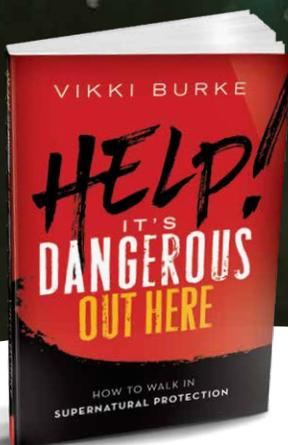


INSIGHTS

HOLDING *BACK* DISASTER

Excerpt from
Vikki Burke's new book



“People are in a panic trying to get off the island. There is only one road leading to your hotel, and it’s blocked by traffic. I can’t get to you, and you can’t get out.”

BY VIKKI BURKE

DENNIS HAD BEEN ON A MOTORCYCLE TRIP

in New Zealand when the Lord impressed upon me to pray Psalm 18:48. “You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies; you save me from violent opponents.”

I thought a great deal about the place it describes—the place beyond the reach of our enemies—which is the secret place of the Most High referred to in Psalm 91. Because the Lord had quickened the verse to me just after Dennis left for New Zealand, I assumed it was for his protection while he was there. But God had another reason for putting that scripture in my heart.

He knew what was to come.

After his motorcycle ride, we’d planned to meet in Maui. The night before I flew to Maui, I was awakened out of a deep sleep and I heard these words: “*What would you do if a tsunami hit Hawaii?*” Undisturbed, I answered, “You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies. You save me from violent opponents.”

Then, without giving the question or the tsunami another thought, I went back to sleep. The next morning, I didn’t even remember being awakened. I flew out early without any sense of concern and met Dennis in Maui on Friday afternoon. We settled into the hotel and planned to rest all day Saturday before beginning meetings Sunday morning.

But at 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning the phone began ringing. The pastor of the church where Dennis was scheduled to speak said, “An earthquake, registering 8.8 on the Richter scale, struck off the coast of Chile,” he said. “There is now a tsunami bearing down on the Hawaiian Islands. They expect it to hit Maui at 11 a.m. People are in a panic trying to get off the island. There is only one road leading to your hotel, and it’s blocked by traffic. I can’t get to you, and you can’t get out.”

Instantly I remembered being awakened the night before and told Dennis about it. I informed him how I’d been praying Psalm 18:48 for two weeks and realized it was protection from the tsunami. We





Your relationship with the Lord gives you a wonderful advantage! He'll warn you before events happen, so you can either pray to influence those events or avoid them altogether."

had supernatural peace because the Holy Spirit had already warned me of what was to come. He'd given me the scripture to stand on two weeks before the earthquake struck Chile.

We prayed together in agreement. "Father, You said in Matthew 18:19, 'If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.' We ask for Your Word to act as a wall in the ocean. We forbid the tsunami from hitting any of the Pacific islands. We declare that it will hit our words in the ocean and bounce back. We pray this in Jesus' name."

Having settled that, we went to breakfast and found the place in pandemonium as people checked out of the hotel, desperate to get a flight off the island. After breakfast, we decided to return to our room and take a nap because no one was allowed on the beach. When we woke, we checked the news to see what had happened.

Nothing.

The tsunami didn't hit Maui or any of the islands. The next day, the news reported that something odd had happened in the ocean. It was as though the tsunami had hit an invisible blockade and bounced back to Chile.

God's Creative Power

I know what you might be thinking. *She's nuts to think anyone could have control over a tsunami. People don't have that kind of power.*

They do when God's Word comes out of the mouths of believers who know how to use the authority Jesus gave them. We have Christ—the Anointed One—Himself living in our hearts. The Christ who spoke to the wind and waves and they obeyed. The Christ who walked on water and raised people from the dead. The same Christ who said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father" (John 14:12).

One of the keys to doing the works of Jesus is learning to speak as He did. Using our words to release His power into our lives and situations. It's declaring as Psalm 91:2 does, "This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him."

It's not just *thinking* God is our Refuge, our Fortress, and our Protector. It's not just *knowing* that He guides and keeps us as we follow His

lead. It's *saying* those things—in our prayers, our declarations of faith, and our daily

conversation. It's fixing our eyes on Him as our place of refuge *and speaking accordingly* that puts us in the place where we're protected from threats and attacks of every kind.

