

# Everyday *Life*

**SET FREE**



## **Featured Articles:**

*Against All Odds*

Set Free in the Valley

*Freedom Our Birthright*

The Second Man Freedom

*How God Called Me Into Skill Acquisition*

## Always Hope

Readers:

My soul is so fired up today, August 4, 2020 because I know that nobody can take away my freedom or the freedom of any child of God. In some places, COVID-19 has pretty much disappeared, and the countries are declaring joyful celebrations. In other places, like the USA, we're coming out of it. In other places, they are in the middle of it. Whatever current circumstances or situations you find yourself in, you can stand with King David, Paul, Silas, and other heroes of the faith, who were delivered out of trials by God Himself.

Though it is impossible to be certain and yet very possible, King David wrote *Psalm 7, 27, 31, and 34* while he was running and fleeing Saul's wrath although one commentary suggests that part of *Psalm 27* was while he was running away from Doeg, the Edomite specifically. Regardless David wrote these Psalms while he was not a free man. In other words, he was a fugitive on the run, and yet David had freedom because he was a child of the Living God.

The point is that in all of this David was free in the spirit. The Spirit of God manifested Himself in David's life even though David was fleeing for his life because the Spirit of the Lord resided in David, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We see this also in the New Testament with Paul and Silas, *"Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed,"* (Acts 16:24-26 KJV). Paul and Silas were literally in jail, and in those days, the prisons were not like they are today. There were no comforts at all. Their feet were in stocks. That means they couldn't walk at all. It would be impossible to walk or even effectively move. Yet, they raised their voices to Heaven and worshipped God, giving Him thanks, right in front of the other prisoners. They didn't care who saw them, who heard them, or what their singing sounded like. They simply showed their devotion to God by singing and praising Him. The Lord heard their cry and showed up in the middle of the night, performing a miracle. God caused a great earthquake to shake the foundations of the prison to the point where the shackles of all the prisoners were loosened and all the jail cell doors opened wide.

If anything this pandemic has taught us (there's many, many lessons), the lesson I am discussing today is that nobody can take away our worship to the Lord Jesus Christ. Nobody can shut our mouth or chain our tongue, or bind and tie them. The Spirit



**The Spirit of  
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of the Living God who lives in us has given us the freedom to worship, praise, adore, shout, sing, or make a joyful noise unto Him. It appears the church was under siege. While the church was shut off, places like clubs, bars, liquor stores, and medical marijuana shops were open. Somehow COVID-19 was an issue for churches. Let me give you some examples. My daughter's birthday was June 8. I planned a parade of cars to drive by my home. They were all family members, and they got out of their car, stood at the social distancing rule, family with family, and that was a problem for the spectators that came by. It was celebration that lasted five minutes, obeying legal guidelines. Yet a few days later, riots were breaking out. Thousands of people went through various cities around the USA smashing private properties, screaming, yelling, swearing, getting up in people's faces, hurting other people, some killed during the riots, and yet the freedom to worship in church was considered loving your grandparents. I have no problem with protesting. In fact, that is a legal freedom that this country can never lose. What I cannot stand for is destruction of property, destroying other people's businesses, hurting other people, and killing others. Yet no one had a problem with the government allowing the COVID-19 to spread. This is called the Church Being Under Siege and Attacked.

What should the church do? The Church needs to legally fight back. You do it with petitions, by seeking to have laws changed, protecting the laws already in place such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This means that if riots are allowed, church services should be allowed. This means if the liquor stores are going to be opened so people can get drunk, then the church should be opened for people to take communion for them to remember what Christ did on Calvary and for them to be healed. Just as some go to get their marijuana or alcohol to numb their pain or illness, then the church should be open for people to have their spiritual needs met.

