayers**, Poet, Author, Christian Humanist.
17. "If Christ is not Lord of my work, He will never be Lord of my family."; "Our surveys reveal that 90-97% of Christians have never heard a sermon relating biblical principles to their work life." **Doug Sherman**, Speaker, Author, *Your Work Matters to God*.

18. "We have more Christians today per capita with less impact on the culture than ever before. We are big and we are weak." **Landa Cope**, Founding International Dean, College of Communication, Youth With A Mission, Speaker and Author.
19. "Societal transformation is high on God's agenda and the chief catalytic force to bring it about will be Christians ministering in the marketplace." **C. Peter Wagner**, Chancellor, Wagner Leadership Institute.
20. "In today's global community, the greatest channel of distribution for 'salt and light' is the business community...the marketplace." **Bill Pollard**, CEO, ServiceMaster.
21. "There is truly no division between sacred and secular except what we have created. And that is why the division of the legitimate roles and functions of human life into the sacred and secular does incalculable damage to our individual lives and the cause of Christ. Holy people must stop going into "church work" as their natural course of action and take up holy orders in farming, industry, law, education, banking, and journalism with the same zeal previously given to evangelism or to pastoral and missionary work." **Dallas Willard**, Philosopher, Author *The Spirit of Discipline, Hearing God*.
22. "Someone recently said that the "First" Reformation took the Word of God to the common man and woman; the "Second" Reformation is taking the work of God to the common man and woman. That time is now. The greatest potential ministry in the world today is the marketplace. Christ's greatest labor force is those men and women already in that environment." **Tom Phillips**, VP of Training, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.
23. "Much of our culture has a distinctly Greek view of work: We work out of necessity. But, you see, we are made in the image of God, and as such we are made to work ...to create, to shape, to bring order out of disorder." **Charles (Chuck) Colson**, Founder Prison Fellowship International and BreakPoint, Author *How Now Shall We Live?*
24. "The last 12 to 24 months I have personally noticed a surge of interest. I see an openness from pastors that is very new that I have not seen before. I see a Kingdom mentality. I promise you we are within months of a major move of God." **Kent Humphreys**, President and CEO, Fellowship of Companies for Christ (FCC).

*Source: Os Hillman, Founder and President Marketplace Leaders. For information about ways you can get involved in this move of God, I encourage you to go to:

<https://gapmovement.com/>

Introduction: Are You Showing Up Ready for the Battle?

I'm amazed that many Christians I speak with, don't see themselves as part of God's Kingdom Army. "Do you have a "Kingdom warrior" mindset? Do you, like many Christians, just accept that you can't do anything about the chaos and strife that go on around you? If your answer is "Yes" to these questions, then I attest that you are NOT walking in your divine power and authority. On a daily basis you are NOT showing up dressed in God's full armor ready for battle (See Eph 6:10-18). Fellow Saints, especially now during all of the chaos, turmoil, suffering, sickness and death caused by COVID, we must adopt a "Kingdom Warrior" mindset, put our spiritual armor on every day and show up ready for battle. Yes, we are in a fight for our family, our community, our nation and the world. While others may see you as a mild-mannered and peace-loving person, we are a world at war with the forces of evil and darkness. Mighty Man and Awesome Woman of God, your divine destiny and the lives of others are depending on you to suit up, show up and fight! Are you ready for the battle? Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 6:12, *"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

The purpose of this volume is to show you how to do this. In this volume, we will study *Spiritual Warfare: The Battle in Your Mind; How to Win the Spiritual Battle for Your Mind; Stand Firm in the Face of Adversity; and Satan's Weapons of Choice: Fear and Shame*. Earlier, I made posed the question, "Do you have a Kingdom Warrior mindset?" I pray that this volume will help you to develop this mindset, understand the enemy (Satan), become disciplined in the use of weapons of spiritual warfare and learn to fight. The good news is that you win, every believer wins. Satan won the ultimate victory on the Cross. Satan is a defeated foe, but we must RISE UP and fight. Are you ready? I pray that the Holy Spirit will transform you into a mighty warrior in God's Kingdom Army. Sound the shofar. The battle has started. Put on your mantle of faith and fight the good fight! When you stand before the throne, may you echo the words Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*



Spiritual Warfare: The Battle in Your Mind

Taken from Kingdom Life Study Lessons by Gary L. Selman

Since Adam and Eve fell from grace in the Garden of Eden, Christians have had to walk in full combat gear to deal with the battle that constantly rages in their minds. Our peace in this life and even our eternal salvation hangs in the balance as the battle or spiritual warfare between God and Satan, righteousness and sin, faith and fear, and love and selfishness are continuously set before us. This battle will test our faith, obedience, and faithfulness (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). When we give in to doubt fear, shame and condemnation and make ungodly choices the spiritual warfare can wreak havoc and destruction in our lives.

Why Satan Uses Spiritual Warfare

Satan uses spiritual warfare to cause us to disobey God's Word and become separated from Him. The attack is his attempt to steal, kill and destroy our joy, peace, health, finances, and divine destiny. By derailing us through seemingly innocent questioning of God's Word and His ways, he can manipulate and control us with his lies and deception that God's promises are not true. If he is successful, our rebellion and disobedience will erode our personal relationships with God, spouse and family, friends and co-workers.

Early Warning Signs of Spiritual Warfare

There are early warning signs of spiritual warfare that will lead to disobedience and rebellion. These include the following:

Pride and Arrogance (Satan's Calling Cards)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/203%20chapt%2010%20dev%208.mp3>

- 1.** An independent spirit supported by "innocent questioning" of God's Word and His ways.
- 2.** Intense attitude of discontentment and dissatisfaction.
- 3.** Desire for personal recognition and elevation of personal status over others.
- 4.** Distortion of the thoughts and views of others especially leaders (God).
- 5.** Critical, prideful, and judgmental attitude leading to self-exaltation.
- 6.** Attempts to give recognition and attention to others who are disenchanting.
- 7.** Justification and rationalization of opposition to leaders or significant others.
- 8.** Emphasis on or exaggeration of minor points or issues.
- 9.** Break off and formation of splinter groups (Us vs. Them).
- 10.** Increased focus on self or "Me-man" and a tendency to become easily offended.

Renew Your Mind Before the Battle Begins

Taken from Kingdom Life Study Lessons by Gary L. Selman

Prior to accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and surrendering our lives to him, all of our education and training was based on the world's way of thinking and doing things. As born-again Christians, God wants to transform our lives by changing our thinking (renewing our minds) so that our thinking lines up with His Word and reflects His ways and thoughts. As we line up our thinking with His Word, our minds are renewed, our lives transformed, and we are empowered to live out our destiny and His will for our lives. Apostle Paul tells us, "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]." (Romans 12:2, AMPC). The renewal experience is miraculous and life-changing and positions us to receive God's best as He honors our obedience and love for Him with His written promises and blessings. Ask yourself: "Why is Satan more successful in getting us to believe him and his lies more than we believe God's truth about who we are in Christ and what He wants for our lives?"

Think Like God: Practice these Critical Daily Disciplines

I believe that there are 4 critical disciplines that every new and born-again Christian must practice in order to change from a worldly thinker to a Godly thinker. Practicing these disciplines helps to ensure that our thinking, emotions, decisions, actions, habits, character and destiny reflect the love and will of Christ for our lives. They include:

1. We must practice daily making the Bible the final authority in our lives and be committed to living a Christ-centered life.
2. We must make it a daily practice to pursue an intimate, personal, and trusting relationship with God by *praying, listening, and talking* to Him on a daily basis.
3. We must practice depending on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in every area of our lives.
4. We must practice reading, studying and/or listening to the word of God on a daily basis, making sure that we obtain sound doctrine and training in our faith.

Remember: Satan is a Liar

Many Christians believe that living a Christ-centered life (seeking God's will in every area of our lives) is impossible. By using deception, lies and fear, Satan has done an outstanding job of convincing Christians that living a Christ-centered life is beyond the bounds of possibility. For that reason, the thought of making the Bible the final authority in our lives may sound radical,

unrealistic, and unachievable. Quite the contrary! For Christians, it is normal, realistic and possible and what every Christian should be trained and prepared to do! The Bible is 66 books of love letters inspired and written by God to us, his children, to help shape our thinking so that we can walk down a path of righteousness, love, compassion and blessings. Jesus gave us this promise, “But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.” (Matthew 6:33, AMPC). Listen to this message and meditate on the following:

A Way Out (Christ Is Our Escape)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/84%20chapt%203%20dev%2023.mp3>

To build and develop an intimate, personal and trusting relationship with the Lord we must spend time alone with Him, talking and listening to Him, just as we do in all of our other relationships. How much time do you spend alone with the Lord each day? Your spouse? Your children? Your family? Your friends? The quality of the time we spend with the Lord is directly related to the depth of intimacy and trust we have in Him.

Reading, studying and listening to the word of God helps to develop our faith (belief) in Him and in believing that ALL of His word is true and applies to us and our Christian lives. Gaining understanding and confidence in God’s word gives us wisdom and a bold inner strength which anchors our heart, mind, body and soul. The Book of Proverbs is known as the Book of Wisdom and we read, “The beginning of Wisdom is: get Wisdom (skillful and godly Wisdom)! [For skillful *and* godly Wisdom is the principal thing.] And with all you have gotten, get understanding (discernment, comprehension, and interpretation). and then “Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is the man who finds skillful *and* godly Wisdom, and the man who gets understanding [drawing it forth from God’s Word and life’s experiences], (Proverbs 4:7; 3:13, AMPC).

Why is Conforming to the World’s Way of Thinking so Easy?

Look around you...every available media source is dominated by Satan as he aggressively seduces and captures our thoughts with negative, insightful, and lewd words and images through television, radio, music, books, billboards, newspapers, and magazines. As Christians, we must constantly be renewing our minds with the word of God on a daily basis and fight the good fight of faith; we must adamantly refuse to conform to the world’s way of thinking and doing things. We must maintain our confidence in God, His word and in His love for us. We must embrace our responsibility as Christians to be a light in this world of darkness. We must be willing to invite God and the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us as they will and not as we will. We must stop walking around deceiving ourselves as we try to deceive others with our pious, phony attitudes and behavior. We must step back and examine whether we are being authentic or counterfeit, obedient to God or obedient to Satan, faithful to God and His word or walking in unbelief, a source of light, hope and encouragement or a hypocrite? Apostle Paul writes, “For once you

were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light]. For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light *or the Spirit* [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him]. Take no part in *and* have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds *and* enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose *and* reprove *and* convict them. (Ephesians 5:8-11, AMPC).

Commit to a Fresh Start: Live a Life that is Pleasing to God

1. Speak to God now and rededicate your life to God through Christ Jesus or if you are not a Christian and want to give your life to Jesus, pray this prayer and ask Jesus to come into your life according to this promise in Romans 10:9, AMPC, "Because if you acknowledge *and* confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

"God, I recognize that I have not lived my life for You up until now. I have been living for myself and that is wrong. I need You in my life; I want You in my life. I acknowledge the completed work of Your Son Jesus Christ in giving His life for me on the cross at Calvary, and I long to receive the forgiveness you have made freely available to me through this sacrifice. Come into my life now, Lord. Take up residence in my heart and be my king, my Lord, and my Savior. From this day forward, I will no longer be controlled by sin, or the desire to please myself, but I will follow You all the days of my life. Those days are in Your hands. I ask this in Jesus' precious and holy name. Amen."

2. Pray and ask God in Jesus' name to help you surrender every area of your life to Him one day at a time.
3. Pray and ask God in Jesus' name to turn your heart towards Him.
4. Make the decision that **the Bible will be the final authority in your life**. This means that from this day forward, the Bible, God's word will be your chosen instruction manual for all decisions in your life, *not* your emotions and *not* what your friends and family say is the right thing to do in any given situation.
5. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you evaluate and assess your words, thoughts and behavior, THEN: **Confess your sins, repent and ask God for forgiveness**.
6. Pray and ask God to help you honor your commitment to change any words, thoughts or behavior that does not line up with His word.
7. Pray and ask God to send you an **Accountability Partner** who is as committed to pleasing Him as you are; one who will pray with and for you and help and support your spiritual growth and development.

Overcoming Disobedience and Rebellion

What are the antidotes to an independent spirit, disobedience and rebellion? We must immediately become a good custodian of our mind and our thought life. We must replace our thoughts and words with God's words and strive to:

1. Honor God in all that we do (1 Samuel 2:30, Proverbs 15:33, Colossian 3:23).
2. Be obedient to God's Word by submitting to authority (Titus 3:1-3, 1 Peter 2:13-17).
3. Be loyal (2 Samuel 22:25-26, Proverbs 14:22).
4. Be faithful (Proverbs 28:20, Luke 16:10-12).

RECOMMENDATION: Study and meditate on this invaluable resource:

Article & Video from Religious Freedom and Business Foundation (RFBF)—MUST WATCH Faith and Recovery: <https://religiousfreedomandbusiness.org/value-of-faith-based-recovery-support-316-billion>

How to Win the Spiritual Battle for Your Mind

Apostle Paul addresses the need for obedience, honor, and respect within families and our relationships with others including the world of work in his letter to the church at Ephesus. In fact, Ephesians Chapter 6 is dedicated to explaining the nature of spiritual warfare and Paul tells us what we are to do whenever we find ourselves under attack:

- 1.** Be strong in the Lord and draw our strength from Him (Eph 6:10).
- 2.** Put on God's complete armor and resist the strategies of the devil (Eph 6:11).
- 3.** Understand the battle is supernatural and our true enemies are demonic spirits (Eph 6:12).
- 4.** Dress for battle in God's armor; resist Satan and stand your ground (Eph 6:13).
- 5.** Base our actions on truth, integrity, and moral correctness (Eph 6:14).
- 6.** Prepare for battle and hold onto the gospel of peace (Eph 6:15).
- 7.** Hold onto and walk in our faith (Eph 6:16).
- 8.** Trust in our salvation and in the power of God's Word (Eph 6:17).
- 9.** Pray at all times, especially in the Spirit (Eph 6:18).
- 10.** Keep watch and be alert for the next attack (Eph 6:18).



Soldiers Telling War Stories

(Satan Falls from Heaven)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/140%20chapt%206%20dev%201.mp3>

“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’” (Luke 10:17-18, NIV)

Telling stories is an integral part of manhood and serves a vital role in males’ rites of passage. Men have gathered around the fire and told stories for thousands of years. These stories often deal with their struggles or battles in the major arenas of life (marriage, children, sex, money, work, hobbies, religion, and politics). They use these stories to recount detailed descriptions of their struggle, acts of sacrifice, courage, conquest, sorrows, and the agony of defeat.

In the verses above we see Jesus and the disciples telling stories of the “Great Spiritual War.” Scripture tells us the disciples were filled with joy as they told of their success in casting out demons. With 72 disciples, the storytelling must have gone on for hours. I can only imagine the sense of wonder and excitement that they felt hearing each other’s story of attack and victory as they cast out demons. Each story proved that God’s Word, faith and righteousness will defeat sin and evil. Their stories must have served to build their courage and confidence in their mission. After listening to their stories, Jesus shared the ultimate war story and recounted the day, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” Can you imagine the look on their faces as Jesus relates the details of God casting Satan (Lucifer, Son of the morning, see Isaiah 14:12), fallen angel, liar, accuser, and father of demons, out of heaven?

Jesus has given us power, dominion, and authority. He gave us victory on the cross and covered us with His blood. We have His armor and His Word. Are you using them to confront Satan, demonic spirits and win battles? Do you have any war stories? If not, I encourage you to get busy and join the battle. Soon, you will have your own stories to share and encourage other men.

Lord, thank you for sharing the most important story of all time – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. I find confidence, hope, and courage in your Word. Give me boldness to face Satan knowing that with you I win every battle every time. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

What Business Do We Have with You?

(Satan's Enemy)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/141%20chapt%206%20dev%202.mp3>

“Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, ‘What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!’ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet, and come out of him!’” (Mark 1:23-25, NASB)

In this verse, we see that the demonic spirit knew of Jesus and recognized Him as the Holy One of God, as he posed the questions, “What business do we have with each other? Have you come to destroy us?” I’m intrigued that the demonic spirit: (1) recognized Jesus instantly from a distance (2) knew who Jesus was – the Holy One of God (3) understood that holiness, truth and light had nothing in common with darkness, sin and lies (4) was probably aware that Jesus had defeated Satan in the wilderness (5) understood Jesus’ power and authority over evil. In the next verse, we read that the spirit instantly came out of the man. He obeyed Jesus’ spoken command!

As I read this passage, I can’t help but wonder, “Does Satan know who I am?” Has he talked about me and warned his children of darkness, that I am a holy man of God? Do the forces of evil see the Light of Jesus within me from a distance? Do they see me as a threat and fear me? Are they actively planning an assault to undermine and derail my kingdom efforts? Are they plotting a way to rob me of my divine destiny? As a soldier in Jesus’ Kingdom Army, I pray that I walk in the level of anointing, dominion and authority we see in Jesus in this verse.

Child of God, I encourage you to join me today. Put on the whole armor of God, live by faith and boldly declare to Satan and his demons that you have no fear. Starting today, speak to every demon you encounter. Ask them, “What business do we have with each other?” Then boldly command them to go in the name of Jesus. Give them something to talk about!

Lord, thank you for your grace and the power of your Word. Help me to live a holy life, walk in your anointing and power, and to overcome every demonic spirit and evil that comes against me. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Back Off Satan!

(Be Clear Who Is Talking to You)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/142%20chapt%206%20dev%203.mp3>

“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. ‘Get behind me, Satan!’ he said. ‘You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.’” (Mark 8:31–33, NIV)

In this passage Jesus has just shared his imminent fate with the disciples and told them that soon He must die on the cross and rise again. Peter’s response to Jesus’ news was one of stern disapproval. Quickly Jesus looked past Peter as he responded to his rebuke. He instantly recognized what was going on in the spiritual realm and instead of speaking to Peter, He spoke directly to Satan. Just as Satan used Eve in the Garden of Eden to tempt Adam into sin, he was attempting to use Peter to deter Jesus from His mission. Jesus was able to look beyond Peter’s rebuke (fear and doubt) and see how Satan was trying to use him to thwart God’s plan.

As Christians, we must realize Satan, the opportunist, will often attempt to use those closest to us to try and cause fear, doubt, and unbelief. He will use husbands, wives, family members, friends, coworkers, and trusted advisors. He will attempt to use the very people who know our hopes, dreams, fears, and insecurities to attack us. Remember doubt knocks at your door with a mild demeanor and starts off with a seemingly innocent question, “Do you really believe. . .?” Naively, we open the door and invite doubt in. Soon it turns into a menacing monster called fear. The next time someone tries to get you to question the Word or promises of God, carefully check to see whether their words line up with God’s Word.