Why is what we say so important? Because from the very beginning, God created everything with His spoken words. You can see it all through the first chapter of Genesis. Time and again, on each of the first six days of creation, "God said, let there be...and there was...."

In Psalm 91:2 we find the same principle in operation. Only now, we're the ones doing the talking. We're abiding under the shelter of His protection as a result of what we say.

Our spoken words have power when we speak what God's Word says from a heart of faith. They bring us into agreement with the promises

God has given to us and put us in the strongest possible position of faith—and *faith moves God.*

You can precede every scriptural promise God has given you with the words "I will say of the Lord." You can find out in the Word who God says He is and declare He is that to you. You can declare with

confidence: "I will say of the Lord that He is my Protector. He is my Provider. He is my Healer. He delivers me from the hand of my enemies. He is my righteousness, my shield, my joy."

In fact, Jesus is to us *only* who *we* say He is. He is our Savior only when we declare He is. He is our Healer only when we say He is. He is our Baptizer in the Holy Spirit only when we say He is. *We* are the ones who establish how much of Jesus' influence He can bring into our lives.

If you're not receiving God's blessing on the level you desire, stop and ask yourself: Who is Jesus to me, and what am I saying of the Lord? Am I consistent in what I say? Am I letting the problems I encounter in life dictate what I believe about God's promises? Or am I dictating to those problems the promises God has given me in His Word?

Listen to the Holy Spirit

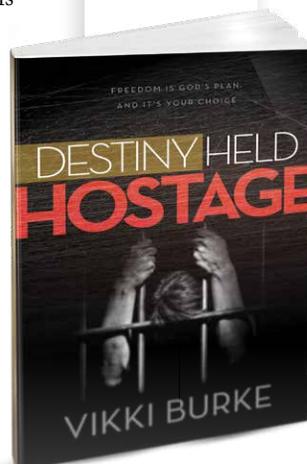
Your relationship with the Lord gives you a wonderful advantage! He'll warn you before events happen, so you can either pray to influence those events or avoid them altogether. As John 16:13 says of the Holy Spirit, "He will guide you into all truth...He will tell you about the future."

He does this for believers all the time, but sometimes we miss what He's saying because we aren't paying attention. We become busy with other things. Life's distractions fill our minds with what I call *static*, that hinders us from hearing the Holy Spirit's voice.



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It's like what happens when we're listening to a radio station while driving. If we travel too far from the source transmitting the broadcast, static will interfere with what we were listening to. If we keep driving away from the source, before long we won't hear anything *but* static. All we must do to solve the problem is get closer to the source and we'll hear the broadcast again.

In the same way, the world's static can interfere with our ability to hear the Holy Spirit. But the solution is simply—draw closer to the Source of truth. Then we'll be able to hear what He is saying loud and clear.

You Will Hold Back Disasters

The reason the Holy Spirit warns us of an upcoming or potential disaster is so that we can pray and use our God-given authority to control the situation. "Believe me," He said, "Whatever you forbid upon earth will be what is forbidden in Heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be what is permitted in Heaven" (Matt. 18:18, *Phillips*). This verse clearly reveals that we have control over what we allow in our lives.

A well-known and trusted prophet delivered this prophetic word in 1998 under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

"You will begin to hold back disasters that the devil had planned, not only in weather, not only in money, but also in politics and in the affairs of nations, for God Almighty is Ruler in the affairs of men. And when My Word is strong in your spirit and strong in your mouth, I will use you as a control

It's supernatural.