**I am coming back,  
and I am coming  
back for a church  
without spot or  
wrinkle. I cannot  
look the other way.  
Shepherds are  
leading sheep to  
slaughter.**

Unfortunately, some within the body of believers are Christian in name only and are not actually living the life of Christian. In February, God started to reveal prophetic words and visions. I didn't understand what God was saying at that time. It was just too overwhelming. I took what God was saying to me, and I shared it with those who hold my ministerial credentials, my closest friends, and Thread of Hope Board Members. What God was showing me was scary but filled with hope. He was telling me what He was going to do and how He was going to solve it. Here is one of the words He gave me: "I am allowing COVID-19 to suit My purposes. I am separating the sheep from the goats. I am coming back, and I am coming back for a church

without spot or wrinkle. I cannot look the other way. Shepherds are leading sheep to slaughter. I can no longer allow this to happen. I am shutting down churches and removing shepherds from the pulpits." I didn't understand what God was telling me in the middle of March until a week later or so when the President of the USA, President Donald J. Trump, declared a nationwide emergency, and everybody needed to shut down including churches. In the month of May, the President declared that the

churches could reopen following strict guidelines, and yet many Pentecostal Holy Spirit filled churches, as of the first week of August, continued to remain closed. I'm not judging anyone. All I know is that workplaces, supermarkets, coffee places, restaurants, beaches, parks, etc. are all open, but some churches still remain closed. Why is that? Because God gave me a word in the middle of March telling me what was to happen, how it was going to happen, why it was going to happen, what was His purpose was, and what would be His outcome. In that specific word, I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears so far what took place.

To the Remnant: You understand in the spiritual realm what is happening. To those who proclaim

to be Christians and are under fear, I understand your fear. However, greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world. To live is Christ, to die is gain. Psalms 91 is clear. I encourage you to read it. This Psalm 91 is for any believer who abides under the shadow of the Almighty. No harm shall befall you. Thousands will fall to your left and ten thousands to your right. The deadly pestilence will not come near your dwelling place. Do you get the point here? Whom shall we be afraid of? Those whom the Lord loves are under His care and protection. Please understand clearly. I am not telling you to be careless and go against medical advice, but when you see that it does not apply to everyone else, then it should not apply to the Church either. This is what I am sharing with you.

Being careful is one thing. Being fearful is another. The suicide rate has skyrocketed. Just ask any pediatrician and you can ask and hear how many children are depressed, worried, and anxious. How can this be when the Word of God says that those He has set free are free indeed?

Do you remember in February when the Italians went on their balcony, building after building, and they began to sing and rejoice, not allowing themselves to be broken? This is the reason the Church needs to come together because there is power in unity. When the Church comes together, there is a rising of hope and strength as they worship together. Their faith rises as they hear the Word of God being preached. Your mind is renewed, and you are filled with the Spirit of the Living God. You are full in the Spirit. When you are filled with the spirit, you are set free.

Rev. Dr. Teresa Allissa Citro  
Everyday Life Editor-In-Chief

# SET FREE

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# BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING

AN INTERVIEW WITH REV. DR. TERESA ALLISSA CITRO

It has been quite a year! 2020 came in like any other year, and then COVID-19 struck. National lockdown went into place, and states ended up with mandatory lockdowns and legal guidelines as to how to proceed during the pandemic. The COVID situation was serious and hitting some nations harder than others. Many people have been frightened, panic-stricken, not knowing what to do, and faced with the emotional stress and anxieties their own children were and still are dealing with. When talking with Rev. Dr. Teresa Citro, she told EL Staff the one thing she was clutching onto that has been her strong refuge and place of safety. In talking with her, you could sense her hope through all of the craziness of COVID. She shared with us the determination in keeping what she learned through this pandemic isolation and the excitement she holds for the upcoming months and the future.

**Linda:** It seems everyone was taken by surprise by the year 2020. Where things were going in normal routine, children in school, adults working, and people going on about their lives. What were your expectations coming into the New Year and have those expectations changed given the events of this year?

**Dr. Citro:** No, my expectations have not changed, and let me explain why. At the end of 2019, God gave me two bible verses that were my personal bible verses for the year 2020. The first Bible verse was Isaiah 55:12(KJV), *"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."* The second verse was Jeremiah 31:4(KJV), *"Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry."* As you know, Linda, I called you to tell you that God had given me those Bible verses for 2020. I know how the year is going to end. I knew how the year 2020 would end, but I just didn't know what the beginning or the

middle of it would look like. However, we serve the Living God who does not leave us hopeless but leaves us hopeful in the midst of the crisis. In the midst of any disaster, God gives us word of encouragement to uplift us so we can hang onto the words He has given us.