Child of God, I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to always reveal who is really talking and what is at stake. Don’t be afraid to boldly say, “Back off Satan. Get behind me!”

Lord, thank you for your Spirit of truth and light. Grant me spiritual wisdom and discernment and the ability to recognize and boldly confront Satan’s lies and schemes. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Window of Opportunity

(Beware the Thief)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/143%20chapt%206%20dev%204.mp3>

“When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.” (Luke 4:13, NIV)

Thieves look for “windows of opportunity” or the best time to enter, get what they came for, and leave undetected. They look for moments when you’re not around, tired, distracted, vulnerable, or unaware of your surroundings. They look for open windows and unlocked doors when people are asleep or at work. They look for ways to disarm your security system. In public, they approach without warning while you’re standing next to your car with your arms full of shopping bags.

Every time you defeat Satan, the original thief, it’s important you remember the truth of this verse. He will come again. He is the ultimate opportunist who will return at a more favorable time to accomplish his destructive mission. Ask yourself: (1) What are the open and unsecured windows in my life? (2) When and where will Satan come after me? (3) What lie will he tell me? (4) What temptation will he use to entice me to sin? (5) Are my defenses down because of unresolved anger, hurt and unforgiveness? (6) Am I emotionally and spiritually vulnerable? (7) Have I been backsliding and turning away from God, trying to find comfort in the world?

Child of God, I encourage you to ask God to reveal any potentially open window in your life. Close it and secure it today. Be bold and put a sign up, “This house is covered and protected by the blood of Jesus. Everyone who lives here is armed with the Word of God and ready for a fight!”

Lord, thank you for the power and strength of your Word. I call you Lord and submit my life to you. I will close every window of opportunity for sin in my life. I will stand on the power of your Word and fight the thief who only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Satan Is Crushed Under My Feet

(Rescued by Jesus)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/144%20chapt%206%20dev%205.mp3>

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”
(Romans 16:20, NIV)

As he closes Romans in Chapter 16, Paul speaks prophetically over believers in Rome and every Christian who would ever live. He says, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” What powerful imagery in this verse! Paul refers to God as peace (shalom, prosperity, wholeness, completeness). Another translation says, “The God who gives peace...” Our peace will come and Satan will be crushed, pressed, squeezed and destroyed. We stand victorious over Satan.

This verse should excite and encourage every Christian. Jesus’ blood on the cross settled the battle for power between God and Satan, light and darkness, good and evil. On the cross, Jesus’ blood anointed and empowered every Christian to defeat Satan. Satan has been, and will always be defeated. It’s time for every Christian to grasp the meaning of this truth and walk it out. We are victors, conquerors, and winners, not losers. The biggest lie Satan can tell you is that he has power over you. Satan cannot make you do anything. He can talk and roar. He can try to intimidate you with an endless string of “What if ...” lies. Remember you have the power within you to resist and defeat him. You must learn to say, “Discussion over! Case closed! Satan you lose! You lost when: (1) God threw you out of heaven into the depths of hell (2) Jesus died and shed His blood for me on the cross (3) Jesus was resurrected and defeated death (4) Jesus kicked open the gates of hell; (5) Jesus ascended to the throne. Satan, you are the ultimate loser!”

Child of God, give God praise and thanksgiving today for giving you power, dominion, and authority. Thank Him that it is written “nothing can harm you.” (Luke 10:19). Do not walk in fear anymore. Find comfort in God’s promise, “Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7).

Lord, thank you for Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Because of your blood Jesus, I win every battle every time and Satan is crushed under my feet. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Serpents, Scorpions and Satan

(No Fear Here)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/145%20chapt%206%20dev%206.mp3>

“Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.” (Luke 10:19, AMP)

This is one of my favorite verses in the New Testament. As a Speaker, I’m often in front of Christian men, speaking on topics of faith. A popular topic, “Acting in Boldness” comes from my personal mission statement, “find your passion, live by faith and act in boldness.” I explain that as Christian men, the Bible tells us we are Sons of the Most High God. I cite Scripture that shows that we: (1) are spirit beings created in the very image and likeness of God (2) have been given authority, power, and dominion over all the earth (3) are anointed and blessed for success, prosperity and wholeness in every area of our lives (4) have a mouth that is a divine instrument and we can use it to speak blessings over our lives daily (5) win or lose the battle with Satan in our minds (6) must renew our minds daily and set our mind on God (7) must commit to use the Word of God as the final authority for every decision in our lives (8) are the spiritual leader of our families (9) must be vigilant and alert to spiritual warfare and attacks by Satan (10) have kingdom armor and weapons that we must use in our battle with Satan (11) must understand that fear is not from God but is a demonic spirit whose intent is to steal, kill and destroy us (12) can expect Satan to use doubt, unbelief and fear to tear down our defenses and gain access into our lives (13) live in Christ and He lives in us (14) are more than conquerors and the outcome of every battle was established on the cross.

Child of God, I encourage you to live by faith and trust in God’s Word and act in boldness. Trample upon serpents, scorpions and Satan’s demons, knowing that nothing shall in any way harm you!

Lord, thank you for your Word. Teach me to walk in faith in the full authority, power and dominion that you have given me. Help me stand firmly and boldly on your Word knowing that I can live my life free from fear and harm. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Wrestling in Prayer

(Zealous and Persistent Prayer)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/146%20chapt%206%20dev%207.mp3>

“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.” (Colossians 4:12, NIV)

I have always loved words. I love the sound of words, pictures that words paint and feelings they express. Literature has always captured my mind, heart, and soul. As a teenager, I explored the world through plays and poetry. In college, I read a vast array of authors, playwrights and philosophers. Now, I spend hours reading my Bible and seldom read anything that is not faith-related. Reading my Bible, I use cross references and multiple translations to fully grasp the meaning. Here, my mind is drawn to the phrase, “wrestling in prayer.” Paul says Epaphras is “always wrestling in prayer for you...” Webster’s Dictionary defines “wrestle” as: means to contend, as in a struggle for mastery; grapple with; to force into submission.

As I reflect, I wonder, “Who is Epaphras wrestling with? Who is his opponent?” The Holy Spirit reminds me that every Christian is engaged in daily spiritual battle. He takes me to Paul’s words in (Eph 6:12-13, NASB), “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Now, it is clear that Epaphras wrestled in prayer for the young church in Colosse. He went to battle and waged spiritual warfare with Satan on their behalf. The Holy Spirit reminds me we are called to pray for fellow believers.

Child of God, are you praying regularly for others? Is this part of your regular prayer vigil? I encourage you to ask God to speak to you about the people in your life who need prayer. Be willing to fight the fight of faith on their behalf. Be prepared to engage Satan. Wrestle in prayer for them that they may be able to stand firm in the will of God for their lives.

Lord, thank you for teaching me the power of prayer. Teach me to be vigilant and courageous in my prayer life as I pray for others. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Violent Faith

(Be Bold, Get Up and Fight)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/147%20chapt%206%20dev%208.mp3>

“But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.” (Mark 3:27, AMP)

This verse creates powerful images of brute force and violence. It's part of a passage where Jesus is responding to allegations that He is demon possessed and therefore, able to cast out demons. He begins His response this way, “How can Satan drive out Satan? And if a kingdom is divided and rebelling against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.” He goes on to tell a parable about spiritual warfare and the struggle between good and evil. He presents the image of a strong man of God engaging in violence. The man of God goes to battle with Satan and binds him to defend his property. Notice Jesus' reference to “brute force and violent faith.” I often cite this verse in talks to Christian men. I start with the fall of Adam in the Garden and recount his utter leadership failure. I talk about Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, Gideon, Elijah, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Paul and Peter. I go on to make the point that many modern Christian men are not mighty men of valor but are spiritual wimps and sissies. I give examples that illustrate our timidity and weakness. I explain the ways that Satan so easily defeats us. I go on to challenge them to walk as Mighty Men of God with courage, confidence and strength.

Are you a timid or courageous Child of God? I encourage you to commit today, to walk in the Lord's strength and might. Put on your full armor of God. Pick up your sword of faith and march bravely into battle. Engage Satan, the enemy, with a forceful and violent faith. Bind him and take back all that he has stolen from you!

Lord, thank you for your Word. I will no longer be afraid of Satan. I will put on my armor, pick up my sword of faith and walk bravely into spiritual battle with Satan. I will bind Satan and reclaim all that he has stolen from me. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Stand Firm in the Face of Adversity

“Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.’ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

(James 4:5-7, TNIV)

“Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith (your conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, keeping the trust and holy fervor born of faith and a part of it). Act like men and be courageous; grow in strength!” [Ps. 31:24.]

(1 Corinthians 16:13, AMP)

Lessons from the Classroom of Adversity

(Let God Lead You)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/221%20chapt%2013%20dev%201.mp3>

“And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself any more, but your eyes will constantly behold your Teacher. And your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way; walk in it, when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left.” (Isaiah 30:20-21, AMP)

Many famous people in science, politics, entertainment, arts, and business failed miserably before they ever achieved success. Examples include Henry Ford, R. H. Macy, F.W. Woolworth, Soichiro Honda, Harland Sanders, Walt Disney, Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Charlie Chaplin, Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, and Vincent Van Gogh. Their lives are proof that success never teaches us as clearly or profoundly as adversity or failure.

After a very painful divorce, I had to learn how to be a godly man and godly husband. When I married Karen (my sweetheart and God send), I was determined not to repeat the same mistakes and learn from my failure. I knew I did not know how to succeed without God. Since this was Karen’s first marriage we had to learn together. We committed to have a Christ-centered marriage, pray and seek God daily, turn to the Bible and use it as the final authority for all of our decisions. In the midst of conflict and difficulty, I learned to cry out, “Lord help me and come quickly. I need you Jesus.” I’m amazed at the peace that comes as the Holy Spirit shows up to lead and guide us to a place of love, respect, acceptance and surrender.

I encourage you to ask God to help you with the relationships in your life or situations that are causing you pain and stealing your joy and peace. Two verses before this passage, Isaiah tells us, “the Lord longs to be gracious to you...” Isaiah and Jesus promised us help is waiting in the wings. The next time you’re experiencing challenges, be still and cry out to the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to intervene. Tell Him what you need. The Spirit of God longs to be gracious, to comfort you, help you and lead you to a place of victory, peace, and rest!

Lord, thank you for allowing trials to come into my life so I might grow stronger in my faith. Soften my heart and remove all pride and arrogance from me. Holy Spirit, lead me in humility in times of difficulty and help me obey your instructions. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

The Secret to Peace (Overcoming Adversity)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/223%20chapt%2013%20dev%202.mp3>

"I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need." (Philippians 4:12, NASB)

I'm drawn to Paul's powerful testimony here. He says that he has "learned the secret of being filled and going hungry..." The secret Paul refers to is having peace, joy, and contentment that is independent of your circumstances. Paul learned how to hold onto his peace. Every day we have the option to choose how we will respond to situations. We are free to choose joy or sadness, anger or acceptance, fear or courage, hope or despair. Paul encourages us to choose peace in spite of our circumstances.

Looking back on my life, I see that I spent decades in a state of "emotional highjack" where I was controlled or led by my emotions. I allowed my circumstances to determine my mood, thoughts, actions, and decisions. I give God praise that the Holy Spirit has shared Paul's secret with me. As I grow spiritually it becomes easier to control my emotions, to set my mind, heart, and spirit on God's Word, His promises, and to live by faith. I am learning to look beyond immediate situations and say, "I don't care what it looks like, I refuse to walk in fear, doubt, and unbelief." I've learned to encourage myself by going deeper into God's Word. I've resolved that I will not be moved by what it looks like. In the midst of trial, I use my mouth to call forth things that are not as though they were, and I thank God for them before they happen.

Child of God, how about you? Are you struggling with your circumstances? Do you allow your emotions to lead you to a place where you begin to question God's Word and His promises? Do you believe the facts of your situation more than you believe God's Word? I encourage you to trust God and His grace. Hold onto your peace, joy, and contentment no matter what happens!

Lord, thank you for your grace that sustains me each day. Jesus, your love and grace hold the secret of peace. I will trust in you Jesus and hold onto my peace, joy, and contentment no matter what. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

A Willing Spirit

(Good Intentions are Not Enough)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/224%20chapt%2013%20dev%203.mp3>

“Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Simon,’ he said to Peter, ‘are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.’” (Mark 14:37-38, NIV)

In this passage, Jesus has just returned to the disciples after spending time alone in prayer asking God to prepare Him for what He was about to face on the cross. Knowing the challenges that were ahead for both himself and the disciples, He specifically instructs them to, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” While Jesus admonished them for not keeping watch and praying instead of falling asleep, He declared, “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

How often do you face the same agonizing dilemma that Jesus addressed, and that Paul describes, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.” (Romans 7:17-18). What are the areas of your life where the spirit is willing, but your body and mind are weak? Where can Satan cause you to stumble and fall into temptation? In the hours leading up to His arrest, as a man, Jesus suffered and struggled to face His fate. He didn’t just tell the disciples what to do in a time of personal crisis. By spending time alone before God in prayer, Jesus demonstrated and modeled how to resist and overcome temptation.

Child of God, I encourage you to make a decision today to trust God in the midst of whatever test or trial you might be facing. Pray and ask Him for help, with the confidence that Jesus knows your struggles. Through your faith, He will give you the grace to overcome every challenge and test. Remember, it is Jesus who will strengthen you with His grace. In Him, you will have a willing spirit, strong mind and body to face every trial.

Lord, thank you for being my Rock, my Fortress, and my Shield of strength. Jesus, help me to have a willing spirit, a strong body and mind to resist every temptation. In you Jesus, in your grace, I win every battle, every time. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Down, But Never Out

(I Am Ready for a Fight)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/225%20chapt%2013%20dev%204.mp3>

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9, NIV)

We all face hardship, trials, temporary setbacks and difficulties in both our personal and professional lives. God’s Word tells us that trials and temptations will come, but this verse encourages me. I’m comforted and have confidence that when I: (1) face hardship and pressure from every side, I will not be crushed (2) encounter difficult situations, people around me are out of control and things do not make sense, I will not feel despair (3) am surrounded by others who refuse to step up and carry their load or fail to honor a commitment, I will not feel alone (4) encounter “Goliath-sized” problems and experience a setback, I will not be defeated or destroyed (5) am under attack by every weapon in Satan’s arsenal, I may be wounded, but I will not give up (6) grow tired and weary, I will not cave in or quit (7) feel like everything is hopeless, I will not take my eyes off Jesus and the Word of God.

I know that I win every time as long as I walk in the love and grace of God. As a Child of Light, I will not be intimidated, controlled or manipulated by forces of darkness. I will pursue and take hold of every promise God made to me in His Word. I know that I will never walk alone, that the Spirit of God and His angels are with me. I’m always armed and ready and refuse to back down from Satan. When spiritual warfare comes, I say to Satan, it is written, “Greater is He who lives within me than you who are in this world.” Satan, I put you on notice, “I’m coming after you. Get ready for a fight. The victory is mine and the battle has already been won. I refuse to walk in fear. I find confidence knowing that you may knock me down, but you will NEVER knock me out!”

Lord, thank you for your Word of Truth and Grace. Jesus, your sacrifice on the cross settled the battle with Satan for all time. Satan, with Jesus on my side, you lose. I will not give up, cave in or quit no matter what. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Do You Have Walk-on-Water Faith?

(No Fear Here)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/226%20chapt%2013%20dev%205.mp3>

“When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’ And He said, ‘Come!’ And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.”
(Matthew 14:26-29, NASB)

I’m always drawn to Jesus and Peter’s interaction in this passage. Jesus tells the disciples not to fear, and Peter responds, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” Jesus answers Peter with a single but powerful word, “Come!” Without hesitation or further discussion Peter obeys, puts his trust in Jesus and steps out of the boat. His actions defied reason and natural laws. Peter walked on water! Soon he becomes distracted by the raging wind and waves and takes his eyes off Jesus. In that moment, Satan introduces fear, doubt, and unbelief and Peter begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus and Jesus grabs his hand and saves him!

President Franklin D. Roosevelt exhibited great faith and reverence for God in his Inaugural Address on March 4, 1933. His speech contains a reference to fear that has been repeated often. He said, “...This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive, and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” What is less known or quoted is the last sentence of Roosevelt’s speech where he said, “In this dedication of a Nation we humbly ask the blessing of God. May He protect each and every one of us. May He guide me in the days to come?”

Child of God, I encourage you to model the thinking and behavior of Peter and President Roosevelt. Have faith and trust God. Don’t worry about logic, common sense, natural laws or peer pressure. Refuse to allow fear, doubt and unbelief to stop you. Remember, God is with you. Keep your eyes on Jesus and boldly step out of the boat. Exercise “Walk-on-Water Faith” and expect a miracle!

Lord, thank you for showing me the power of your Word. Jesus, remove all fear, doubt, and unbelief from my heart and help me trust you at all times. Give me “Walk-on-Water Faith” that I may boldly step out of the boat and come to you. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

A Thorn to Keep Me Humble

(Pain Serves a Purpose)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/227%20chapt%2013%20dev%206.mp3>

“And to keep me from being puffed up and too much elated by the exceeding greatness (preeminence) of these revelations, there was given me a thorn (a splinter) in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to rack and buffet and harass me, to keep me from being excessively exalted.” [Job. 2:6.] (2 Corinthians 12:7, AMP)

This verse leads to one of the most frequently quoted passages in the New Testament. In verse 9 Paul says, “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” God’s grace was a gift to Paul to help him deal with his thorn. Many theologians have written and speculated about the nature of Paul’s thorn. Although Paul fails to give us specifics, he tells us it caused him great pain and anguish. While he recognized the purpose of the thorn was to keep him humble, he goes on to tell us he asked God to remove it three times.

Thinking about thorns, I recall Adam and Eve’s sin in the Garden of Eden. We see in Genesis 3:9-19, that God cursed the serpent to crawl on his belly in dust among thorns and thistles; told Eve she would have to endure the pain of childbirth (thorn) then God tells Adam that because of his sin, the ground will be cursed and produce thorns. Work becomes hard, filled with sweat and sorrow, because of his disobedience. Based on these passages, scholars point to the thorn as a symbol of the curse (empowerment to fail). Life, especially our work, becomes difficult, hard, and painful!

Life is full of thorns. Almost daily we face sticky and prickly situations, people with issues, complex challenges that poke and prod us and make work life difficult. We’ve coined expressions for these situations. We say, “He sure is acting like he has a burr (thorn) under his saddle” or “My coworker is a real thorn in my side.” Every Christian should accept that there will be thorns in life. What thorny situations are you facing? Is someone’s prickly behavior causing you pain and making life difficult? Maybe you’re the one going around with a “burr” under your saddle? I encourage you to pray and ask God to show you His purpose for the thorn. Like Paul, walk in humility. Trust God’s grace. His grace is bigger than any thorn.

