

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

Insights

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

The Way to a New Life

*when it
looks
like
there's*

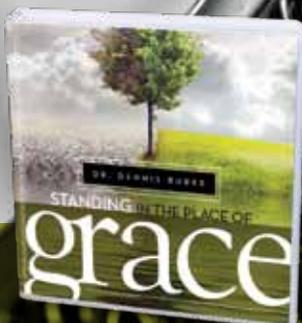
No Way Out

*learn how to
find your way out
of the impossible*

Vikki Burke



A TIME *for*
CHANGE
and a
TIME *to*
REMAIN
the
SAME



Learn the deeper meaning of receiving God's grace

Become more fully acquainted with the gift of God's grace

Find out how to stir up the grace-gift within

Discover the systems and laws of His grace

Learn how you can access a constant download of power

by Dr. Dennis Burke

Recently I was sitting by the sea at one of my favorite little breakfast joints in California. I could hear the bell ringing on the buoy at the entrance to the nearby tiny harbor cove.



The ringing buoy serves as a navigational aid to remind boaters to slow their speed as they pass the opening of the jetty. It also gives an alert to worsening conditions of the ocean. In calm waters, there is no ringing. But as the waves increase, so does the ringing of the bell, because it rings with the movement of the water. There is no rhythm or beat — just a random and

continuous ring. Although the space between rings is different moment by moment, the random, monotonous nature of the ringing remains the same.

I do enjoy this seaside spot. There is something calming in this random yet monotonous sound.

That's how it is in life as well. There is stability found in sameness. We celebrate

a marriage that has lasted 50 years. It is an amazing testament to the power of a covenant, even when the waters of relationship are uncertain and tossed to and fro from time to time.

We celebrate the history of a business when it proudly displays that it was established decades ago. Experience in the same field of study, business, or expertise speaks to us loud and clear. Staying the same counts for something.

Of course, there is a time for change. People sometimes remain stubbornly unchanged or are simply afraid to change. When we are simply stuck in our rut, it is vital that we change.

In times of change in our lives, we must see clearly what we should keep the same and what we should throw out in order to bring about the needed changes. Wrong thinking and destructive habits need to be changed. At the same time, our focus on God's ways and His promises must remain the same.

A great example in Scripture that demonstrates the power of doing the same thing in faith is found in the strategy God gave the Israelites in conquering the city of Jericho. Joshua had led Israel across the Jordan River to finally stand upon the land that God had given the nation — the land of Canaan. God called it a land flowing with milk and honey. It was the land of promise.

Those with Joshua at this time were primarily people who had lived their entire lives in the desert wilderness. Most of those who had been in Egypt with Joshua had died without ever seeing the land of promise.

Once the Israelites had

crossed over the Jordan River, they were finally in the land they had longed for their entire lives. It was time for God to talk to Joshua regarding their first conquest in possessing this land — and as He did, He gave some very clear instructions. Joshua was to lead them to march around the city of Jericho in the most unusual strategy in the entire history of war.

There are so many important parallels in this example of Joshua taking Jericho. For example, although this plan was given to Israel, they would have to forcefully make this promise come to pass for themselves.

The things God's grace has freely provided for us are to still be pursued and must be received by faith. Romans 5:2 tells us that while we stand in the place of God's grace, it is faith that gives us access into all His grace has provided.

God's plan was for Israel to march around the city of Jericho daily for six days and on the seventh day to march around the city seven times. The city of Jericho wasn't very large. In fact it would have taken about an hour to walk around the city. But it was the thick walls of Jericho that were so intimidating. They seemed to be impenetrable and were certainly overwhelming to this vagabond army of Israel.

Marching around the city for an hour each day for six

There is power in doing the same monotonous thing until we see the miraculous.

I'm impressed with those who have the fortitude to finish and see something through to the end.

Looking at the issues you face



days would have seemed very monotonous to the people. Certainly it must have seemed nearly unbearable to march seven times around the city on the seventh day! But march they did — and in silence.

This was one of the times when the monotonous was bringing about the miraculous. So many times the same is true for us as well. There is power in doing the same monotonous thing until we see the miraculous. We must continue in God's Word, continue to believe His promise, continue to abide close to Him, continue to walk in His love and forgiveness — and the list goes on.

There is power in our consistency when we remain focused and undistracted. Israel was to remain focused on God's promise and to not allow the wall of Jericho to shake their confidence. That's saying something when you realize that as the people walked around this city over the course of seven days,

they saw no change at all. The wall remained just as imposing after they had walked 12 times around the city as it had in the beginning.

Too often we can become discouraged because we're not seeing any progress in whatever issues we are facing. We pray, quote God's promises, and plan on seeing a difference right away. Don't get me wrong — many times miracles and results come quickly. We all want that, and in many cases, God does exactly that. But when that is not the case, it doesn't mean He isn't working! When we fail to see progress, we can still know that God is at work.