**Linda:** Yes, I remember phone call about the bible verses, and I also remember another phone call, in early January, where you were very upset because God showed what would happen this coming year. I know this is painful, but could you share that story with us?

**Dr. Citro:** Oh, Linda, if I could just go back in time... It was during my quiet time with the Lord. God seems to reveal a lot when we spend quality time with Him. God is so loving and so good. His compassion never fails. His love for us is truly enormous, and because of that love and compassion, He prepares us for things that are going to happen.

This is the ultimate intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ. Out of the blue, while I was praying, the Holy Spirit dropped a painful situation that was about to occur in my family. He told me that this year He was going to call my father home.

**His love for us is truly enormous, and because of that love and compassion, He prepares us for things that are going to happen.**

As you know, I called you immediately and was crying on the phone. I couldn't understand how I going to go out shouting and dancing with tambourines and how that was going to happen with the death of my father. It stunned me. There's nothing joyful about losing someone you love, but God's word to me was to prepare myself and to prepare the children. I told my children what God had told me. I told them to spend a lot of time with their grandfather and treasure him because Jesus would be taking him home. My children grieved and mourned before my father was suddenly taken from us. Imagine my shock when three months later what God told me took place. I know that many people around the world have lost loved ones this way. I want you to know I feel your pain, and I understand your tears. Grief is real, but we don't stop at the grief. The best way to move on from grief is to live your life the way God would have you to live it with joy, honor, and continue the journey towards your destiny. It doesn't mean you stop loving the person you lost. It doesn't mean you will no longer miss them. It doesn't mean you don't remember the good times. It simply means that all those things are a part of who you are. You can't just forget good memories. You can't just say you no longer love someone. It doesn't mean one moment you forget. It just means that all those things made you who you are. We honor the ones we love by not allowing ourselves to remain in a mourning state. This is what I had to learn. God is there in our grief. The Holy Spirit whispers comfort and peace. Jesus is holding us in His embrace.

**Linda:** Not all lessons are easy to learn, and those were some really tough lessons. However, trials and problems shape our character and nature, and it is also in those hard times, we end up learning about the nature and character of God the most. There was something else you had shared with the board and myself back in February. Can you please share that with us?

**Dr. Citro:** Again, Linda, when God began speaking to me in early February, about what was to come and ended up sharing that with you and the board at Thread of Hope. You gave me two Bible verses at the beginning of the year, but the complete opposite is happening right now. God had called Thread of Hope and me to pray for one hour a day regarding this new virus that had not even entered the USA yet. The first phase of the prayer for several weeks was to rebuke, and

then God started to give me visions and words. As you know, I couldn't believe, Linda, what God was revealing to me. He showed me what was going to happen, what would be said, and what the real truth was. A complete spirit of confusion was about to hit our land and the world, and God was allowing it for one purpose: for the greatest revival that is about to hit the world. I'm not ready to say more about this at this particular time. However, I would ask the Church who is the Remnant to please stand up and align yourself on the side of righteousness. Do not allow yourself to be fooled. Do not be filled with fear and trembling, and do not allow yourself to be deceived. What we see, hear, and read is the total opposite of what is really happening. I know this year is going to end with dancing and shouting in the streets. This is why the Holy Spirit gave us this phrase "Set Free" for this issue.

**Linda:** Normalcy was suddenly stripped from society as a whole affecting the smallest individual to the oldest. Freedoms seemed stripped away as many couldn't work because businesses had to be shut down. Some lost their jobs completely. Many have had to experience loneliness and isolation from family and friends because of being in lockdown and federal and state guidelines for dealing with the whirlwind effects of COVID-19. Celebrations of special events such as graduations, weddings, birthdays, the list goes on had to be canceled. How have you dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Dr. Citro:** I don't really want to make this all about my father's death. However, in the middle of this pandemic, my father, unfortunately, had passed away. That meant we couldn't hold a funeral. Only ten people were allowed, and no church service. Between my brothers, my mother, and me, we were 14 people. So you can imagine the heartbreak of four people who were unable to go. However, Linda, God is good to His people, and He does give us our heart's desire. I saw the kindness of people and their compassion and love all around me popping up all around me. The funeral home, DeVito's Funeral Home, was amazing. My two children and two of my father's other grandchildren could say their final goodbyes to my father. DeVito's drove my father's body to our home and opened the casket in the backyard. Each family member, practicing social distancing, was able to say our goodbyes properly. You know, Linda, we're a family. We