Lord, thank you for your grace. Jesus, help me to humble myself, to rely on you and trust in your grace every time I face difficult situations in my life. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Joy at the Finish Line

(Refuse to Give Up, Cave In or Quit)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/228%20chapt%2013%20dev%207.mp3>

“Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.” (Romans 5:3-4, AMP)

Paul encourages us to greet troubles with joy knowing that pressure and hardship lead to spiritual growth and maturity. As Christians we do seem to have grasped the fact that we must run the race set before us. But it seems many of us think the race is a 100-yard dash! We must change our thinking if we are to succeed and overcome life’s trials. The race of faith is never a short sprint. It’s always a race of endurance. Think of it as a “super marathon,” certainly not a 5K race in perfect weather.

I want to emphasize the challenge we face and prepare you by saying, “Get ready for the toughest race of your life.” It’s imperative that when you get: (1) to training camp, you resolve to get spiritually fit and build strength and conditioning (2) out of the car and head to the track, you understand this is a race of endurance (3) to the starting line, you have the proper mindset to persevere (4) out of the blocks, you focus and find your stride (5) bumped, tripped, stumble and fall, you get back up and keep running (6) dehydrated and thirsty, you call on Jesus for a drink of living water (7) muscle cramps and your legs ache, you remember Jesus’ suffering on the cross (8) tired and discouraged, you call on Jesus for more grace (9) disoriented and out of your lane, you ask Jesus to direct your steps; (10) on the verge of collapse feeling like you can’t take another step, you surrender and let Jesus carry you (11) an opportunity to look into the crowd, you look for Jesus’ face cheering you on (12) to the finish line, you see Jesus’ banner that reads, “With me, all things are possible.”

Child of God, as you cross the finish line, I encourage you to listen for the roar of applause and cheers from the saints. Have joy at the finish line. Be glad that you did not give up, cave in, or quit but finished the race of faith!

Lord, thank you for your grace to run the race you have set before me. Jesus, if I get tired and want to give up, fill me with your grace, help me to persevere and keep running. Give me joy at the finish line, knowing that victory is mine. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

A Foolish Thing (Counting vs. Trusting)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/229%20chapt%2013%20dev%208.mp3>

“David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, ‘I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.’” (2 Samuel 24:10, NIV)

David’s success and reputation as an anointed warrior was unparalleled. He always sought the Lord and depended on Him for victory. Suddenly things changed and David gave into fear. He took his eyes off God and ordered Joab, his commanding officer, to count the troops. David made a decision to quit trusting God and focus on what he could do in his own strength.

For me, the issue was not counting soldiers but counting dollars. Suddenly, contracts ended, and the phone quit ringing. My days became silent and still. Within a few months my income dropped to less than a third of what it had been. At least the Lord revealed to me that this season was coming and that He was going to use this season to teach me some important life lessons. He taught me to acknowledge Him as my only Source, that everything else was just a resource. He taught me how to be a better steward over all that He gave us. He wanted me to see that, like David, I had the wrong perspective. He showed me that when I turned to my earning power, bank account and reserves for my sense of well-being, I failed to trust Him. He reminded me of His Word, in Philippians 4:19 that says, “My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” I came to understand that, like David, I had sinned greatly and done a foolish thing! While this is normal thinking and behavior for unbelievers, it is not the way God wants me to think or live. He wants all of me (heart, mind and spirit). He wants me to trust Him as my Source for everything. He wants me to reject fear, doubt, and unbelief.

Child of God, what fears are keeping you from trusting and obeying God? Are you relying on God’s strength or your own? I encourage you to ask God to reveal any area of your life where you have sinned greatly and done a foolish thing.

Lord, thank you for your grace, mercy and provision. Jesus, help me to trust and rely on you for everything. I know that you are faithful to always meet my needs. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

You of Little Faith

(Giving in to Fear)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/230%20chapt%2013%20dev%209.mp3>

“Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!’ He replied, ‘You of little faith, why are you so afraid?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, ‘What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!’” (Matthew 8:24-27, NIV)

As I read these verses, I think of all the times as an Executive Coach and Ministry Leader my clients and peers have recounted similar situations when suddenly a storm appeared and either they or their employees or volunteers panicked and were overcome by fear based on the circumstances. Careful review of these verses reveals crucial points about Jesus’ servant leadership behavior. Jesus: (1) examined the disciples’ thoughts and emotions and understood their actions were motivated by fear and concern for their personal safety and welfare (2) resisted the urge to respond emotionally out of anger or frustration (3) recognized what needed to happen to restore their sense of well-being (4) demonstrated a sense of urgency and took immediate action (5) showed total confidence in His ability to quiet the storm (solve the problem) and meet their emotional and spiritual needs (6) remained silent when it was all over so that the disciples could process and reflect on what happened and learn from their experience.

As leaders are you and your team in the midst of storms that seemed to blow in without warning? Are the raging winds and waves a serious threat to your production capability, quality, customer base, profit margin, employee morale, goals and objectives? When you face storms and your team is emotionally high jacked, I encourage you to read and study the Gospels. Pay close attention to the words and actions of Jesus, the greatest model of servant leadership in human history. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to lead like Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to: walk in faith; assess the situation; control your emotions; show a sense of urgency by taking action; model confidence; use the storms as a learning opportunity. The Spirit of God will teach you. Lead like Jesus and prepare to be amazed.

Lord, thank you for teaching me valuable lessons on leadership as I study the Gospels and the life of Jesus. Thank you for giving me a servant leader’s heart and helping me “lead like Jesus.” Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

A Moment of Truth

(Letting Go of Hurt and Disappointment)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/231%20chapt%2013%20dev%2010.mp3>

“The LORD therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand. When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, ‘You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.’” (1 Samuel 24:15-17, NIV)

In the verses leading up to this passage, we read that Saul’s back was turned to David. In an instant David could have taken his life. Instead, he reached out and cut off the bottom of Saul’s robe. A few minutes later, overwhelmed with shame and sorrow, David calls out to Saul and confesses what he had done. These verses capture part of their conversation.

For me, this moment was played out the day I sat on my Dad’s bed as he lay dying of cancer. For the first time in decades, we sat, held each other, talked, cried, and shared from our hearts. The weight of years of regret, guilt, anger, hurt, disappointment, struggle and conflict, suddenly disappeared and no longer mattered. We silently agreed to let go of our broken past, celebrate and enjoy each another in the moment. In the moment, we: (1) created a new reality with new rules of behavior – a reality free of expectations, promises, apologies, excuses and regrets (2) chose to forgive, love, and cherish each other unconditionally as father and son (3) chose to accept and overlook each other’s brokenness, faults, and differences. We were finally at peace. In the moment, I came to understand David and Saul’s interaction as I recalled Paul’s treatise on love written to the church in Corinth. His words showed me God’s heart. They softened my heart, became real and changed me. . . “love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.” (1 Co 13:7-8) Most of all, in the moment of truth with my Dad, I learned that love never fails.

Child of God, I encourage you to ask God to show you the truth of His love regarding a difficult relationship in your life. Remember, God is love and His love will never fail you!

Lord, thank you for your unconditional love and the healing power of your love. Jesus, help me to show forgiveness, love and compassion to others. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Job Search Is a Journey in the Wilderness

(Trust God)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/232%20chapt%2013%20dev%2011.mp3>

“For the Lord your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing.” (Deuteronomy 2:7, NASB)

Job search and career transition (promotion, transfer, and relocation) are often times of intense trial, emotional upheaval, and financial strain that test your self-confidence, faith, and the very fabric of your marriage, family and work relationships. For Christians, it can be compared to the time the Israelites spent in the wilderness. It’s a time of radical change and discomfort as you face an uncertain future and deal with the unknown. Life in the wilderness is different. The rules and consequences are more severe. Like the Israelites, you may long for the certainty of Egypt (your old job) even though you were very unhappy there.

In the wilderness, you will face challenges and tests every day. Will you trust God, walk in faith, refuse to believe Satan’s lies, and resist the urge to murmur and complain? Remember God doesn’t like complaining, so be careful that you don’t turn an 11-day journey into a 40-year trek! How long you spend in the wilderness depends on your level of trust and dependence on God and the lessons He wants you to learn. Use your time in the wilderness to draw closer to God. Start every day: (1) feasting (studying and meditating) on His Word (2) confessing His Word over your life (3) being still in prayer as you seek His will and plans for your life (4) giving thanks and praise for His goodness (5) thinking of your work as worship to God (6) asking Him to lead you to a place where you can take your faith to work and honor Him.

Child of God, celebrate your freedom in the wilderness and trust God to provide for you. Believe in His Word and His promises. Rely on His goodness, faithfulness and grace. With confidence and expectant hope, allow His spirit to lead you to your promised land (ideal job). Once you’re there don’t forget to praise Him!

Lord, thank you for the transitions in my life, for opening doors and for closing them. Soften my heart and draw me closer to you during times of change. Seal my lips to complaining and replace them with songs of joy, thanksgiving, and praise. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Satan's Weapons of Choice: Fear and Shame

Now let's take a closer look at Satan's weapons so you can know what to expect. Fear and doubt, condemnation and shame are Satan's key weapons he uses against us. Fear is his main weapon. He uses lies and deception to create fear. First, we will look at fear then we will address the issue of shame. The word "fear" appears 356 times in the Amplified Bible; the word "afraid" appears 167 times, and the phrases "do not fear", "fear not" or "be not afraid" appear 71 times. The frequency of these phrases shows us that everyday life will present circumstances and situations which can generate fear, doubt, worry and unbelief.

Fear is Satan's Main Weapon

Fear is a doubt and unbelief in God and in His Word; belief in the lies of Satan; a state of dread, uneasiness, worry or anxiousness.

- 1.** Fear is faith in reverse or faith contaminated.
- 2.** Fear is when we believe our circumstances are bigger than God.
- 3.** Fear equips and empowers us to fail; it paralyzes us and causes us to make poor decisions and choices.
- 4.** Fear works like a magnet and attracts and draws the very thing that we fear.
- 5.** Fear comes from Satan; it is a demonic spirit; it is NOT an emotion or feeling.
- 6.** Fear is demonstrated and activated by the words we speak; words that are in agreement with Satan's lies which ultimately lead to spiritual and physical death and destruction.
- 7.** Fear is fueled by our negative emotions: selfishness, anger, hurt, despair, greed, envy, jealousy, and insecurity.
- 8.** Fear is overcome by faith in God, His Word and walking in integrity and faithfulness.
- 9.** Fear keeps you in bondage to sin, addiction, strongholds and generational curses.
- 10.** Fear produces despair and hopelessness, and constant, prolonged fear leads to spiritual and physical death, destruction, and eternal torment in hell.
- 11.** Fear is the belief that God does not really love us and that God's promises are not true.
- 12.** Fear is based in selfishness and is an expression of our desire to preserve or protect self.
- 13.** Fear gives Satan power and opens the door for him to operate in your life.
- 14.** Fear destroys your confidence while faith builds it.
- 15.** Fear brings worry, torment and unrest while faith brings peace and contentment.

What Does Scripture Say About Fear?



As mentioned earlier, the words "*fear*", "*afraid*", "*do not fear*", "*fear not*" or "*be not afraid*" are used more than 350 times in the Bible. Clearly God does not want us to walk in fear, doubt, worry and unbelief. He knows that fear can lead us to become disobedient and separate us from Him. Here are some key verses about fear. For additional understanding, listen to the audio messages below:

1. NOW THE serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden? ... But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. (Gen 3:1, 9-10, AMP).

Adam's First Sin Was a Failure to Lead (Crisis of Leadership)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/58%20chapt%202%20dev%205.mp3>

2. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, It is a ghost! And they screamed out with fright. But instantly He spoke to them, saying, Take courage! I AM! Stop being afraid! And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus. But when he perceived and felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me [from death]! Instantly Jesus reached

out His hand and caught and held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:26-31, AMP).

Do You Have Walk-on-Water Faith? (No Fear Here)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/226%20chapt%2013%20dev%205.mp3>

3. And my God will liberally supply fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19, AMPC).

A God of All, Not Some (God Is Your Source)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/33%20chapt%201%20dev%204.mp3>

4. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:33-34, NIV).

Choose Carefully (Your Choices Matter)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/251%20chapt%2014%20dev%2018.mp3>

Victory Over Fear

We must come to believe in and trust God's Word and His promises to us. Stand on these truths:

- 1.** For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! (Romans 8:15, AMP).
- 2.** As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:36-37, NIV).
- 3.** And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians, 4:19, AMP).
- 4.** Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice. [Acts 18:10.] (Isaiah 41:10, AMPC).
- 5.** HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! (Psalms 91:1-2, AMP).
- 6.** Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me. (Psalms 23:4, AMPC).
- 7.** [*Elisha*] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them. (2 Kings 6:16, AMPC).
- 8.** And he said, O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you! Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he had spoken to me, I was strengthened and said, Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me. (Daniel 10:19, AMPC).
- 9.** According to the promise that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit stands and abides in the midst of you; fear not. (Haggai 2:5, AMPC).

What Does Scripture Say About Shame?

It is important that you understand what God's Word says about shame and why pride and shame are co-conspirators that are detestable to God. Look for the connections between shame, fear, pride and disobedience.

1. When pride comes [boiling up with an arrogant attitude of self-importance], then come dishonor *and* shame, But with the humble [the teachable who have been chiseled by trial and who have learned to walk humbly with God] there is wisdom *and* soundness of mind. (Proverbs 11:2, AMP).

Pride and Arrogance (Satan's Calling Cards)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/203%20chapt%2010%20dev%208.mp3>

2. I turned My back to those who strike *Me*, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not hide My face from insults and spitting. For the Lord God helps Me, Therefore, I have not been shamed *or* humiliated. Therefore, I have made My face like flint, And I know that I shall not be put to shame. (Isaiah 50:6-7, AMP).

Are You Ashamed? (Reject Shame and Confess Jesus as Lord)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-4.mp3>

3. Instead of your [former] shame *you will have* a double *portion*; And *instead of* humiliation your people will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore in their land they will possess double [what they had forfeited]; Everlasting joy will be theirs. (Isaiah 61:7, AMP).

Personal Time with God (Joy and Excitement)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/252%20chapt%2014%20dev%2019.mp3>

4. He was despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows *and* pain and acquainted with grief; And like One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth *or* esteem Him. But [in fact] He has borne our griefs, And He has carried our sorrows *and* pains; Yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, Struck down by God and degraded *and* humiliated [by Him]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; The punishment [required] for our well-being *fell* on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed. (Isaiah 53: 3-5, AMP).

A Public Spectacle (The Cross Changed Everything)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/78%20chapt%203%20div%2017.mp3>

Shame is Prevalent in the Workplace

If there was ever a place where Satan will attack us, and attempt to get us to walk in shame, it is in our self-esteem and our self-worth that are tied to the work we do. I have witnessed both leaders giving the news and employees who have been disciplined or terminated walk in shame, embarrassment and humiliation. The most extreme case I ever witnessed involved a man who maintained a charade for almost two years. After he got laid off, he was too embarrassed and ashamed to tell his wife and family. As a result, he got up every day in his suit and tie and came to the Career Center, all the while telling his wife, he was going to work. He took monthly withdrawals from his savings and IRA accounts to pay his bills. One day, he confessed his charade to me and begged me to help him find a way out of his predicament.



Victory Over Shame

Introduction

God's Word tells us that we have victory, that we are more than conquerors. We have victory over shame and condemnation, because of the blood of Jesus and what He did on the cross. God's Word promises us that He has dealt with our shame. Celebrate your freedom from shame through God's grace, mercy and forgiveness. Rest in confident hope in these verses:

1. But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared *and* worshiped [with submissive wonder]. (Psalm 130:4, AMP)
2. Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call on Him [for salvation] while He is near. Let the wicked leave (behind) his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion (mercy) on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7, AMP)
3. FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL *and* GRACIOUS TOWARD THEIR WICKEDNESS, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE. (Hebrews 8:12, AMP)
4. This is why I suffer as I do. Still, I am not ashamed; for I know Him [and I am personally acquainted with Him] whom I have believed [with absolute trust and confidence in Him and in the truth of His deity], and I am persuaded [beyond any doubt] that He is able to guard that which I have entrusted to Him until that day [when I stand before Him]. (2 Timothy 1:12, AMP)



Jesus Became Our “Shame-Substitute”

Introduction

As born-again Christians, we must remember that Jesus died for our sins on the cross. He took on the sin of the world and God, who is holy and righteous, was forced to turn away from Jesus. God turned away from Jesus, but He promises to never turn away from us. Jesus took on the hatred and rejection, ridicule and abuse, the shame that we deserved. He became our “Shame-Substitute.” He despised shame and how Satan used it to defeat man. In Him, we are victorious, free from shame and condemnation. Study and meditate on these passages and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you about any area of shame in your life.



- a.** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud [agonized] voice, ‘ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’ that is, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?’ (Matthew 27:46, AMP)
- b.** As it is written *and* forever remains written, ‘BEHOLD I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE; AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM [whoever adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED [in his expectations].’ (Romans 9:33, AMP)

- c. He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness]. (2 Corinthians 5:21, AMP)
- d. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (worldliness, manner of life), God made you alive together with Christ, having [freely] forgiven us all our sins, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of legal demands [which were in force] against us and which were hostile to us. And this certificate He has set aside *and* completely removed by nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14, AMP)
- e. For indeed Christ died for sins once for all, the Just *and* Righteous for the unjust *and* unrighteous [the Innocent for the guilty] so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; (1 Peter 3:18, AMP)
- f. Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising *and* ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2-3, AMPC)

Summary

Remember, Jesus despised shame and defeated shame on the cross. Whenever you feel ashamed, you must remember that shame is from Satan, and he uses it to attack us and get us to give up and quit. It is deigned to get us to doubt God's Word and His promises and question our "worthiness" and whether or not God's Word is really true. Do not believe the lie.

Self-Reflection and Application

Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about this lesson. To show you what changes He wants you to make in your life.

1. What did you learn from this lesson?
2. What are the lies that you have believed regarding shame?
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the areas of your life where you have been walking in shame?
4. What changes do you need to make to walk out this victory over shame in your life?

Guilt vs. Shame

Guilt and shame are NOT the same thing. Guilt is about what you ***did***; shame is about who you ***are***. Shame is a powerful emotion caused by a sense of failure, a mistake or the belief that you have failed in the eyes of others. Satan will introduce shame and condemnation (despair) to get you believe that you **are a failure or mistake**. Shame and condemnation are not from God. They are tools used by Satan to destroy you, cause you to walk in fear and hide from God. We must also understand that shame and pride go hand in hand. Shame will make you run and hide from God and turn your back on His Word. In shame, you will believe Satan's lies that you are not worthy of God's love and that His promises will not come true in your life. We MUST remember that conviction is from God and will lead to repentance and godly sorrow (See 2 Co 7:11). In contrast, shame will cause you to turn away from God and cause you to doubt your divine destiny. Unfortunately, the church has perfected phoniness as a way of covering shame just as Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness in the garden.