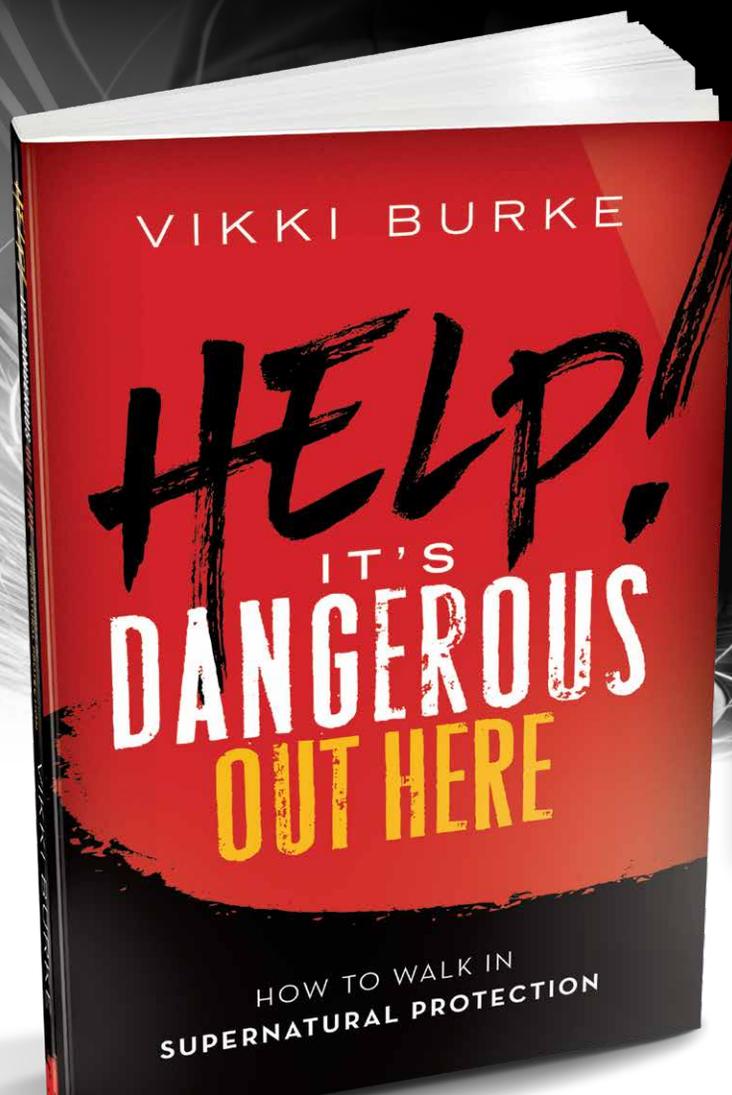
"Escaping the Red Sea. Immune to the fiery furnace. Surviving the lion's den. Blasting down Jericho's walls. God did all these things under the Old Covenant."

"What we have in Jesus is far better."

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point. And when disasters are planned, you will stand up and say, 'No!'"

That's exactly what happened when the tsunami was headed to Maui. We forbid it!

The Weapons of God

God will do the same miracle for anybody who will stand in faith and use their authority. Your battle has already been settled before you ever enter the fight. Although challenges come to shake your faith, you have every reason to believe that it is going to turn out all right when you put your faith in God's Word and follow the leading of His Spirit.

The very idea of conquering implies a conflict

or battle. It's true that great victories come as a result of great conflict. But we have been given spiritual weapons to wield God's power through prayer and faith in His Word. We can be powerful, conquering, and fearless, no matter the threat! But that kind of strength isn't automatic or accidental. It is the result of intentionally and diligently taking a confident position of faith in God's Word.

Each of us already has the inner substance to remain steady and unshakable. But we will only walk in the reality of that inner strength as we set our faith on God's faithfulness to perform His promises. We must stay constant in faith, even during the challenge we're facing. We

have the choice to deliberately and consistently exercise our authority over fear regarding

the current threat. As we do, we position ourselves to receive our own miracle.



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Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-544-8485

FORT WORTH, TX | JAN. 21-23

2019 KCM Ministers' Conference
Fort Worth, TX 76071
817-252-2700

BROOKLYN PARK, MN | JAN. 25-26

Living Word Christian Center
9201 75th Ave North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55423
763-315-7000

ROCHESTER, MN | FEB. 16

High Point Church
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Rochester, MN 55901
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PUNTA GORDA, FL | FEB. 23-26

New Life Family Worship
28330 Bermont Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941-639-1700

HOLIDAY, FL | FEB. 28-MAR. 1

Grace Harvest Church
2205 Arcadia Road
Holiday, Florida 34690
850-348-0609

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