God had already told Joshua how to view this assignment. In Joshua 6:2, God said, "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor." Joshua was to see that the battle was already won before he ever even stepped onto the battlefield!

Jesus has already fought our battle and beaten our enemy! He has provided us with every victory needed for our total success.

Hebrews 10:35-36 says, "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

In order to receive what God has said, there is the need for endurance, patience, consistency, and a determination to stay steadfast and immovable — to

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outside of the light of God's promise will fill you with a fear of failure.

remain the same. Our results and rewards come through remaining the same, focused on God's promise in His plan.

Joshua remained focused and single-minded regarding God's way to deal with Jericho. He didn't quit or become discouraged because things weren't changing.

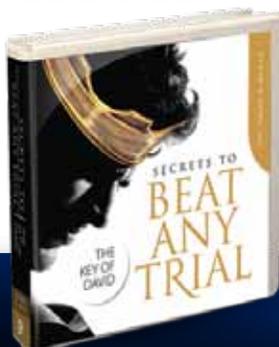
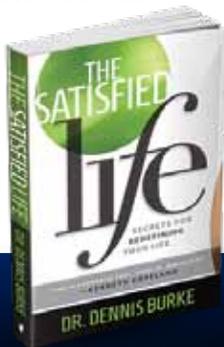
Israel didn't focus on the wall of Jericho; he focused on the strategy for victory. If you stand at the wall and allow it to be your focus, the wall will cause you to wilt. Looking at the issues you face outside of the light of God's promise will fill you with a fear of failure. Instead, march around your wall with your eyes focused on God's promise and your heart filled with faith that God's grace is more than enough!

It takes strength and endurance to finish and to see one's walls in life fall flat to the ground. It takes focus and fortitude to see the strategies and plans of God through to the end. Over the years, there have been many who had the vision to start the fulfillment of a dream. I've admired people with the vision to step out and take on the challenge. But as time passes, I'm far more impressed with those who have the fortitude to finish and see something through to the end. Faith to step out is worthless without the faithfulness to stick it out.

The believers who will keep standing — who will continue to "march around their wall" and refuse to be changed by the circumstances facing them — will see the monotonous turn into the miraculous. Just like Joshua and the Israelites, the battle was won before they even faced their enemy!

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

by
Vikki
Burke

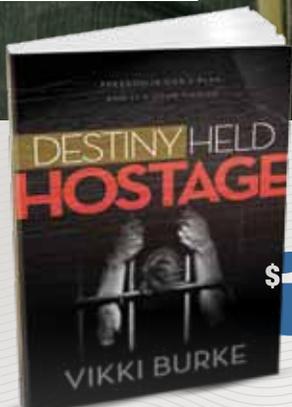
You may be in a situation that looks like there is no way out. But when you get in situations like that, it's time to start declaring God's Word! Sometimes you may find yourself thinking, This is not where I thought I'd be at this point in my life. >>

*when it
looks
like
there's*

No Way Out



It's time to let go of the hurt and grab hold of your destiny.



\$15⁹⁹

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God can make things happen in your life that you could never make happen because nothing is impossible with God.

I never thought I'd be facing this legal problem, this illness, these financial issues... But no matter what challenge you're facing, right in the midst of it you can be at peace, knowing the Helper will direct and guide you to safety.

When things don't look like they will end well, you can determine to replace worry with what God has said about your life. And as you make sure your own

mouth continually speaks in line with His words, God will turn the situation around! Turn off the mental recording that says you're not going to make it this time, and begin to plant a new recording in your heart that says: "If God is for me, who can be against me? No one can snatch me out of His hand! I abide in the secret place of the Most High. He is my refuge and my fortress; in Him will I trust. My enemy may have set a trap for me, but he will fall in the very traps he has set for me!"¹ Then begin to meditate on the promises God has made to deliver you from trouble. Speak those promises over your life as you put your trust in His Word to turn the situation around!

You can rest in God's abiding peace, fully confident that He is your Source and that He will never leave you or forsake you.² Things may be going well in your life—or they may be going not so well. The important thing is to trust God's promise to deliver you.

Psalm 91:15 says that when you call on God, He will answer you; He will be with you when you face trouble; and He will deliver you. Notice that God didn't say you would never have any more trouble. Instead, He promises that when trouble comes, He will deliver you as you call on Him. So don't let go of your faith in His promises!

The three Hebrew children believed that God would

deliver them when King Nebuchadnezzar decreed that everyone in the kingdom had to bow down and worship the golden image. Anyone who would not bow down and worship the image was to be thrown into the fiery furnace. When King Nebuchadnezzar heard that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who served the living God, refused to bow down and worship the king's image, he sentenced them to death in the fiery furnace.