Adam's First Sin Was a Failure to Lead (Crisis of Leadership)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/58%20chapt%20%20dev%205.mp3>

GUILT vs. SHAME

Guilt and shame are both emotional states, but they are not the same thing. Let's examine these two emotional states and see how they can impact your thoughts and actions.

GUILT

1. See **WHAT** you did or did not do
2. Feel bad about **WHAT** you do
3. Awareness of my failure
4. Convicted by Holy Spirit to confess our sins to God and man
5. Perceive "I made a mistake"
6. Prompts and moves you to action

SHAME

- See **SELF** as a failure because of your actions
- Feel bad about **WHO** you are (Identity)
- Sense of failure in the eyes of others
- Keep it and you begin to shame others
- Perceive others "See my mistakes"
- Paralyzes you and causes you to hide

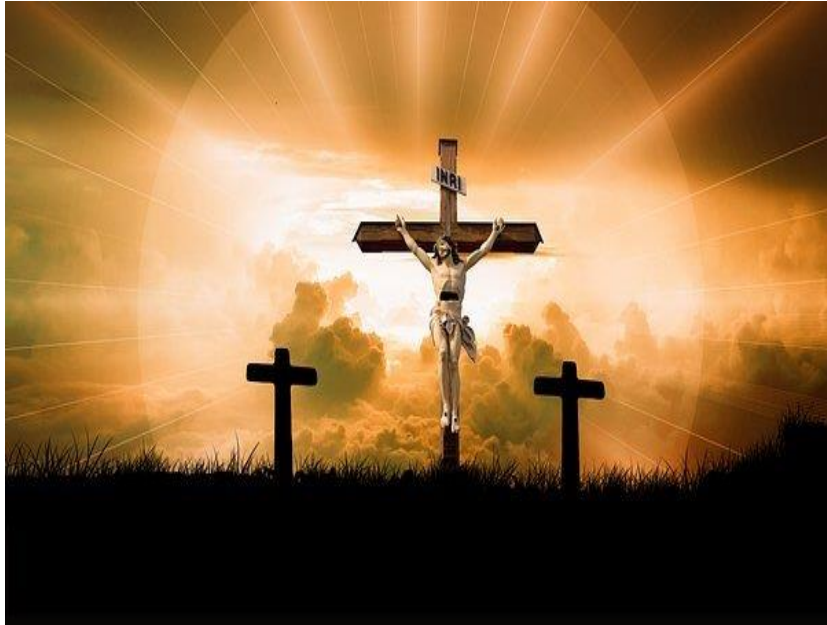
GUILT

- 7.** Godly sorrow causes you to turn to God
- 8.** Leads to repentance
- 9.** Repentance leads to faith in God
- 10.** Repentance removes burdens
- 11.** Leads to confession and obedience
- 12.** Feel relief after you confess your sins
- 13.** Frees you to pursue your future
- 14.** Leads to self-acceptance
- 15.** Leads to confident hope and dreams

SHAME

- Causes you to run from God and others
- Leads to more shame and more fear
- Shame leads to denial and self-deception
- The burden or weight of shame grows over time
- Leads to pride and Disobedience
- Feel paranoid, fearful and distrust others
- Ties you to your past
- Leads to perfectionism and phoniness
- Causes you to abandon your hope and dreams

Our Defense Starts with Faith in God and His Word



The word “faith” appears 346 times in the Amplified Bible. As Christians, we must choose to live by faith. Faith in God and His Word allows us to have victory over fear. FAITH. What is it? **Faith is a belief and trust in God, His Word (the Bible), and Jesus Christ.** How do we overcome fear, doubt, condemnation and shame? the answer is simple – through faith (believing) in what Jesus did on the cross. But what is FAITH? Let’s attempt to answer this question. Study and meditate on these messages below.

Being Fully Persuaded (Refuse to Stagger in Unbelief)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/87%20chapt%203%20dev%2026.mp3>

1. Faith in God equips and empowers us to succeed and prosper.

A God of All, Not Some (God Is Your Source)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/33%20chapt%201%20dev%204.mp3>

2. Faith comes from God; He chooses and calls us into a relationship with Him.

Jesus Calls Me Friend (He Really Likes Me!)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/68%20chapt%203%20dev%207.mp3>

3. Faith in God is demonstrated and activated by the words we speak; words that are in agreement with God's Word.

We Can Certainly Do It (Believe in and Trust God's Promises)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/41%20chapt%201%20dev%2012.mp3>

4. Faith in God is fueled by unconditional love, compassion and a willingness to serve others and put their needs before our own.

Give the Advantage to Others (Live in Covenant and Put Others First)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/165%20chapt%208%20dev%202.mp3>

5. Faith in God will cancel out, overcome and conquer fear; it will always defeat Satan.

Serpents, Scorpions and Satan (No Fear Here)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/145%20chapt%206%20dev%206.mp3>

6. Faith in God and His Word will set us free from bondage, guilt and condemnation.

Be Loosed and Set Free (Jesus Will Set You Free)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/191%20chapt%209%20dev%206.mp3>

7. Faith in God gives us courage, confidence and expectant hope.

Just Believe (The Power of Believing)

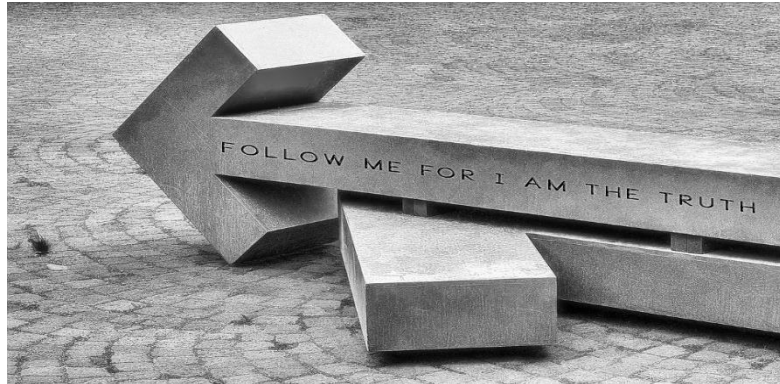
<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/75%20chapt%203%20dev%2014.mp3>

8. Faith in God leads to our salvation, victory and eternal life in heaven.

God Gives Personal Invitations to Heaven (The "Eternal Life" List)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-12.mp3>

Faith Starts with Believing



As Christians, our faith only works if we believe. We must believe in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and in God's Word. Without believing, we can never have God's promises and we will never have an abundant spirit-led life. Our life as Christians starts and ends with believing in what we cannot see. Believing is when we decide to accept by faith. What is FAITH? God's Word has this to say about faith and believing. For additional understanding I encourage you to listen and meditate on these audio messages.

1. "So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself)." (Romans 10:17, AMP).

Faith Comes (Origin of Faith)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/94%20chapt%204%20dev%201.mp3>

2. "NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]." (Hebrews 11:1, AMP).

Faith is Spelled CONFIDENCE (Your Personal Guarantee)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/115%20chapt%204%20dev%2020.mp3>

3. "By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:3, AMP).

Unbelief Cancels Your Rights (Faith vs. Unbelief)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/241%20chapt%2014%20dev%208.mp3>

By Faith We Know:

1. God is real and He made heaven and earth.

God Created the First Start-up (Heaven and Earth)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/233%20chapt%2014%20dev%201.mp3>

2. Jesus came and died for the sins of mankind; Jesus rose again on the third day.

I Am the Resurrection (Die to Self and Live)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/184%20chapt%208%20dev%2021.mp3>

3. Salvation and eternal life are available for all who accept Jesus and BELIEVE in Him.

Access Granted (Hear God's Voice and Simply Believe)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/192%20chapt%209%20dev%207.mp3>

4. God's Word is His will revealed to man.

From Tagline to Life's Mission (Passion, Faith and Boldness)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/121%20chapt%205%20dev%204.mp3>

5. Holy Spirit is real and available to help, comfort, lead and teach me 24/7.

Lessons from the Classroom of Adversity (Let God Lead You)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/221%20chapt%2013%20dev%201.mp3>

What Does Scripture Say About Believing?

God's Word has this to say about the need to believe.

1. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him--the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2, AMP).

Walking in the Spirit of the Lord (God's Power and Anointing)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/106%20chapt%204%20dev%2011.mp3>

2. But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you. Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.] (John 14:26-27, AMP).

The Gift of Peace (Life with Jesus)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/74%20chapt%203%20dev%2013.mp3>

3. While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore?' Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'" (Mark 5:35-36, NIV)

Just Believe (The Power of Believing)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/75%20chapt%203%20dev%2014.mp3>

Developing Faith That Believes

How can we develop faith that believes and what does it look like? A good example of this kind of faith is found in Luke 1:28-38 "And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women! But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean. And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God. And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great (eminent) and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David, And He will reign over the house of Jacob

throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end. [Isa. 9:6, 7; Dan. 2:44.] And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband? Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God. [Exod. 40:34; Isa. 7:14.] And listen! Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment. Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.”

Summary

Mighty Men and Awesome Women of God stand out from the crowd. They think and act differently. They SIMPLY BELIEVE. They:

1. Live and operate within God's Circle of Love.

Wanted: “Real Men” (Stand Strong and Walk in Love)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/168%20chapt%208%20dev%205.mp3>

2. Are strong in their faith, trust and reliance on God.

Violent Faith (Be Bold, Get Up and Fight)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/147%20chapt%206%20dev%208.mp3>

3. Pray often; pray for others’ welfare; know the power of prayer.

Will You Pray for Me? (Be on the Alert and Pray)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-137.mp3>

4. Keep their focus and attention on excellence--what is vital, essential and eternal.

Commitment to Excellence (Doing Your Best or Just Enough?)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/248%20chapt%2014%20dev%2015.mp3>

5. Study and meditate on God's Word and it is the final authority in their life.

Get Your Mind Right (Set the Thermostat of Your Mind)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/97%20chapt%204%20dev%202.mp3>

6. Hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and they are quick to obey God.

Are You Driven or Directed? (Self-Effort vs. Spirit-Led)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/114%20chapt%204%20dev%2019.mp3>

7. Know that God's thoughts and plans are higher than our thoughts and plans.

Transitions Call for Spiritual Shepherds (A Higher Stage of Calling)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/124%20chapt%205%20dev%207.mp3>

8. Surrender to God and are dead to self and selfishness.

Who Is Operating Your Controls? (Submission and Surrender)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/197%20chapt%2010%20dev%202.mp3>

9. Refuse to walk in fear and show persistent hope and confidence in God.

Centurion Faith (Do You Have It?)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/242%20chapt%2014%20dev%209.mp3>

10. Are humble and patient and walk with a servant leader's heart.

Have You Washed any Feet Lately? (We Need Servant Leaders)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/135%20chapt%205%20dev%2018.mp3>

Self-Reflection and Application

Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about this lesson. To show you what changes He wants you to make in your life.

1. What truth or revelation did God speak to you in these verses?
2. What promises from God do you need to believe today?
3. What do you need to surrender to God?
4. Do you have the faith of Mary (Jesus' mother)? If not, why?
5. Are you exercising your creative power and speaking God's blessings over your life?
6. What do you need to declare today?

Overcoming Fear:

Live by Faith and Win Every Battle All the Time

*Presentation to Terrace United Methodist Church of Houston Life Skills Retreat
Gary L. Selman*

What Is Faith?

Faith is a belief and trust in God, His Word (the Bible), and Jesus Christ.

1. Faith in God equips and empowers us to succeed and prosper.
2. Faith comes from God; He chooses and calls us into a relationship with Him.
3. Faith in God is demonstrated and activated by the words we speak; words that are in agreement with God's Word.
4. Faith in God is fueled by unconditional love, compassion and a willingness to serve others and put their needs before our own.
5. Faith in God will cancel out, overcome and conquer fear; it will always defeat Satan.
6. Faith in God and His Word will set us free from bondage, guilt and condemnation.
7. Faith in God gives us courage, confidence and expectant hope.
8. Faith in God leads to our salvation, victory and eternal life in heaven.
 - a. "So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself)." (Romans 10:17, AMP).
 - b. "NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]." (Hebrews 11:1, AMP).
 - c. "By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:3, AMP).

What is Fear?

Fear is a doubt and unbelief in God and in His Word; belief in the lies of Satan; a state of dread, uneasiness, worry or anxiousness.

1. Fear equips and empowers us to fail; it paralyzes us and causes us to make poor decisions and choices.
2. Fear works like a magnet and attracts and draws the very thing that we fear.
3. Fear comes from Satan; it is a demonic spirit; it is NOT an emotion or feeling.

4. Fear is demonstrated and activated by the words we speak; words that are in agreement with Satan's lies which ultimately lead to spiritual and physical death and destruction.
5. Fear is fueled by our negative emotions: selfishness, anger, hurt, despair, greed, envy, jealousy, and insecurity.
6. Fear is overcome by faith in God, His Word and walking in integrity and faithfulness.
7. Fear keeps you in bondage to sin, addiction, strongholds and generational curses.
8. Fear produces despair and hopelessness, and constant, prolonged fear leads to spiritual and physical death, destruction, and eternal torment in hell.
 - a. "NOW THE serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden? ... But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." (Gen 3:1, 9-10, AMP).
 - b. "And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, It is a ghost! And they screamed out with fright. But instantly He spoke to them, saying, Take courage! I AM! Stop being afraid! And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus. But when he perceived and felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me [from death]! Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught and held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:26-31, AMP).

Trusting God and Overcoming Fear

1. God's love, mercy and grace for us is so great that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins.
2. God defeated Satan in heaven and Jesus defeated Satan on earth when He died on the cross.
3. The blood of Jesus was shed on the cross for our sins giving us reconciliation with God, deliverance and redemption from our sins, and healing from sickness.
4. We can overcome all temptations and trials, and nothing is impossible for us through Christ who strengthens us.
5. Jesus came and died on the cross to give us peace (prosperity, happiness, health, wholeness and completeness) in every area of our lives; on the other hand, Satan's mission is to steal, kill and destroy.
6. We are heirs to every promise in God's Word; He always honors us when we honor Him; He will never leave us or forsake us.
7. Through our faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ we have dominion, power and authority over all the earth and over all the power of Satan, our enemy.
8. Walking in obedience to God's Word guarantees His protection, provision and favor.

- a. “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7, AMP).
- b. “For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!” (Romans 8:15, AMP).
- c. “As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:36-37, NIV).
- d. “And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians, 4:19, AMP).
- e. “Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice. [Acts 18:10.]” (Isaiah 41:10).
- f. “HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!” (Psalms 91:1-2, AMP).

Our Words Serve as the Final Witness and Set Spiritual Laws in Motion

1. The world (flesh) and the kingdom of God (Spirit) operate according to laws and principles that work every time. (Gen 8:22).
2. Both God and Satan exercise power through **SPOKEN WORDS**. (Gen 1:26,3:4-5).
3. God’s words are true, eternal and unchanging; His Word is LIVING WORD (BIBLE and HOLY SPIRIT) (John 1:14).
4. Satan’s words are lies, deception and a twisted version of the truth. (Gen 3:4-5).
5. We have a choice of speaking blessings or curses with our words on a daily basis. (Pro 18:20-21; James 3:10).
6. **BLESSINGS**: Encourage, praise, empower self/others to succeed; follow obedience. (Pro 28:20).
7. **CURSES**: Discourage, put down, empower self/others to fail; follow disobedience. (Jer 11:3).
8. **EXPRESSION**: “*Sticks and Stones Can Break My Bones, but WORDS can never hurt me.*” This is a lie, and deception of Satan’s (Worldly Thinking) that causes hurt, pain, divorce, sickness and death.
9. Words are spiritual containers that contain the rich substance of our faith. (Rom 10:17).
10. Words are fundamental elements of our faith; our spoken words activate God’s laws. (Isa 55:11).
11. As children of God’s, created in His image, our mouths are a **DIVINE APPARATUS**; God’s Word teaches us how to use our mouth as a tool for power, authority and dominion. (Mat 17:20).

- 12.** We must **SPEAK** God's WORD to release the power He has given us (thinking is NOT enough). (Acts 4:31).
- 13.** We must confess and declare our faith with our mouths. (Mat 10:32; Luke 12:8).
- 14. Words are the Building Blocks we use to pave the roads we walk to our Destiny.** (Pro 10:31).
- 15.** Words lead to our destiny. (Pro 18:20-21).

Words → Thinking → Emotions → Decisions → Actions → Habits → Character → Destiny

Prayer for Faith and Courage to Overcome Fear and Unbelief

Heavenly Father,

Your Word tells me that you are my Help and my Shield. I know I am a beloved child of God and the righteousness of God. I choose to have an intimate loving relationship with you Lord Jesus, and I accept your unconditional love for me. I accept that the blood of Jesus defeated Satan and every demonic force on the cross. I believe that I receive every promise in your Word because of the blood of Jesus. Father, I choose to spend time with you in worship and prayer and to read, study, and meditate on your Word. Help me to stop listening to the opinions and truth of the world. I choose to believe your Word and use the Bible as the final authority in my life. I refuse to walk in a state of fear, doubt or unbelief; I choose to live and walk in faith and not by sight. Lord Jesus, I choose to put you FIRST in my life with my time and my money. I choose to think, speak, feel, and act differently. Starting today I will fix my mind and heart on You Jesus and on your Word. I choose to sow your Word into my heart and to protect my heart. I choose to be a doer of your Word. I choose to walk in LOVE with You, my family, friends and strangers. I choose to be a confident, courageous and bold man/woman of faith. I choose to live in Your kingdom. I choose to renew my mind, to press on and fight the good fight of faith. I will bind and rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus and overcome all of his powers. I choose faith, courage, confidence and expectant hope over fear, doubt, and unbelief. I choose blessings over curses and life over death. I choose Your Kingdom over the World. Through the blood of Jesus and in the holy name of Jesus I pray. AMEN.

Our Victory Rest in Jesus' Victory on the Cross

We must build our life on these foundational truths in God's Word.

1. God's love, mercy and grace for us is so great that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

For God So Loved the World (God Is Love)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/30%20chapt%201%20dev%201.mp3>

2. God defeated Satan in heaven and Jesus defeated Satan on earth when He died on the cross.

Soldiers Telling War Stories (Satan Falls from Heaven)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/140%20chapt%206%20dev%201.mp3>

3. The blood of Jesus was shed on the cross for our sins giving us reconciliation with God, deliverance and redemption from our sins, and healing from sickness.