had the right to mourn as a family and not be isolated and to send him properly into his eternal rest. We, as a family, were deeply moved by this gesture of kindness and compassion. They conducted themselves with honor and respect towards my father's body. It is forever etched in our minds that moment in time because we actually felt their love. The COVID-19 showed me the best and the worst of people. So, I don't know how no one's life can be the same after COVID-19. I kept myself and my family busy. The first six weeks was a little easier, but because of my father's death that was overly emotional, and we were grieving as a family and couldn't get together. I found things to do with my children such as taking them on rides, family movies, cooking special foods, planting a garden, and making plans of future vacations to keep us going. As you know, Linda, I buried myself in work. We wrote three books. So, even though we were locked up, I felt that my children and I would make the best of the situation, rekindled old friendships, spent a lot more time in prayer, and I spent a lot of time on the phone ministering to people who were hurting and felt hopeless, reminding them that God was going to heal our land, and that we would come out of it as better people. During this lockdown, I discovered my 14-year old daughter has an incredible gift for drawing as you have seen, Linda. I've decided to showcase the picture because she drew us as a family because sometimes when we have nothing else to do, it's a time for us to discover new abilities, talents, and giftings. This got birthed out of her staying home. She also taught herself guitar, and as you know, Linda, she has an incredible voice. She spent time singing.

**Linda:** I've known you for too long not to know that you are going somewhere with this. May I ask where you are going with this?

**Dr. Citro:** (she laughs at my question because she knows I know her too well) Linda, what does Philippians 6:4-7? It says, *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Linda, the Apostle Paul wrote that letter while sitting in a jail cell. Isn't this what everyone around the world had to do while being in lockdown? Paul faced physical abuse. He was persecuted for his faith. He had a chronic ailment. He suffered financial hardship, and he was alone. Aren't these things the same things everyone around the world has been faced with this year? How many lost their jobs and their financial security? How many people were dealing with cancer and other deadly diseases and found their treatment had to stop? How many children and women were faced with physical abuse because

**The Apostle Paul wasn't suggesting in any way, fashion, form, or shape that everything is fine. He understood fear induces anxiety, which is what the whole world has experienced, but right there the first thing he says is not to worry about anything. Don't be anxious. Fear brings worry, and worry brings anxiety.**



everything shut down? Lastly, wasn't the church persecuted? Never before in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has the church been persecuted like it has been during COVID-19. We can certainly identify ourselves with the Apostle Paul. God knew that, and this Scripture says it all.

**Linda:** I agree with you that the church was persecuted. I don't think anyone would have thought of churches in the USA shutting down due to COVID while liquor stores and bars were still open.

**Dr. Citro:** And many churches are still closed months after we were told that we could go. Restaurants are opened. Why can't pastors open their churches?

**Linda:** I think it's safe for me to assume that somehow Philippians 4:6-7 comes into play with not only what you just asked about pastors opening up their places of worship but also in addressing the Body of Christ as a whole.

**Dr. Citro:** Linda, you know me way too well. (she was laughing but then her tone became serious) This bible verse strikes me in so many ways. The Apostle Paul wasn't suggesting in any way, fashion, form, or shape that everything is fine. He understood fear induces anxiety, which is what the whole world has experienced, but right there the first thing he says is not to worry about

anything. Don't be anxious. Fear brings worry, and worry brings anxiety. We are commanded to worry. There are only three ways to guarantee to be free of anxiety, and that is to pray, petition God, and with thanksgiving let God know how you feel. When we seriously put into exercise these things then the peace of God guards our heart and mind in Him because it transcends all understanding. We do not have figure everything out. It doesn't make sense to our mortal mind. However, we have exercised that which is proper and right, and in doing so, our own hearts and minds are steadfast in Jesus Christ. It doesn't mean we are not going to feel fear or anxiety, but we have been given the tools for beating and overcoming it all beautifully wrapped in this bible verse, "Dear Friends, do not anxious about anything." That is my message.