The three Hebrew children could have complained to God, saying, "We were obeying You, so why did You allow this to happen to us?" But they must have realized that just because they were in God's will didn't mean they wouldn't be threatened or face adversity. Those three young men were doing the right thing when the wrong thing happened to them, but they didn't complain or blame God for their situation. Instead, when the king questioned their stance, they answered with great confidence: "... Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."³

Nebuchadnezzar was furious at the defiance of these three Hebrew men. So he ordered his guards to stoke up the fire even

¹Rom. 8:31; Is. 43:13; Ps. 91:1; 141:10 | ²Heb. 13.5 | ³Dan. 3:17,18 NKJV | ⁴Dan. 3:25

hotter and toss them into the furnace. And that's when the unthinkable happened: The king saw a fourth man in the furnace. "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"⁴

God honored the faith of these three men when their deliverance looked impossible. In the same way, He can make things happen in your life that you could never make happen

not to be shocked when life isn't always filled with rainbows and butterflies. Peter said, "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you."⁷ The truth is, not even Jesus was exempt from the enemy's attacks. He had to fill Himself with the Word and use it to resist doubt and fear just as we do.

In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a man who planted

You have the most powerful source in the universe available to you. Speak His promises over your situation.



apart over a weed that you didn't plant. The weeds can be pulled up right along with the harvest!

If you lose your job, you don't have to get fearful or depressed. You can trust God and say confidently, "God will give me another job. He can open doors that no man can close." And no

the time he spent tending sheep, he would meditate on God's goodness and faithfulness. Then later when David was face to face with giants, he had already built a strong, immovable faith on the inside that God would empower him to defeat each enemy that came against him!

Make sure your own mouth continually speaks in line with His words, and
God will turn the situation around!

because nothing is impossible with God.⁵ Nothing shall be impossible to him who believes!⁶

When the situation doesn't look like it can turn out in your favor, just stay in faith. You must continue to speak God's Word, knowing that the enemy has already been defeated and that God's Word will prevail. But remember, if you haven't spent time putting God's Word in your heart, there may be nothing to help you in that moment when you really need it! The Word has to be rooted and grounded in your heart so God has something to work with.

The Apostle Peter reminded us that trials come against everyone, so we're

good seed in his field. But while this man slept, an enemy snuck in and planted weeds among the wheat.⁸

So don't be surprised if you find some weeds in your crop like this farmer did. The enemy planted them. But it's not having trouble in life that determines your future; it's how you respond to the trouble that really tells the story of what you believe. Your response reveals whom you trust.

The good news is that the weeds cannot stop you from your destiny! So don't spoil your harvest by how you respond to the weeds. Don't walk away from God saying, "Why did this happen to me when I've faithfully served Him?" Don't panic or fall

matter what it looks like, just keep saying it until your job manifests. If you receive a bad medical report that you didn't expect, don't panic. It's a weed the enemy has planted in your field. You have the most powerful source in the universe available to you. Go to God's Word, and pluck out those weeds by speaking His promises over your situation.

That's how you can remain at peace, knowing you're not the only one who has had to fight the enemy. You're in good company! David never would have made it to the throne if he hadn't first fought and defeated the lion, the bear, and then Goliath. But David was able to face these enemies with confidence, because during

Do you remember the Shunammite woman who prepared a room for the prophet Elisha so that whenever he passed her way, he could stay in her home? Elisha wanted to do something to repay this woman for the kindness she had shown him. When he realized she was childless, he prophesied that she would have a son. And a son was born to the Shunammite woman, just as the prophet had said.

But then ten years later, tragedy struck when the boy died of heat stroke. The mother was heartbroken. All she could think to do was find the prophet of God. When she arrived unexpectedly, he

continued on back

asked if something was wrong, but she said, "It is well."⁹ This is how faith responds to adversity. This woman didn't don mourning clothes and start crying and grieving when her circumstances turned unfavorable. She ran to the man of God—the source of her help — and God met her there.

This is just what Abraham did when God told him that he would have a son in his old age. Naturally speaking, he and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children. But Abraham believed what God had told him, regardless of the way things looked.

Romans 4:17 tells us that "...this happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing." That's just what the Shunammite woman did when she told Elijah, "It is well" — even though her son had died. She didn't use her words to confirm or solidify her son's death, but rather she prophesied the future.

When it looks like things are falling apart, don't panic! Rest in the promise of God and say with a heart that firmly

trusts Him, "It is well."

It's a mature Christian attitude to realize that life isn't always perfect. There is an enemy who repeatedly plants weeds in your field in an effort to trip you up. But just like you use garden tools to dig weeds out of your flower beds, you can use the Word of God like a tool to remove the weeds the enemy plants in your field! To have a weed-free flower bed that looks beautiful through every season should be your goal. But the only way you can uproot weeds is to consistently plant the seed of God's Word.

Consistency in the Word is key in order to keep your fields free from pesky weeds. Speak God's Word when life is going well; then when the enemy plants a weed in your field, you will be prepared and equipped to handle it. Although your mind may be bombarded with thoughts of what could happen, you don't have to allow them to remain your thoughts. Resist them and cast them out! Then replace them with the promises of God.

⁹2 Kings 4:9-26



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