Blood Rights (Understanding Your Inheritance)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/65%20chapt%203%20dev%204.mp3>

4. We can overcome all temptations and trials and nothing is impossible for us through Christ who strengthens us.

A Thorn to Keep Me Humble (Pain Serves a Purpose)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/227%20chapt%2013%20dev%206.mp3>

5. Jesus came and died on the cross to give us peace (prosperity, happiness, health, wholeness and completeness) in every area of our lives; on the other hand, Satan's mission is to steal, kill and destroy.

The Door to Abundant Life (Jesus' Promise to Every Believer)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/89%20chapt%203%20dev%2028.mp3>

6. We are heirs to every promise in God's Word; He always honors us when we honor Him; He will never leave us or forsake us.

Heirs of God (Co-Heirs with Christ to All of God's Promises)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/76%20chapt%203%20dev%2015.mp3>

7. Through our faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ we have dominion, power and authority over all the earth and over all the power of Satan, our enemy.

Serpents, Scorpions and Satan (No Fear Here)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/145%20chapt%206%20dev%206.mp3>

Summary

What fears are you facing in your personal or professional life? Remember, fear is not from God. It is from Satan. As Christians, we can overcome fear and defeat Satan every time by standing on God's Word and trusting Him. By taking the following steps you can consistently overcome fear in difficult situations, trials, and tests.

1. Read, study, meditate on the Word of God and trust in God and His Word.
2. Examine yourself. Learn where your fear comes from. Why is this fear so strong?
3. Encourage yourself. Be courageous and bold since the battle has already been won.
4. Refuse to speak curses over your life.
5. In every situation, look beyond the surface and discern the presence of spiritual warfare; put on the whole armor of God.
6. Use God's Word against Satan; speak the Word---remember thinking is not enough.
7. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in the strength and power of the Spirit.
8. Listen and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Self-Reflection and Application

Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about this lesson. To show you what changes He wants you to make in your life.

1. What did you learn from these verses? What truth was revealed to you?
2. What are you afraid of? What help do you need?
3. What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do?

The New You Is Full of Grace and Truth

“And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception). John testified [repeatedly] about Him and has cried out [testifying officially for the record, with validity and relevance], ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I and has priority over me, for He existed before me.’ For out of His fullness [the superabundance of His grace and truth] we have all received grace upon grace [spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor, and gift heaped upon gift].”
(John 1:14-16, AMP)

“Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me; but He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]; for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness.” Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me. So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God’s strength].”
(2 Corinthians 12:8-10, AMP)

Christ is Here **(Jesus in Me)**

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-53.mp3>

“But what does it say? The Word (God's message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach, [Deut. 30:14]”
(Romans 10:8, AMP)

To understand this verse, it's helpful to start with John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Reading on, it says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14). Above, Paul tells us that the Word (Jesus) is close to us, on our lips and in our heart. Later in verse 17, Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (teachings of Christ).

Let's trace the process. God's Word (Jesus) is preached aloud, we hear it with our ears, then welcome and receive it in our hearts. We believe in the Word (Jesus), confess our faith aloud with our mouths and we are saved. Next, the Holy Spirit comes to take up residence in our hearts, pouring the love of God into us.

We study and meditate on the Word. God's Word renews our minds. The Holy Spirit speaks to us and reveals the truth of the Word. We grow in wisdom and discernment. We talk with Jesus in prayer and learn to walk with Him and others in love. We speak like Jesus and confess the Word over our life and the lives of others. When we stumble or fall Jesus picks us up. When we ask for forgiveness, we encounter grace. Jesus gives us grace to overcome every test and temptation. We grow in faithfulness and holiness. We are transformed and become new creatures in Christ. Suddenly, one day as we look in the mirror, what started with our ears, heart and mouth is now complete. I praise God that I am learning to surrender all of me to Jesus. In Him, I live. He is no longer near, He is here! Are you hurting and lost? Come, let me tell you the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who lives in me. Everything changes for all eternity when He comes.

Lord, thank you for sending us your Word in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, I receive your love, grace and truth. Holy Spirit, come live in me and rule my life. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Too Blessed to be Stressed

(Public Testimony of God's Blessings and Favor)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-54.mp3>

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12, NIV)

James' details the characteristics of the Christian life. He addresses the hypocrisy of empty claims of faith without works and gives us practical real-world advice on how to put our faith into action. I remember the day this passage came to life. Sitting in the audience, I felt the anticipation and pride of a parent. Memories of band recitals, award ceremonies, football and volleyball games; only this was very different. It was not my child, but a Sister in Christ whom God had graced me to disciple and teach. This was her "coming out party" — her first public testimony of the amazing things God had done in her life.

The room was a buzz with fellow Christians who wanted to hear her secret. Her title, "Too Blessed to Be Stressed," drew them in. She spoke of the recent miracle in her life. Recounted that she had died in an accident in her pool and how God gave her a second chance at life! As she spoke, the crowd was silent and still as the Holy Spirit ministered to every person in the room. She went on to describe the growth in her faith walk and how she now felt God's presence in her life every day. She shared her new outlook and how she saw life in a totally new way. She challenged the audience to celebrate life each day. She closed with, "Look for God's presence in your life in the small things, then you too, will realize that you are too blessed to be stressed!"

Child of God, I encourage you to examine your life. Remember the times that God lifted you up and carried you when you were too tired to go on. Be joyful and thankful for God's grace, mercy and favor. In the face of trials and challenges, I pray that you will declare, "I am too blessed to be stressed!"

Lord, thank you for your blessings and favor. Holy Spirit, help me remember the fullness of Jesus' mercy and grace each day and may peace and joy rein in my life. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

The Body of Christ Meets Reality TV (Christ Started “Makeovers”)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-56.mp3>

“Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion;” (Ephesians 4:22, AMP)

Reality TV has made “makeovers” the latest fad. We have TV shows that feature guests who get a physical makeover; home remodels; financial overhauls and learn to live on a budget; diet and cooking transformations. Some people put their marriage and family relationships on full display and attempt to learn functional relationship skills in front of a vast TV audience. Looking at the state of the Body of Christ, I am convicted that we must change our look, thinking and behavior and submit to a complete “spiritual makeover” in our daily lives.

Why do we need a spiritual makeover? A quick read of Barna data and review of the current state of affairs in the church reveals rampant failure to teach the Word of God and live according to God’s Word. Homosexuality and same-sex marriage have invaded the pulpit and are promoted as an acceptable way of life. Divorce rates among Christians equals that of the world. Barna stats show that Church membership, attendance and offerings are on a decline, with only 20% of Christians tithing regularly. Sadly, a large number of Christians say that messages and programs are not relevant and do not address their needs. There has been an increase in scandals involving sexual abuse, immorality, and misuse of funds among pastors and church leaders. Thirty percent of pastors regularly engage in Internet pornography. Every day, Christians are on display before a vast audience that includes God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, saints, angels of heaven, friends and family, plus Satan and all the powers of darkness.

Child of God, is it time for you to invite God to perform a “spiritual makeover” in your life? Ask God to speak to you about any area of your life that is not pleasing to Him. Allow the Holy Spirit and his crew of divine assistants (Love, Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness, Wisdom, Discernment, Truth, Light, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, and Faithfulness) to take charge. Trust God, He created makeovers!

Lord, thank you for the life-changing power of your love, mercy and grace. Holy Spirit, do a spiritual makeover in my life and remove anything that is not pleasing to you. Through the blood of Jesus and in Jesus name I pray, amen.

Spring of Living Water (Drink and Be Satisfied for Eternity)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-57.mp3>

“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” (John 4:13-14, NIV)

Here, we see Jesus asking the Samaritan woman at the well for a drink of water. As they talk, the woman comes to realize the man she is talking to is Christ the Messiah. After leaving the well, she goes back and tells friends and neighbors about her conversation with Jesus. Soon, they come out to hear Jesus preach the Gospel. Jesus and His disciples stay there for two days and many are saved.

In this passage, Jesus makes the comparison between natural water and spiritual or “living water.” Natural water flowed from the well that had been dug centuries earlier by Jacob. Jesus points out that everyone who drinks natural water will soon become thirsty and forced to return and drink again. Jesus offers the woman and her neighbors, the Samaritans, “living water.” Jesus explains the “living water” that He offers them will provide nourishment and quench their thirst for all eternity.

The world, driven by a spirit of darkness, attempts to satisfy our soul’s deepest thirst by supplying us with power, money, possessions, sex, fame and recognition. None of these satisfy us for long. Soon, the hunger and thirst return and we crave for more. As a Christian, I am comforted to know that I have lifted His cup to my lips. I have tasted the “living water” that comes only from the Spirit of God and His Word. I have access to a free-flowing spring that never runs dry. The water is sweet, and it nourishes and soothes my soul. Best of all, I can dip into this spring and fill my cup to overflowing for myself and my entire house for all eternity. Are you thirsty? If so, I encourage you to drink from Jesus’ cup and taste the “living water” that comes from Him. It is all you will ever need!

Lord, thank you for giving me “living water” that flows freely like a spring from your Son Jesus Christ. Your “living water” nourishes and sustains me with eternal life. Holy Spirit, teach me to share my cup gladly with others so they may also drink. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Justified by Grace (Grace Changes Everything)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-58.mp3>

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24, NIV)

Paul’s indictment of mankind is very clear when he says, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Grace (Jesus) enters in and changes everything. It is by God’s grace, (His unmerited favor and good will) that we are justified, declared innocent, acquitted and absolved from our guilt of sin. The Bible has much to say about God’s grace and favor. These words are used 448 times in the Amplified translation. Webster’s defines the word “favor” as: something done or granted out of goodwill, rather than from justice or for remuneration; an act of kindness; goodwill or the state of being approved or held in high esteem; to hold or possess favor.

I confess that I am overwhelmed by God’s grace. I find it hard to understand why some Christians see God as an angry and stern Heavenly Father who sits watching and waiting to punish us for even the slightest mistake? God showed us His ultimate unconditional love and grace by sending Jesus to die on the cross that we might be redeemed and freed from sin. Jesus chose to die for us to show us His love and obedience to God. He took on our guilt, sins and the punishment that we deserved. He died and went to Hell, so we don’t have to go.

Child of God, the next time you are feeling upset with God, disappointed that a prayer has not been answered, or upset that you are facing challenges; I suggest that you stop and remember one word, “Grace.” By faith in Jesus, we were saved by grace and became righteous. Jesus died on the cross that we might have life and salvation for all eternity. We were declared innocent, acquitted and absolved from sin, and washed clean by the blood of Jesus. Remember, you have freedom, victory and eternal salvation because of His grace. Let this truth sink in, feel the joy rise up in your heart and give God praise for His grace.

Lord, thank you for your love, mercy and grace. Jesus, the depths of your grace are hard to comprehend. I thank you for your sacrifice on the cross. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Grace Increased All the More (New Levels of Grace Every Day)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-59.mp3>

“The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:20-21, NIV)

Paul shows us that the law came to identify, add to or expand the list of sin; thereby making sin more powerful and present in our lives. He goes on to say that sin ruled to the point of destruction and death. Then God’s grace (Jesus Christ) showed up. I’m comforted to know God’s Word says when sin increased, grace and righteousness increased even more. When guilt, condemnation and shame increased; grace and forgiveness and reconciliation increased even more. When bitterness, resentment, hurt and anger increased; grace, peace and joy increased even more. When hatred, and conflict increased; grace, love and compassion increased even more. When doubt, fear and unbelief increased; grace, expectant hope and faith increased even more.

When sickness and disease increased; grace, healing and deliverance increased even more. When hunger, poverty and lack increased; abundance and provision increased even more; when despair and hopelessness increased; grace, courage and confidence increased even more. When death and destruction increased; grace and eternal life increased even more.

I give praise to God that His grace is new every day. I am comforted to know that Jesus lives within me and His grace increases even more than any need or test I will ever face!

Lord, thank you for your unconditional love, mercy and grace. Jesus, your blood provides the grace I need to endure and overcome every test and gives me eternal life. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Greet Your Troubles with Joy (Joy Is My Welcome Mat)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-60.mp3>

“My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. The strength to keep going must be allowed to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need.” (James 1:2-4, NIV)

James uses strong language to address the hypocrisy he saw in the daily life of fellow Christians. His letter serves as a primer on Christian living. His words are very confrontational and challenging as he calls us to put our faith into action. Sadly, many Christians are good at talking the talk, but stumble and fall when it comes to walking it out. As James points out, the proof of our faith is in our actions, and in the fruit that we bear.

As Christians, we must reject worldly thinking and actions and greet our trials and tests with joy. To the world, this advice sounds crazy. When trials come, the world reacts with worry, anxiety, fear, and agitation. I praise God that others who have known me for years say they see the difference in how I respond to everyday situations. I have more joy and peace in my life than ever before. Yes, I have days where I get angry or frustrated for a few minutes, but the Holy Spirit steps in and quickly helps restore my peace. Often, I find myself welcoming challenges as an opportunity for spiritual growth, and promotion. God’s grace has made joy my welcome mat.

Child of God, ask God to speak to you today about your joy. Are you walking in joy and peace in spite of your circumstances? Do you trust God’s grace to continue in the midst of every trial? Do you have faith that God will use your trials to develop you into the person that He wants you to be? Commit today, to live by faith. By His grace, make joy your welcome mat and walk into your divine destiny!

Lord, thank you for this lesson on living by faith. Holy Spirit, help me greet every trial and test with joy and peace, knowing that God’s grace is all I need. Finish the work in me that you have started. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

The Word Became Flesh

(Jesus, the Man Understands all I Go Through)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-61.mp3>

“And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth. [Isa. 40:5]” (John 1:14, AMP)

John, Chapter One is one of my favorites in the entire Bible. John’s words are spellbinding and have captured the heart, mind and spirit of Christians for over 2,000 years with this verse, “In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.” John tells us the Word (Christ) came to earth to live with us. This one sentence forces every Christian to radically examine their beliefs, concepts, understanding, opinions, and emotions about Jesus Christ.

Jesus, Son of God, came and lived on earth. He ate and slept, worked with his hands as a carpenter, played with other children, went to church, studied and learned, laughed and cried, felt disappointment and hurt, like all of us. Jesus was both man and God. This very fact should override and cancel every lie that Satan will ever tell you; that Jesus does not understand what you are going through and cannot relate to your situation.

I find great joy and comfort in this verse. I’m reassured and find confidence knowing that Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, knows what I am going through. Jesus knows the hurt of betrayal and rejection by family and friends. Jesus knows the joy of love and deep connection with friends who have shared challenges and celebrated victory. Jesus knows we often desire to do what is right because our spirit is willing, but we fail because we’re tired and give up. Jesus knows that we can believe in Him enough to step out of the boat one minute and sink into doubt and fear the next. I confess, I’m comforted because Jesus knows me. Most of all, I find peace and joy that I know Him. Do you know Him? If not, I encourage you to invite Jesus Christ, the Living Word, to become flesh and live in you too!

Lord, thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to live within me. Jesus, you gave me the Holy Spirit so that I am never alone. With your grace, I have everything I will ever need. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

In Weakness, I Am Strong (Jesus and His Divine Strength Show Up)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-62.mp3>

“So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength).” (2 Corinthians 12:10, AMP)

In this verse, God’s kingdom thinking, and Satan’s worldly thinking collide. Paul’s words in this verse defy the world’s thinking and turn it upside down. In other words, what the world sees as strength is weakness, and what is weakness to the world is our strength. Notice, Paul goes so far as to say he is “well pleased and even take pleasure” in times of trouble. Another translation states that “he is content and finds delight in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties.” Why? Because Paul learned that when he is weak in human strength, he is strong, able, powerful in divine strength! Paul has discovered that when we are at the point of giving up, caving in and quitting, God’s grace (His divine strength) shows up and carries us to the finish line.

Whenever we feel weak and impotent and are on the verge of saying, “I can’t” His divine strength (grace) interrupts and reminds me, “With Christ, I can do this and will not fail.” When we cannot see a way out, His grace shows us a way and leads our escape. When we are insulted or harassed and persecuted, His grace steps in and enables us to walk in humility, love and compassion, even Christ-like forgiveness. When we feel afraid or insecure, hurt or confused, His grace infuses us with God’s love and enables us to walk in His divine wisdom and discernment, confidence and hope, courage and boldness. Child of God, ask God to show you the areas of your life where you are weak, feeling helpless and on the verge of giving up. In the moment, surrender your weakness to God. Allow Him to show up in His divine strength and walk in His grace!

Lord, thank you for the strength and power of your grace and your Word. Holy Spirit, teach me that when I surrender my life to you, I move from human weakness to divine strength and grace. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Understanding Mind and a Hearing Heart (Pray for the Wisdom of Solomon)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-63.mp3>

“Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of David my father, and I am but a lad [in wisdom and experience]; I know not how to go out (begin) or come in (finish). Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people who cannot be counted for multitude. So give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge and rule this Your great people? [James 1:5.] It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.” (1 Kings 3:7-10, AMP)

God first spoke to me about this verse in late 2009. I was struck by the humility of Solomon’s request. His first thought was to ask for God’s help, so he could effectively judge and rule God’s people. The next verse reveals that because he honored God with his request, God not only answered his prayer by anointing him with great wisdom and discernment, but also blessed him with great riches and wealth. From that day forward, I began to pray and ask God to grant me an understanding mind and hearing heart before every call and meeting.

I praise God that I have witnessed God answer my prayer as He peels away multiple layers of complexity and distraction and reveals hidden truths that lead to solutions, personal breakthroughs and destruction of generational curses and strongholds.

Child of God, are you judging the world, others, and your challenges with your own mind and heart, or a mind and heart from God? Are you operating outside the limits of your own understanding? Can your spiritual ears hear the cries of others’ pain, sadness, hurt and disappointment? Do you feel their despair with a heart that has been fine-tuned by God’s love? Are you able to perceive answers and solutions that have been hidden but are suddenly revealed? Are you able to discriminate between truth, lies and deception? Do you see the inner intentions, motives and desires of others? If you’re still operating in your own strength, then I encourage you to get on your knees in prayer. Like Solomon, ask God to grant you an understanding mind and a hearing heart!

Lord, thank you for this powerful lesson on humility, honor, wisdom and discernment. Like Solomon, I am unable to face the world and its problems in my own strength. Holy Spirit, grant me an understanding mind and a hearing heart at all times. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Scripture Is Fulfilled

(Trust Jesus to Lead You into Your Divine Destiny)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-64.mp3>

“The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” (Luke 4:17-19, NIV)

Two verses later we see Jesus proclaim to all his boyhood friends, family and neighbors; “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Reading on, we see that the crowd was initially amazed at His words. Yet soon their amazement passed, and they became angry. Surrounding Him, they drove Jesus out of town to the edge of a cliff with the intention of throwing Him off the cliff. Scripture tells us that Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way to preach in Capernaum.

The confidence and boldness of Jesus’ message captures my attention. Jesus understood the historical and cultural significance of His time on earth. He understood that His power and anointing came from God. Jesus knew both “Why” and “What” God sent Him to do. Jesus was (still is) God’s messenger to the lost, sick, poor and oppressed. Jesus came for one reason, to share the “Good News of the Gospel” and share God’s love, mercy and grace for His chosen people.

As a Christian, each of us must ask God to reveal His mission, purpose and perfect will for our lives. To accomplish His will, we need to walk in obedience and submit to His grace (anointing, power and might). Like Jesus, we must act in faith with confidence and boldness. Like Jesus, we must trust God to make a way through every crowd of protest or rejection even when it comes from our closest friends and family. Child of God, I encourage you to ask God for grace that His perfect will is fulfilled in your life!

Lord, thank you for your Son Jesus. Holy Spirit, reveal God’s perfect will for my life and help me to be clear about my divine calling, mission and purpose. Teach me to walk in faith by grace, and to act with confidence and boldness. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Showered with Grace (Start Each Day with Grace)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-65.mp3>

“For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.” (John 1:16, AMP)

As the words of this verse settle in, I confess that I’m amazed and overwhelmed by their meaning. The fullness or abundance of Jesus rains and pours over us over and over. It’s difficult for most of us to comprehend the measure of God’s grace for us. As humans, our minds think small with limits and constraints. As a Christian, a Child of the Almighty God, we must renew our minds daily to ensure that our thinking reflects the mind of God – His fullness, abundance and love for us. Remember, once God’s “Faucet of Grace” is turned on in our lives, it delivers an endless shower of love, grace, favor, spiritual blessings and gifts that never turn off or run out.

All the love, grace, favor, blessings and gifts, that I received yesterday have been replaced with today’s endless supply. I don’t need to store them up, or save them or use them sparingly in an effort to make them last. Today, once again, my storehouse is running over with all I need. God’s Word tells me that His “Faucet of Grace” with its endless supply only stops flowing or turns off whenever I turn it off. You and I turn the faucet off when we abandon our faith and trust in God and walk in unbelief and disobedience.

Examine your life today, Child of God. I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your life where you are not believing God and walking in faith. Then, quickly repent and commit to love God with all your mind, heart, soul and strength and to love others. Get ready for a refreshing shower and bathe under God’s “Faucet of Grace.” Be prepared to start every day under His never-ending “Faucet of Grace.”

Lord, thank you for your love and grace. Holy Spirit, help me renew my mind daily and realize that God’s grace is all I need for every situation, and that His grace never runs out. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Take Nothing for the Journey (All You Need is in the Name of Jesus)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-66.mp3>

“He told them: ‘Take nothing for the journey -- no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them.’” (Luke 9:3-5, NIV)

I’m drawn to the simplicity of Jesus’ instructions to the disciples as He sent them off to preach the Gospel. I’m struck by the contrast when I compare the disciples’ preparations with the process Karen, and I go through when we travel. My wife is the ultimate planner and organizer. She spends days researching our destination on the Internet and engaging me in conversation about our trip. We set goals and plan our itinerary. We create a budget and discuss what to take. We spend time packing and rechecking our bags to make sure we didn’t forget key items (cell phone charger). We prepare for emergencies and create contingencies. We even evaluate and critique the trip afterwards and discuss what worked and what did not work, and whether or not we would ever go back or recommend the destination to friends and family.

I think I would struggle with Jesus’ commandment to the disciples, “take nothing for the journey.” As I reflect on my potential hesitation and resistance, the Holy Spirit revealed the truth of Jesus’ teaching. He was trying to equip and prepare the disciples for their ultimate journey. He encouraged and motivated them to trust God for their provision and welfare. He prepared them to walk by faith and showed them how to trust Him in the moment. He taught them the need to always press on and to forget the past.

Jesus was preparing the disciples for the most important journey the world has ever known. I am humbled by the life lessons in this passage. I praise God, that I’m learning to face each day like the disciples. In fact, I am praying someday Karen and I will boldly and confidently go on a trip equipped only with the name of Jesus. As I write this, the Holy Spirit reminds me, what more do we need?

Lord, thank you for your provision. Holy Spirit, teach me to trust in and rely on you at all times. Remind me that when I take nothing, I am forced to rely on you, and you are all I need. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Knowing vs. Walking in the Truth (Trust Jesus and Put the Truth to the Test)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-67.mp3>

“As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’” (John 8:30-32, NASB)

We don't have to look too far to see the importance of “truth” in the marketplace. Most Employment Application Forms include a statement that informs the applicant, “Any untruth or misrepresentation is grounds for dismissal.” Employee Orientations focus on the importance of truthful reporting on employee expense accounts, use of company credit cards, cell phones, computers and company vehicles.

Sadly, we're bombarded daily by evidence in the media and the press that “Truth” as a virtue has almost vanished and is out of style in our society. I read an article recently about a college student caught lying and cheating on exams. He expressed his dismay over his punishment by claiming, “What is the big deal. Everybody does it!” It seems that the world in general and especially Christians have bought the lie; the lie that says, “The truth will set you free.” While this sounds good on the surface, this is a lie from Satan to deceive us into sin and death.

Let's take a look at some common and simple truths: (1) cigarettes (tobacco) causes cancer, (2) unprotected sex increases the risks for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, (3) drinking alcohol and driving is dangerous and against the law, (4) over-eating and lack of exercise are bad for your health. All of these are true, yet smoking, unprotected sex, drunk driving and obesity are all on the rise. Sadly, the truth alone NEVER sets anyone free. The truth we fail to focus on is the need to walk in faith and obedience to the truth of God's Word.

Child of God, I encourage you to decide today that you will make the Bible the final authority in your life. Read it, study and meditate on it. Continue walking in faith on the road to righteousness. The simple truth is, when you obey God and resist Satan, he will flee from you, and you will be set free!

Lord, thank you for the eternal, unchanging truth of your Word. I thank you for the Light of Jesus that enables me to see through the darkness and to recognize Satan's lies. Holy Spirit, draw me to the Light and Truth of God's Word. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

Clark Kent or Mighty Man of God? (Put on Your “G-Suit” and Walk in Boldness)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/2mp3/AS2-68.mp3>

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV)

As a kid, I loved to read Superman comic books. On Saturday mornings, I sat glued to the TV and was amazed and entertained. I watched with anticipation and excitement as mild-mannered Clark Kent ducked into a phone booth, came out as Superman, and flew off to confront and overcome evil.

Paul’s message on God’s grace should excite every Christian, young and old. Forget Superman’s form-fitting suit with the red cape. Child of God, put on your “G-Suit” (God’s grace) and go out and wage battle with evil. Come out of the closet. Leave your quiet, reserved, timid and politically correct self behind and go boldly into the world to confront and defeat evil. Walk in confidence and courage knowing that your “G-Suit” is made with the strongest, most durable and reliable material that is known to heaven and man – God’s love.

Your “G-Suit” is strong enough to withstand any sin or temptation. With it, nothing is impossible for you as it transforms your natural into God’s divine power. Your “G-Suit” allows you to operate in supernatural strength and power, enables you to go anywhere and do anything, and guarantees that you win in every situation. It will never wear out, tear or rip, tarnish or go out of style. It will grow with you and become even stronger as you grow spiritually. Your “G-Suit” is perfect for every situation. It even lights up in the dark and will illuminate your path.

Child of God, the next time you’re confronted by Satan and his forces of darkness (fear, doubt, unbelief, and temptation) or see someone in need, I encourage you to remember you’re wearing a special gift from God, designed just for you. Your “G-Suit” really is all you need!

Lord, thank you for your unmerited and boundless grace. Jesus, I receive your grace and with it, I can do all things. Holy Spirit transform me for God’s glory. Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.

A Final Word of Encouragement

I pray that the Holy Spirit has spoken to you through these pages and revealed divine truth and shed the light of the Gospel of Grace into your lives. God's Word tells us we are more than conquerors and that the blood of Jesus on the cross assures us victory, power, dominion and power over every trick of the enemy. Hold steadfast to your faith no matter what. Satan walks around seeking whom he can devour. James 4:7 tells us, "So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." When we insist on self-reliance, walk alone in EGO (Edging God Out), pride and arrogance and hold onto our problems, we are an easy target for Satan's tricks – we are easy prey. When we humble ourselves and cry out to God for help, He will come to our rescue. He is simple, a small whisper away. When we put on our armor of faith, pick up our sword and march confidently into battle, we do not step into the arena alone. God is with you Child of God. The victory was won on the cross. Now, you must simply believe and walk it out. Legions of angels and saints in heaven are watching and cheering you on!

I invite you to share your testimonies and praise reports with me. In the interim, may God's face smile on you. Jesus is your Great Shepherd; He gave His life for you and will never let you go astray. Find rest, and peace in His shadow.

Appendix

“For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!”
(Romans 8:15, AMP)

“As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”
(Romans 8:36-37, NIV)

“Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice. [Acts 18:10.]”
(Isaiah 41:10, AMPC)

“HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!”
(Psalms 91:1-2, AMP)

“Yes, though I walk through the [deep, sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me.”
(Psalms 23:4, AMPC)

Recommended Reading

Your Foundation

- 1.** When the Lord is My Shepherd by David Roseberry.
- 2.** The Kingdom System: A Pattern For Guaranteed Success by Charlie Lewis.
- 3.** An Ordinary Man With An Extraordinary God by Jimenez Bailey.
- 4.** Moments: Making Your Life Count for What Matters Most by Mike Van Hoozer.
- 5.** Lead Like Jesus Revisited by Ken Blanchard, Phil Hodges and Phyllis Hendrey.
- 6.** The Heart of Leadership by Mark Miller.
- 7.** The Bible Code Finding Jesus in Every Book in the Bible, by O.S. Hawkins
- 8.** Jesus, CEO by Laurie Beth Jones.
- 9.** 8 Steps to Create the Life You Want” by Creflo Dollar.
- 10.** Seeing Yourself Through God's Eyes by June Hunt.
- 11.** Overcoming Fear by Creflo Dollar.
- 12.** The Red Sea Rules by Robert J. Morgan.

Gary L. Selman



Gary has spent over forty-five years as an Entrepreneur, Consultant and Executive Coach pursuing his calling – serving, teaching, coaching, and encouraging others. Over the course of his career, Gary has been blessed to serve 32 diverse industries, 268 Publicly Traded and Private Companies, Professional Organizations, Churches, Ministries and Nonprofits. God showed Gary favor and opened doors for him to speak at many professional groups and ministries in Houston. He was nominated by Ernst and Young as Entrepreneur of the Year. Three times God blessed his company with a position on the “Houston 100 List of

Fastest Growing Companies.” In 2000, upon the sale of his business, God opened another door, and he was recruited by RGP (a global professional business services firm) to lead their Human Capital Practice. In 2002, he resigned from this position to reclaim his calling, Executive Coaching and Motivational Speaking. While his business life prospered, his personal life as a Prodigal Son, separated from God, led to seven years of adversity and trials. He experienced an intense time of brokenness following a divorce, financial crisis including personal bankruptcy and year-long depression with thoughts of suicide. He credits God’s grace and love for carrying him through this dark time.

In 2006, God answered his prayers and brought Karen into his life, and they married a year later. An extreme five-year period of pruning and purging began. God began to give him a hunger and thirst for His Word and desire for an intimate relationship with Christ. Gary and Karen were blessed to assist Pastors Archie and Melissa Collins and plant World Changers Church – Houston, a satellite church for WCCI, under the direction of Pastors Creflo and Taffi Dollar. In his eleven years of ministry experience, he has served in leadership roles in Operations, Career and Employment, Vision Keepers, Altar and Prayer, and Children’s Ministries. In 2012, he and Karen founded First Call Advisory Group LLC, an international consulting firm. Karen serves as President and CEO and Gary serves as Chief Prayer Officer and Advisor to corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and ministry leaders. Gary, Karen, and her mom “Queen Esther” live in Houston, TX along with Joshua their Miniature Poodle.

As a modern-day Barnabas, he educates, equips, and encourages Christians in the workplace with the Word of God. His love for God, His Word and trust in the grace of Jesus Christ are foundational truths he shares as he challenges Christians to integrate faith and work in their everyday lives. Gary’s mission statement serves as both an encouragement to others and a personal call to action. . .

RISE UP

find your passion, live by faith and act in boldness!

Contact Us

Schedule Gary as a Keynote or Guest Speaker
at your next event, please contact us today.

Gary L. Selman, M.A.
Co-Founder, Chief Prayer Officer and Advisor
First Call Advisory Group LLC

gary@yourfirstcall.net

Houston, TX, USA

(713) 301-8213 (Cell)

www.GarySelman.com

Who We Are – Our Divine Calling

Global Evangelism, Discipleship and Teaching

We are a Global Evangelism, Discipleship and Teaching company. Our sole purpose is to share the Good News of the Gospel of Grace and abundant life of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to teaching and equipping disciples who are spirit-led and walk in their divine restoration power and authority. We use technology and Social Media platforms to share our eBooks and teachings to accomplish our mission. We are here to serve, equip and encourage you. Our social media platforms and Kingdom Partners ensure that we are available to over 2 million households globally.

- Fist Call Advisory Group** Our mission is to help Christians integrate faith and work into every area of their lives
- Daily Devotionals** 2-Volume Set: SPECIAL EDITION Includes Audio Links, 365 messages arranged in 26 Life Theme CHAPTERS, Titles and Subtitles to help the user find what they need for easy Bible Study, Discipleship, Coaching and Mentorship, Preaching, Teaching, and Encouragement with 17 hours of listening time. See: www.GodEncouragesMe.com or find us on the American Airlines DFW Airport Interfaith Chaplaincy Group, Our Faith At Work: <https://www.ourfaithatwork.com/>
- iDisciple** iDisciple / iDisciple Publishing, Christian Cinema, Dove.org, Family Christian delivered to 1.3 MM global subscribers. See <https://givingcompany.org/>
<https://www.idisciple.org/feed>
- Content Page** <https://www.idisciple.org/contentproviders/gary-l-selman>
<https://www.idisciple.org/devotionals>
- Blogs/Devotionals** Authors/Pastors including Rick Warren, Greg Laurie, Sarah Young, Beth Jones, Ann Graham Lotz, Lori Dixon, Charles Stanley, Andrew Womack, Os Hillman, Beth Moore, Dr. Henry Blackaby, Dr. Bill Bright, Dr. Gary Smalley, Bob Buford, Chip Ingram
- LinkedIn Profile** www.linkedin.com/in/garyselman/
18,707 Followers; 84 Groups with 849,770 Connections
- Podcasts** Interview on iWork4Him Internet Radio: <https://www.iwork4him.com/podcast/2019/6/pray-now-pray-boldly>
Good Morning San Diego, Radio Salem Media Network: <https://omny.fm/shows/come-together-san-diego/come-together-san-diego-7-21-18>

New Books Coming Soon

Messages of Hope and Encouragement for Such a Time as This! (Esther 4:14) Series

Group 1: God's Special Relationship with Man

1. *God's Nature, His Word, and His Promises – A Loving and Faithful Father*
2. *God Created Us for Relationship – Walk in Love with God and Man*
3. *God, Faith, and Work – Work as Relationship, Worship, and Honor to God*

Group 2: Jesus Gives Man Grace, Truth, and Sets an Example for Us

4. *Jesus is Grace and Truth – He Saves, Heals, Delivers and Restores*
5. *Rule and Reign in Your Power and Authority – Fulfill Your Divine Calling and Purpose*
6. *The KEYS – Unlock the Door to Heaven on Earth*
7. *Overcoming Job Loss With Jesus: Transformation in the Wilderness*
8. *When Jesus is Your Shepherd: You Experience God's Blessings and Favor*

Group 3: Walking in Your Divine Identity, Purpose, and Power

9. *The Power of Words – Speak Blessings Not Curses*
10. *Walking in Victory with Jesus – Overcoming Fear and Shame*
11. *The Key to Healthy Relationships – Understanding Your Identity in Christ*
12. *Becoming a Mighty Man of God*

Group 4: Serving Others as Christ' Ambassador in the Marketplace

13. *My Servanthood Journey – How May I Serve You? (PART 1)*
14. *My Servanthood Journey – My Joseph Calling to the Marketplace (PART 2)*
15. *RISE UP and Serve as Chief Prayer Officer – PRAY NOW PRAY BOLDLY*

New Books Coming Soon

Seek God First (Matthew 6:33) Series

Faith, Spiritual Nourishment and Personal Growth

1. *The King's English: Everyday Language from the Bible*
2. *Conversations with God: See with Spiritual Eyes and Hear with Spiritual Ears (PART 1)*
3. *Conversations with God: See with Spiritual Eyes and Hear with Spiritual Ears (PART 2)*
4. *Use God's Word to Design a Life*
5. *Kingdom Life: Living in Abundance in Goshen*

Jobs, Career, and Business

6. *Find Your Passion, Live by Faith & Act in Boldness!*
7. *Finding a Job in Tough Times Updated 3rd Edition*
8. *Job Offer Negotiations: Always Strive for Win-Win*
9. *Job Offer Checklist*
10. *Doing Business God's Way: Embracing God's Word in the Marketplace*
11. *Interviewing and Negotiating Job Offers God's Way*
12. *Stand Out from the Crowd: Create Tools to Get in the Door*
13. *Your Resume: Is it a Future Focused Sales Brochure?*
14. *Candidate Toolbox: A Roadmap to a Successful Hiring Interview*
15. *Renewing Your Mind Checklist & Prayer Card*
16. *Job Posting & Job Offer Letter from God*

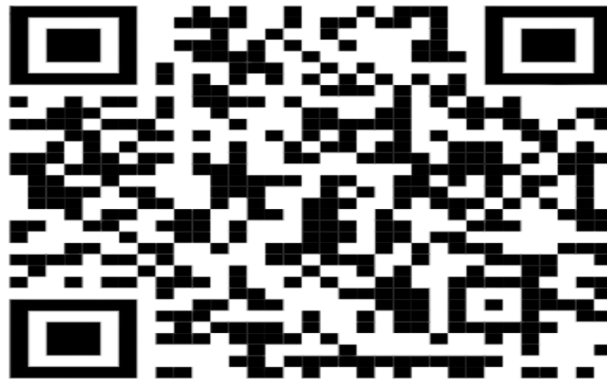
Access Our Bookstore & Free Resources

FREE AUDIOBOOKS

www.GodEncouragesMe.com

SCRIPTURE ART

DOING BUSINESS GOD'S WAY BLOGS



Gary L. Selman, M.A., Motivational Speaker / Author

gary@yourfirstcall.net / www.GarySelman.com / www.idisciple.org/contentproviders/gary-l-selman / www.GodEncouragesMe.com

Our Kingdom Partners

I dedicate this Volume to you, our Kingdom Partners, and want to express my heartfelt appreciation and praise for your commitment to help Christians integrate faith into every arena of their lives especially their work life. In approximately 460 B. C., God used Mordecai to warn his niece (Queen Esther) of an impending threat by Haman to kill God's people. Queen Esther took immediate action and God's people were saved. Today, I echo Mordecai's words to you, *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14, NIV) Together, we can take God's Word, Grace, Truth and Light to the world and leave a mark that cannot be erased. **Help me achieve our Kingdom Goal God gave me: Give away 1 million FREE copies a year for 7 years.**



Assisted Pastor planting WCCH, Served as Director of Operations, e-Church Member

<https://wcchouston.org/live-stream/>

<https://creflodollarministries.org/>



Co-Facilitated Joseph Calling Workshop at HBU / Os wrote Daily Devotionals Foreword

<https://www.marketplaceleaders.org/>

iDisciple®

Sermons | Devotionals | Music

Host Daily Devotionals & "Doing Business God's Way" Blogs

<https://www.idisciple.org/feed>

<https://www.idisciple.org/contentproviders/gary-l-selman>



Served as Chief Prayer Officer & Advisor / Keynote Speaker / Host Daily Devotionals

www.dfairportchapel.org

<http://www.dfairportchapel.org/our-partners.html>

www.OURFAITHATWORK.com



**Office of Spiritual Development / Office of Career & Calling / Center for Entrepreneurship
Devotionals on sale in Campus Bookstore**

<https://hbu.edu/center-for-christianity-in-business/>

<https://hbu.edu/student-success/career-calling/>



Purchased Devotional Books & Sponsored Audiobook Recordings

<https://incenta.net/>
www.GodEncouragesMe.com



W.W. Williams

CONSIDER IT DONE.

Served as Chief Prayer Officer & Advisor / Host PNPB Weekly Prayer Calls

www.WWWilliams.com



Daily Devotional Sponsors / PRAY NOW PRAY BOLDLY Co-Founder

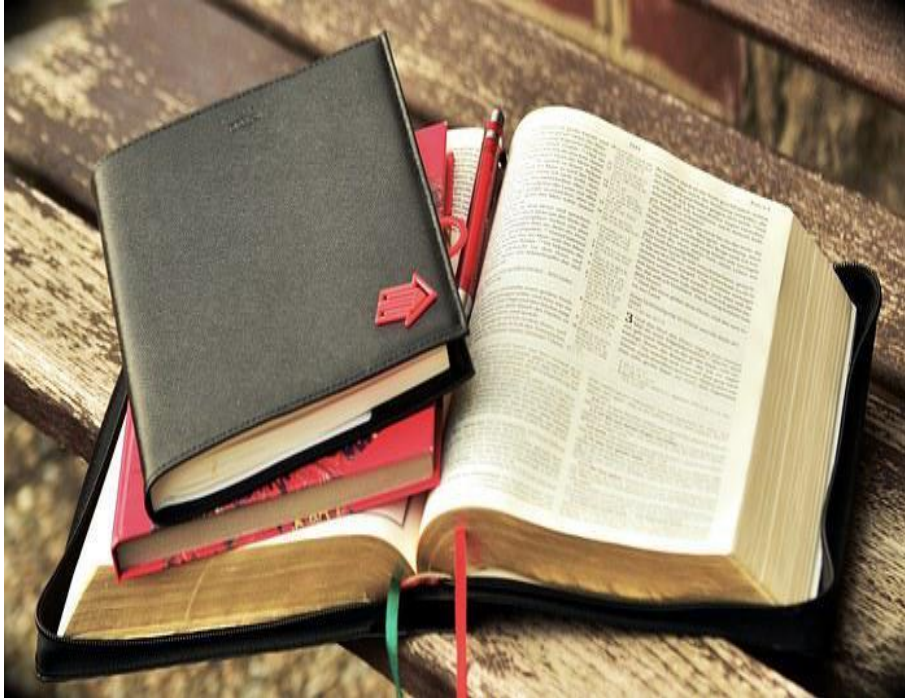
<https://teamexpansion.org/>
<https://teamexpansion.org/?s=media+movement>



Guest Interview on Show

<https://www.iwork4him.com/>
<https://www.iwork4him.com/podcast/2019/6/pray-now-pray-boldly>

Spiritual Growth and Development Resource Kit



Tools to Feed Your Heart, Mind, and Spirit

Directory

Resource:	Page
<i>Study Lesson Kingdom Life Requires Faith to Believe</i>	101
<i>Spiritual Training and Fitness</i>	103
<i>Renewing Your Mind</i>	104
<i>Tips for Leading Small Groups</i>	106
<i>Praise and Worship Scriptures</i>	109
<i>Praise and Worship Music</i>	110
<i>Video and Music Sites</i>	111
<i>Online Devotionals / Blogs / Websites</i>	112
<i>Faith-Based Organizations and Ministries</i>	113
<i>Psalm 91 Daily Faith Confessions</i>	114
<i>Gospel Hymns Playlist for Psalm 91 Meditation</i>	115
<i>Daily Faith Confession: God's Blessings Over You and Yours</i>	116
<i>Daily Prayers 1-7</i>	118

** Kit contains 16 Audio only links with almost .5 hour of listening time from the Devotional Audiobooks*

Instructions

These tools and resources are designed to help you grow in your faith walk. They can be used individually or in small groups or teams. Some of the tools are a list of “My Favorites”. I suggest you explore and create your own list. Don’t rush the process. PRAY first before you start. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Keep a pen and notebook handy for in-the-moment revelations and insights. Don’t be in a hurry or allow yourself to get frustrated along the way. May God’s grace, peace and wisdom become your ever-present study partners.

Study Lesson: **Kingdom Life Requires Faith to Believe**

Scripture Verses

1. Isaiah 11:2 “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him--the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord.”
2. John 14:26 “But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.”
3. John 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

Developing Faith That Believes

Luke 1:28-38 “And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women! But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean. And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God. And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great (eminent) and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David, And He will reign over the house of Jacob throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end. [Isa. 9:6, 7; Dan. 2:44. And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband? 35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God. [Exod. 40:34; Isa. 7:14.] And listen! Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment. Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.

Key Points

Mighty Men and Awesome Women of God stand out from the crowd. They:

1. Live and operate within God's Circle of Love.
2. Are strong in their faith, trust, and reliance on God.
3. Pray for peace; they seek and maintain peace.
4. Keep their focus and attention on excellence--what is vital, essential, and eternal.
5. Study and meditate on God's Word, and it is the final authority in their life.
6. Hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, and they are quick to obey God.
7. Know that God's thoughts and plans are higher than our thoughts and plans.
8. Surrender to God and are dead to self and selfishness.
9. Refuse to walk in fear and show persistent hope and confidence in God.
10. Are humble and patient and walk with a servant leader's heart.

Self-Reflection and Application

1. List the things that are lacking in your life today:
2. What promises from God do you need to believe today:
3. What do you need to surrender to God and declare "Be it be unto me according to your Word"

Meditation and Prayer Time with God

1. What truth or revelation did God speak to you in these verses?
2. Do you have the faith of Mary? If not, why?
3. Do you truly believe that with God nothing is impossible?
4. Are you exercising your creative power and speaking God's blessings over your life?

Spiritual Training and Fitness

Spiritual Fitness Requires Purpose, Focus, and Discipline

I have discovered through my coaching and discipleship that many Christians are ill-equipped to fight the daily fight of faith and fail to integrate their faith into their daily work life. Sadly, many are lazy and Biblically-illiterate. Coupled with this fact, is the reality that the Church has focused on teaching the “Redemption Power” of the blood of Jesus, but little time on teaching the “Restoration Power” and living in the Kingdom of Heaven now in this life. This MUST STOP. The fact that you are reading these words, suggests that you are on a different path. For that, I praise God and salute you. My devotionals are a living testimony of the “Restoration Power” of Jesus’ life and Gospel. Fellow saints, I encourage you to draw closer to Jesus, get spiritually fit and prepared to fight for and take back all that Satan has stolen in your life. Start by listening to these messages.

Are You Spiritually Fit? (The Need for Spiritual Training)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/44%20chapt%201%20dev%2015.mp3>

Do You Want Milk or Meat? (The Believer’s Daily Diet)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/43%20chapt%201%20dev%2014.mp3>

Are You Wise or Foolish? (Benefits of Reading God’s Word)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/45%20chapt%201%20dev%2016.mp3>

Are You a Good Student? (Be Diligent as You Study God’s Word)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/46%20chapt%201%20dev%2017.mp3>

We Can Certainly Do It (Believe in and Trust God’s Promises)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/41%20chapt%201%20dev%2012.mp3>

Renewing Your Mind: Thinking and Walking in a Worldly Mindset vs. Kingdom Mindset

Get Your Mind Right (Set the Thermostat of Your Mind)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/97%20chapt%204%20dev%202.mp3>

The World System (Flesh) **(Life in Egypt) Exodus 8:21-22**

Citizens: Unbelievers
The Natural: 5 Senses
What We Can See
Satan Rules
Uses Words and Images
Seduced by Satan
You Are an Enemy of God
What Feels Right to Me
Situational Ethics
Source: Society, Friends, Peers
Foundation: Fear and Doubt
Law of Fear (Faith is Contaminated)
Truth is Distorted/Twisted
You are Driven
Is Temporal/Decays
Operates on Lies and Deception
Actions: Darkness/Secret/Hidden
Focus on Self/Me
What I Want
Taking From Others
Expect Failure and Suffering
Feelings of Hopelessness and Despair
Ends in Curses and Death

The Kingdom of God System (Spirit) **(Life in Goshen) Exodus 8:21-22**

Citizens: Believers, Born Again
SUPER + Natural
What We Can't See but Believe
God Rules
Uses God's Word and Holy Spirit
Chosen by God
You Are a Friend of God
Absolutes
Good vs. Evil
Source: God's Word (Bible)
Foundation: Agape Love
Law of Faith (Fear is Not Tolerated)
Truth is Revealed
You are Directed
Is Changeless/Eternal
Operates on God's Truth
Actions: Light/Revealed
Focus on Others
What God Wants For Me
Giving and Serving Others
Expect Victory and Deliverance
Feelings of Confident Hope
Ends in Blessings and Life

Scripture has much to say about this, but my favorites include these three. I have used this simple illustration above with many of my clients to teach them the difference between these two different and competing mindsets. Many clients are shocked to see the stark contrast. Be

prepared for an in-depth discussion because many Christians are sadly Biblically illiterate, and many pastors are not effectively teaching this from the pulpit.

1. I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before You life and death, the blessings, and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live. And may love the Lord your God, obey His voice, and cling to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **(Deuteronomy 30:19-20, AMP)**
2. For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. **(Romans 8:5, AMP)**
3. From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **(Mathew 4:17, AMP)**



Tips for Leading Small Groups

I recommend you take the following steps to help you become comfortable with this resource. Over time, I expect you will make modifications or adjustments to make it your own. These steps have worked for me over the last 10+ years. I was led by the Holy Spirit to step away from my worldly or secular training in Psychology/Counseling and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me. He taught me to look and listen in the spirit realm first and that the spiritual realm was the foundation for everything I encountered. I pray that you have Spiritual Eyes to see and Spiritual ears to hear. As we read in (Luke 10:23-24, NASB), Turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed *are* the eyes that see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see the things that you see, and did not see *them*, and to hear the things that you hear, and did not hear *them*.”

- 1. PRAY first *before* your calls or meetings.** A short 30-second prayer is better than no prayer. In fact, our prayers are heard by angels and demonic spirits and change the atmosphere including us. Be vigilant and alert to the needs of others and adopt a “**PRAY NOW PRAY BOLDLY**” attitude and habit. As Co-Founder of PNPB, we stressed this mindset regarding prayer outlined below:

Wrestling in Prayer (Zealous and Persistent Prayer)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/146%20chapt%206%20dev%207.mp3>

PRAY NOW

In the moment

URGENT and NECESSARY

Heaven and Hell are watching

Speak God’s Word

Be a CHANGE AGENT/CONQUEROR

Pray In humility and obedience

Be Still and Spirit-led

Invite Praise and Thanksgiving

Use your Tongue as a Divine Instrument

Speak Blessings and Life

NOT LATER

Later often never comes

When it is convenient, am busy now

When I am in private vs. public

Don’t rely on your efforts; avoid self-effort

A VICTIM/POWERLESS

Prideful or arrogant

Submit to Holy Spirit; resist the world’s view

Resist the urge to complain

Speak to NOT about your problems

Curses and Death

- 2. Study the tool, read, AND listen to the messages.** This will enhance your individual connection with the message as we each have our own preferences and learning and behavioral styles. Spending time in the book before your meeting, will allow you to become familiar with the: **(A) Biblical Truth/Living Word in the Scripture; (B) Commentary** to determine if there are nuggets for you to learn from my examples and reflect on similar situations in your life; **(C) Closing Prayer**, allow it to speak to you. I know you will find that you have your favorite messages in the book, just as I do. Follow this link to one of mine.

We Can Certainly Do It (Believe In and Trust God's Promises)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/41%20chapt%201%20dev%2012.mp3>

- 3. Find a quiet and still place so you can be FULLY PRESENT in the moment.** Adopt an attitude and practice what Martin Buber referred to in his classic writing, "I-Thou." Another great book I recommend is "Mary Morning Marth Day" by my dear friend and Sister in Christ, Pam Lilly. Start with Mary's focus and plan (sitting at the feet of Jesus) instead of the chores and activities of the day. Follow this link to hear the message.

Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening (Learning to Be Still)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/136%20chapt%205%20dev%2019.mp3>

- 4. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the discussion.** Be directed vs. driven. Follow this link to hear another one of my favorite messages.

Are You Driven or Directed? (Self-Effort vs Spirit-Led)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/114%20chapt%204%20dev%2019.mp3>

- 5. Expect Spiritual Warfare.** Satan is an opportunist, he stalked Jesus in the wilderness and often interfered with the interactions between Jesus and His disciples. Also, demonic spirits to will often attempt to derail the meeting or impact. Be prepared for a fight. Follow this link.

Back Off Satan! (Be Clear Who is Talking to You)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/142%20chapt%206%20dev%203.mp3>

- 6. Speak Godly Truth in Love at all times.** Yes, you will be faced with the opportunity/challenge of having difficult but necessary conversations in your job during this challenging time where everyone is stressed and on edge. Speak the truth but do it with love and compassion. Follow this link to hear a relevant message:

Have I Become Your Enemy? (Responding to the Truth)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/174%20chapt%208%20dev%2011.mp3>

- 7. Hold onto your peace. Be Christ-like and model love and compassion at all times.** When unexpected challenges and difficulties come, when others are expressing their hurt, fear and anger and directing it towards you, how will you respond? Will you control your emotions or allow yourself to get “Emotionally Hi-jacked” and be led by your emotions? Remember, how others treat you is not your concern. How you treat them is! Follow this link to hear a message.

Are You Loving and Christ-Like? (Christ Will Draw Others to You)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/170%20chapt%208%20dev%207.mp3>

- 8. Expect Miracles.** Practice what I call “Expectant Hope” and know that God’s promises are always “Yes, and Amen.” Follow this link to hear a relevant message.

Jesus Christ Supernatural Superglue (Mend Your Broken Parts)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/193%20chapt%209%20dev%208.mp3>

- 9. Release the outcomes.** You do NOT change others. That is the job for the Holy Spirit, we are simply vessels or shepherds. Be obedient to the instructions you get even if they seem “odd” or unusual. Follow this link to hear another one of my favorite messages.

Lord, Because You Say So (Will You Say, “Yes, Lord?)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/244%20chapt%2014%20dev%2011.mp3>

- 10. Close in praise and thanksgiving.** Acknowledge and honor God with your work. Follow this link to hear a relevant message.

Where Are the Other Nine? (Don’t Forget to Give God Praise)

<https://www.godencouragesme.com/mp3/151%20chapt%207%20dev%202.mp3>

Praise and Worship Scriptures

We know from reading out Bible that praise and worship are important to God. In the NASB translation, the word “praise” is used 266 times; a total of 154 times in Psalms alone. The word “worship” appears 180 times. Because this is important to God, it is m=important to me. I have learned that praise and worship in its various forms can transport my spirit to a place that can only be accessed in this way. Some of the verses I stand on that address praise and worship include the following:

- 1.** Who is like You among the gods, LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (Exodus 15:11, NASB).
- 2.** For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. (1 Chronicles 16:25, NASB).
- 3.** I will rejoice and be jubilant in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:2, NASB).
- 4.** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1, NASB).
- 5.** Why are you in despair, my soul? And why are you restless within me? Wait for God, for I will again praise Him *For* the help of His presence, my God. (Psalm 42:11, NASB).
- 6.** Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” (Genesis 22:5, NASB).
- 7.** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You. (Psalm 22:27, NASB).
- 8.** All nations whom You have made will come and worship before You, Lord, And they will glorify Your name. (Psalm 86:9, NASB).
- 9.** Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ (Matthew 4:10, NASB).
- 10.** God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24, NASB).

Praise and Worship Music

This list consists of some of my favorites that I listen to almost daily in the pre-dawn hours to feed my spirit before I start my day. I encourage each of you to start your day in praise and worship to God --- followed by prayer. I have selected these from some of my “Top 50” favorite artists on Pandora. I also want to encourage you to explore the music selection on iDisciple Worship Radio which is **free with a Basic Membership**. YouTube Music Channel also has a vast selection of Christian artists. The advantage of YouTube is the video component. Whatever medium you choose, I encourage you to create your own list of favorites. Spend time in praise and worship every day and be prepared for an encounter with God.

1. Called Me Higher by All Sons and Daughters.
2. I Shall Not Want, Spirit Of The Living God, Good To Me by Audrey Assad.
3. Carry Me Through by Dave Barnes.
4. If We’re Honest by Francesca Battistelli.
5. The Lord’s Prayer, Andrea Bocelli, Live from the Kodak Theatre USE/ YouTube.
6. Give Me Jesus by Jeremy Camp.
7. Hallelujah by Jason Castro.
8. Counting Every Blessing by Rend Collective.
9. Shoulders, Burn the Ships by for King and Country.
10. All My Hope (feat. Tauren Wells) by Crowder.
11. Praise You in the Storm, Oh My Soul by Casting Crowns.
12. You Say; How Can It Be, This Girl, Love Like This by Lauren Daigle.
13. It Is Well (Live), Homeward Bound by Kristene DiMarco.
14. The River, Never Too Far Gone, Beloved by Jordan Feliz.
15. Freedom Hymn by Austin French.
16. King Of The World, Your Great Name by Natalie Grant.
17. Your Love by Brandon Heath.
18. Hosanna by Hillsong UNITED.
19. Holy Spirit Lead by Influence Music and Michael Ketterer.
20. Here; Revelation Song by Kari Jobe.
21. In Over My Head (Live) by Jenn Johnson and Bethel Music.
22. Show Me Your Glory, Cry Out To Jesus, Break Every Chain by Jesus Culture.
23. How Great is Our God by Dave Lubben.
24. We All Bleed the Same by Mandisa.
25. Even If, Finally Home, I Can Only Imagine, Dear Younger Me by MercyMe.

26. Tremble (Live) by Mosaic MSC.
27. Redeemer, I Get on My Knees by Nicole C. Mullen.
28. Lay Em Down by NeedtoBreathe.
29. He Reigns by Newsboys.
30. Grace Flows Down by Passion.
31. One I Live For, We Cry by Jonathan Phillips.
32. By His Wounds by Mac Powell, Steven Curtis Chapman, Brian Littrell and Mark Hall.
33. Sing To Jesus by Fernando Ortega.
34. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman.
35. Love Remains, Thy Will Be Done by Hilary Scott and The Scott Family.
36. Be Still My Soul, What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Sweet Jesus by Selah.
37. O Come to the Altar (Live) by Shane and Shane.
38. Spirit Break Out (Live); Undone by Kim Walker Smith.
39. Breathe, Open The Eyes Of My Heart (Live) by Michael W. Smith.
40. Our God, At The Cross (Love Ran Red), Unfailing Love by Chris Tomlin.
41. I Breathe You In God by Bryan and Katie Torwalt.
42. Hills and Valleys, Known, God's Not Done With You, When We Pray by Tauren Wells.
43. Heaven Song by Phil Wickham.
44. Fear Is a Liar, There Was Jesus by Zach Williams and Dolly Parton.
45. You Raise Me Up by Celtic Woman.
46. The Blessing (Live) by Elevation Worship.
47. The More I Seek You by Gateway Worship.
48. It is Well with My Soul (arr. Mark Wilberg, Mormon Tabernacle Choir/YouTube.
49. Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, Soweto Gospel Choir/YouTube.
50. O Happy Day, Edwin Hawkins, First Baptist Church Glenarden/YouTube.

Video and Music Resources

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. PANDORA Radio (Music) | www.pandora.com |
| 2. YouTube (Christian Worship) | www.youtube.com |
| 3. rightnow MEDIA | www.rightnowmedia.org |
| 4. giving COMPANY (Brands) | www.givingcompany.org |
| iDisciple (Radio/Podcasts) | www.iDisciple.org |
| Christian Cinema | www.christiancinema.com |

Online Devotionals / Blogs / Websites

- 1.** Arise, SHINE, Be Encouraged Audio Devotionals (Gary L. Selman) www.GodEncouragesMe.com
- 2.** Today God is First: Daily Workplace Inspiration (Volume 1 and 2)
Listening to the Father's Heart (Os Hillman) www.TodayGodIsFirst.com
www.FaithandWorkResources.com
www.marketplaceleaders.org/listening-to-the-fathers-heart-email
- 3.** Lead Like Jesus www.leadlikejesus.com
- 4.** Revolution Within (Dwight Edwards) www.revolutionwithin.com
- 5.** Life for Leaders, Max De Pree Center www.depree.org
- 6.** Great Leaders Serve (Mark Miller) www.greatleadersserve.com
- 7.** A Minute with Maxwell (John Maxwell) www.johnmaxwellteam.com
- 8.** Ignite Prayer Letter (Colin Millar) www.igniteprayeraction.org
- 9.** HBU Center for Christianity in Business
Archie W. Dunham College of Business <https://hbu.edu/center-for-christianity-in-business/2021/04/22/renewing-your-perspective-through-adversity-interview-w-john-ramstead/>
- 10.** BibleGateway
(Zondervan, Thomas Nelson) www.gospel.com
www.BibleGateway.com
www.faithgateway.com
www.thomasnelson.com
- 11.** iWork4Him (Jim/Martha Brangenberg) www.iwork4him.com/about-us
www.iwork4him.com/interviews
www.iwork4him.com/podcast

Faith-Based Organizations and Ministries

There is unity and strength when we come together as a Body of believers for kingdom purposes. The following list is made up of organizations that I have become familiar with in the marketplace over the last 20 years. There are many you can choose from, I recommend these.

1. Alabaster House www.alabasterhouse.org
2. Business as Mission (BAM) www.businessasmission.com
3. Colson Center for Christian Worldview www.colsoncenter.org
4. Convene www.convenenow.com
5. C12 Group www.c12group.com
6. His Way At Work www.hwaw.com
7. New Canaan Society www.newcanaansociety.org
8. Pinnacle Forum www.pinnacleforum.com
9. **Religious Freedom and Business Foundation**
Faith and Business for a Better World (RFBF) www.religiousfreedomandbusiness.org
10. The Master's Program www.mastersprogram.org
11. Toolbox Ministries www.toolboxministries.com
12. Truth At Work www.truthatwork.org
13. **Faith Comes By Hearing**** <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/>

****This site is rich with articles and videos that will educate, inspire and encourage you!***

*****Highly recommend them. I have partnered with them and used their products for years.***

Psalm 91 Daily Faith Confession

As the Chief Prayer Officer of your home, family, or work team in this time of darkness and strife, it is important that you stand on God's Word and His unwavering promises. Now, more than ever you must use your mouth and activate your divine authority and power. It is time that you create the habit of declaring God's Word and His faithful promises over your life daily. I have adapted ***Psalm 91 (AMP)*** and turned it into a ***Daily Faith Confession***. I urge you to speak this out loud daily and watch as God blesses and protects you and yours. ***This is the Security of the One Who Trusts in the Lord. . .***

I declare that I dwell in the shelter of the Most High

I declare that I will remain secure *and* rest in the shadow of the Almighty whose power no enemy can withstand

I declare that I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust with great confidence, and on whom I rely!"

I declare that He will save me and my family from the trap of the fowler, And from deadly pestilence.

I declare that He will cover me *and* completely protect me and my family with His pinions, And under His wings I will find refuge; **I declare that His** faithfulness is a shield and a wall.

I declare that I will not be afraid of the terror of night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction and sudden death that lays waste at noon.

I declare that A thousand may fall at my side, And ten thousand at my right hand, But danger will not come near me. **I declare that I will** only be a spectator as I look on with my eyes And witness the divine repayment of the wicked as I watch safely from the shelter of the Most High.

I declare that Because I have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, my dwelling place, No evil will befall me, No plague will come near my house.

I declare that He will command His angels in regard to me, To protect *and* defend *and* guard me in all my ways of obedience and service. **I declare that they will** lift me up in their hands, So that I do not even strike my foot against a stone.

I declare that I will tread upon the lion and cobra; the young lion and serpent I will trample under my feet.

I declare that because I have set my love on Him, He will save me;

I declare that He will set me [securely] on high, because I know His name, I confidently trust and rely on Him, knowing that He will never abandon me, no, never!

I declare that when I call Him, He will answer me;

I declare that He will be with me in times of trouble;

I declare that He will rescue me and honor me and satisfy me with a long life.

I declare that He will let me see His salvation.

It is in the blood and in the name of Jesus I pray, AMEN.

Gospel Hymns Playlist for Psalm 91 Meditation

1. Give Me Jesus, Fernando Ortega

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=G4gXAoOLHF&list=OLAK5uy_k09iyAcOX7XdPF2N4RD_UaXkgr57INzKP8

2. You Say, Lauren Daigle

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=slaT8Jl2zpl&list=RDAMVMslaT8Jl2zpl>

3. How Can It Be, Lauren Daigle

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt5X91ciE6Y&list=RDAMVMYNqo4Un2uZl>

4. Remember, Lauren Daigle

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=GlkcRs6neE&list=RDAMVMGLkcRs6neE>

5. Come Alive, Lauren Daigle

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=OP4YdXz3LAI&list=RDAMVMOP4YdXz3LAI>

6. Thy Will, Hillary Scott

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp4WC_YZAu&list=RDAMVMslaT8Jl2zpl

7. Wonderfully Made, Ellie Holcomb

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=gbRfEcvJCqQ&list=RDAMVMgbRfEcvJCqQ>

8. In Your Arms, Meredith Andrews

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=0GwyrTev418&list=RDAMVM0GwyrTev418>

9. Mary, Did You Know? Pentatonix

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE&list=RDAMVMHsCp5LG_zNE

10. What Love is This, Kari Jobe

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=cLrbMIXHSZc&list=RDAMVMcLrbMIXHSZc>

11. I Am Not Alone, Kari Jobe

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=v8ws5YttVO&list=RDAMVMcLrbMIXHSZc>

12. Here, Kari Jobe

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=-YNCY2-QmOQ&list=RDAMVM-YNCY2-QmOQ>

13. It is Well, Kristine DiMarco

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Yngo4Un2uZl&list=RDAMVMYNqo4Un2uZl>

14. It is Well with My Soul Virtual Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDIJz6zzHNU>

15. Down to the River Virtual Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BumCkswUUDA>

16. Hallelujah, Ten Tenors

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9R6FBEE_10

17. I Can Only Imagine, MercyMe

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=N_lrrg_opng&list=RDAMVMN_lrrg_opng

18. Redeemer, Nicole C Mullen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN8BmdFFfKI>

19. At the Foot of the Cross, Kathryn Scott

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=QisoK7fXFTs&list=RDAMVMQisoK7fXFTs>

20. The More I Seek You, Christ for the Nations

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=dkPOvM12E4Q&list=RDAMVMcLrbMIXHSzc>

21. Your Grace Still Amazes Me, Phillips Craig, Dean

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=fXVUYC_ykwE&list=RDAMVMfXVUYC_ykwE

22. Beloved, Jordan Feliz

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=pgJFUW3VenY&list=OLAK5uy_mTOkQzurlIHtNSaMS8h16JxEclEY5PxsY

23. God of Wonders, Passion/Chris Tomlin

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=eVy452nULnA&list=RDAMVMeVy452nULnA>

24. How Great is Our God, Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDgmJFw6F64>

25. Broken Vessels/Amazing Grace, Hillsong

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=RlfoHwI6hcw&list=RDAMVMRlfoHwI6hcw>

26. You're Here, Francesca Battistelli

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=bMC_z3Wogao&list=PlnDnljHeD8dJCErZrU1uj_7Hiuv2fj_9x

27. If We're Honest, Francesca Battistelli

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=IDcTvtuuVU8&list=PlnDnljHeD8dJCErZrU1uj_7Hiuv2fj_9x

28. Be Born in Me (Mary), Francesca Battistelli

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=QsXOP7aQeqQ&list=PlnDnljHeD8dJCErZrU1uj_7Hiuv2fj_9x

29. Lead Me to the Cross, Francesca Battistelli

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlh6_5znn7U&list=PlnDnljHeD8dJCErZrU1uj_7Hiuv2fj_9x

30. O Come Emmanuel, Francesca Battistelli

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlh6_5znn7U&list=PlnDnljHeD8dJCErZrU1uj_7Hiuv2fj_9x

Daily Faith Confession

God's Blessings Over You and Yours

Lord, today I confess your Living Word over my life and my family. Your Word says..

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. . . But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name. . . The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it ^{is} overflows). . . But Jesus loudly declared, The one who believes in Me does not [only] believe in and trust in and rely on Me, but [in believing in Me he believes] in Him Who sent Me.. . Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]

(Matthew 11:29, John 1:12, 10:10, 12:44, 14:27, AMPC)

May it be unto me according to your Word. In the name of Jesus I pray. AMEN.



Daily Prayer # 1

Belief and Trust in God and His Word

Heavenly Father,

Your Word tells me that you are my Help, my Deliverer, my Peace, and my Rest. Today, I commit to listen for your voice and to know your will for my life. I commit to be a doer of your Word and stand on the promises of your Word. I commit to control my emotions and refuse to walk in fear and doubt. I commit that I will never harden my heart or question your will for my life. I commit to be humble, patient, and kind to others always. I commit to live my life as your servant. I commit that I will not be moved and separated from your blessings. Today, Lord I walk in victory as a Mighty Man/Awesome Woman of God.

Through the blood of Jesus, and in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



Daily Prayer # 2

A Spirit-Led Career Transition and Job Search

Heavenly Father,

I know that the blood of Jesus has defeated Satan and all the powers of darkness for all eternity. I believe your Word and know that I have victory and win in every situation all the time. As a Child of God, I have received full reconciliation, redemption, restoration, healing, and forgiveness for my sins through the blood of Jesus. Lord, I know that fear and doubt, hopelessness and despair, poverty and lack came from Satan that he might steal, kill and destroy my life and my destiny. Your Son Jesus Christ died to redeem me from all poverty, lack and insufficiency that I might have life in abundance and enjoy it. He shed blood from His Head that I might be anointed with His grace, empowered with His strength and might, and walk in His favor. Your Word says, "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." You spoke these words to Jeremiah, "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'" Your Word tells me that when I find pleasure in you that you will give me the desires of my heart. I trust you Jesus to lead and guide my steps in the pursuit of my education / career / job search. Lord, I know that, as the Master Potter, your hands shaped me with unique gifts, talents, skills, and abilities and recreated me in Christ Jesus to accomplish your perfect will and walk the path that you have planned for my life. Your Word tells me, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." I commit to honor you with my work and to work in excellence and faithfulness knowing that when I give you honor you will honor me. Father, teach me to be faithful in the pursuit of my education and training /career/job search and resist every urge to give up, cave in or quit. Jesus, in your strength and might, in faith, confidence and boldness, I will finish the race and win the prize. Starting today, I declare that because of you Jesus there is nothing missing, nothing broken, and nothing needed in my life as your blood has spoken. Lord, I thank you that your Word is Spirit, Truth, Grace and Light and the Way. Your Word is in me and for me.

Through the blood of Jesus, and in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Daily Prayer # 3

Grace to Strengthen My Faith

Heavenly Father,

I commit to trust in you with all my heart, all my mind, and all my soul. I ask You to help me not lean on my own understanding. Lord, I am grateful that your thoughts and ways are higher than mine; therefore, I commit to acknowledge you in all my ways and ask that You direct my paths. Each day, I will set my mind on Jesus and kingdom principles. Through Your grace, I will live by faith and take every thought captive that does not align with Your Word. I choose faith over fear and hope over despair; I choose blessings over curses and life over death. I choose your kingdom over the world. Lord Jesus, you live within me and because of You there is nothing missing, nothing broken, and nothing needed in my life as the blood you shed on the cross has prepared my way. Father, I thank you that Your Word is spirit and truth and lights my pathway.

Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



Daily Prayer # 4

Divine Help for Renewing My Mind

Heavenly Father,

I know that the blood of Jesus has defeated Satan and all the powers of darkness for all eternity. I believe that I have victory and win in every situation all the time. As a Child of God, I have received full reconciliation, redemption, restoration, healing, and forgiveness for my sins through the blood of Jesus. Father, I know that brokenness, sickness, despair, poverty and lack came from Satan that he might steal, kill, and destroy my life and my destiny. Your Son Jesus Christ died to redeem me from all poverty, lack and insufficiency that I might have life in abundance. Jesus shed blood from His Head that I might be anointed with His grace, empowered with His strength and might, and walk in His favor. Jesus, your first words as you began to preach were, “Repent (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Apostle Paul tells us in Romans, “offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” He also reminds us, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Father, I commit to trust in you with all my heart and will not lean on my own understanding. Lord, your thoughts and ways are higher than mine and I commit to acknowledge you in all my ways. Today, I set my mind on you Jesus, on kingdom laws and principles and pledge to live by faith. I will take every thought captive that does not align with Your Word. I choose faith over fear and hope over despair; I choose blessings over curses and life over death. I choose your Kingdom over the World. Lord Jesus you live within me and because of you there is nothing missing, nothing broken, and nothing needed in my life as your blood has spoken. Father, I thank you that your Word is spirit, truth, light, and the way and that it is at work for me.

Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Daily Prayer # 5

Grace for Victory over Spirits of Offense and Fear

Heavenly Father,

Your Word tells me that you are my Help and my Deliverer. Lord, I know that you will uphold me with your right hand of righteousness. Today, I commit to keep my eye on what is essential, vital, and eternal. I commit to be a doer of your Word and stand on the promises of your Word. I commit to live and operate within your Circle of Love for my life. I commit to pray for peace and resolve to always seek peace. I commit to be strong in the face of temptation and offense. I commit to control my emotions and will not walk in anger, fear, and unbelief. I commit to endure persecution and attack from others and press on in righteousness. I commit that my love for you is my shield that protects me from all offense. I commit that I will never harden my heart or question your will for my life. I commit to be humble, patient, and kind to others always. I commit to receive and walk in your power and blessings for my life. I commit that I will not be moved and separated from your blessings. I commit that I will never be offended, embarrassed or ashamed of you Lord. Lord, I give you praise that I walk in victory as a Mighty Man/Awesome Woman of God.

Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.



Daily Prayer # 6
Lead the Unsaved in the Prayer for Salvation

Lord Jesus,

This is my simple prayer to you. I know that I am a sinner and that I often fall short of the glory of God. No longer will I close the door when I hear You knocking. By faith, I gratefully receive Your gift of salvation. I'm ready to trust You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming to Earth. I believe You are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Thank You for Your forgiveness of sins and for giving me the gift of eternal life. I invite Jesus to come into my heart and be my Savior. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Daily Prayer # 7

Blessings and Favor Over the Work of My Hands

Heavenly Father,

I know that the blood of Jesus has defeated Satan and all the powers of darkness for eternity and because of His blood I believe that I win in every situation all the time. As a Child of God, I believe that I have received through the blood of Jesus on the Cross full reconciliation, redemption, restoration, healing, and forgiveness for my sins. Jesus died to redeem me from all poverty, lack and insufficiency. His hands were pierced on the Cross that my hands may be blessed. In the name of Jesus, I repent for not taking full advantage of His blood. Right now, in the name of Jesus, I reject all poverty, lack and insufficiency in my life. Today, I change my thinking and my actions for the better. I renew my mind regarding all that the blood of Jesus has already purchased for me. I know His blood paid the price for abundance in every area of my life. Father, in the name of Jesus, I believe that I receive abundance, completeness, wholeness and prosperity upon my hands and all the work of my hands. Father, your Word says, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." I stand on the truth of your Word that says, "The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand..." Father, I pray the prayer of Moses', "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands..." Father, release upon my hands all of the covenant blessings of Abraham, cause me to be fruitful and bless those who bless me that I may eat the good of the land and the fruit of my hands. I believe that it is your will that I am blessed to be a blessing to others. I confess in the name of Jesus, everything I touch with my hands will be blessed according to your Word. Like Joseph, others will see that you my God are with me and that you cause all that I do to prosper. Jesus, I believe that you live within me and because of you there is nothing missing, nothing broken, and nothing needed in my life for your blood has spoken. Father, I thank you that Your Word is alive and that it is Spirit, truth and light and that it is at work accomplishing your perfect will for my life.

Through the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus I pray, amen.



*I appreciate the opportunity you have given me
to join you on your journey of faith!*