And there you have it, Folks! You, as part of the Remnant, have been set free because the Son of God, Jesus Christ, has set you free! Whom the Son has set free is free indeed! The God you serve never slumber nor sleeps. Therefore, because God keeps His eyes on you, you do not need to worry nor be anxious about anything. The God who cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field is the same God who supplies all your needs according to His riches in glory. From the staff here at Everyday Life, may God bless you ever more abundantly as you step forth into your destiny and a most wonderful future.



# Against All Odds

PASTOR TIM SHUTTLESWORTH

In these troublesome times in which we find ourselves there is a faith in our Covenant God who supersedes any and every circumstance of life.

In the Old Testament book of Judges chapters 6 and 7, there is a great story of a man named Gideon and a small army of 300 Israelites that God used to defeat their enemy the Midianites (meaning, "strife" or "contention" There is much "strife" in families, many Churches, America and among Nations.) who were also distant relatives through Father Abraham.

Because Israel had done evil in the Lord's sight He allowed them to be oppressed by the Midianites for seven years. (7 in the Bible always equates to the completion of something). The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places in the mountains, caves and special forts.

Their enemies would attack and destroy Israel's crops leaving them with nothing to eat. If that wasn't enough, they would take all of the sheep, goats, cattle and donkeys. The land was stripped bare and the Israelites were defenseless and defeated. In their starved and depressed condition, they cried out to the Lord for help, and He answered through a prophet.

Before the Lord can deliver His people from their trouble, He FIRST must point out to them the reason for their trouble. God declared to Israel; "I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live. But you have not listened to me."

Disobedience and backsliding were the roots of Israel's problem, and I believe it is much the same with America.

**“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)**

Paul instructed his son in the Gospel in his second letter to Timothy; "that in the last days there will be very difficult times." He then gave Timothy a description and list of the spirit and condition of people's attitudes in these days (Includes America):

1. "People will love only themselves and their money."
2. "They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God."
3. "Disobedient to their parents and ungrateful."
4. "They will consider nothing sacred."
5. "They will be unloving and unforgiving."
6. "They will slander others and have no self-control."
7. "They will be cruel and hate what is good."
8. "They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God."
9. "They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly."

Our history parallels Israel's because of our Judeo-Christian foundation.

America has had their share of "pillow prophets" that tickle the listener's ears (2 Timothy 4:3). but true prophets are standing up and standing out calling for repentance and it must begin with God's people the Church.

The SECOND thing God does is find a man that will lead his people in obedience to His instructions. A righteous judge if you please. Gideon was that man. God told him, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites, I am sending you."

Gideon had his misgivings about why Israel was in their present oppressive condition and his low status in his clan, tribe and family that he should be chosen of God to be used. Just like Gideon, many of God's people feel unqualified to be used of God to do anything great. An Inferiority complex handicaps many people, and only the Word of the Lord can break that spirit.

The Word says, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things

which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence," (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

Gideon's name means; feller (to fell a tree), Great Warrior, and generally to destroy anything or cut asunder. God knew that Gideon was the man to cut down the Midianites, but Gideon had such an inferiority complex that he needed a sign from God to affirm his calling. (Judges 6:17-24)

Our Omniscient God knows what you are capable of accomplishing through faith and obedience and all He's looking for is your availability. Don't

let anything in your past or present disqualify you from your Divine Destiny. When you invite Jesus the superior one into your life, He destroys an inferiority complex.

Will You Be That Man or Woman?

The THIRD thing God does is test Gideon personally with an instruction to obedience as He will test all of us.

**Our Omniscient God knows what you are capable of accomplishing through faith and obedience and all He's looking for is your availability.**

Pull down your father's altar to the false god Baal. (Baal represents a false god who was thought by the Canaanites to bless their fields and crops as farmers. When Israel came into the land they were shepherds and herdsman and learned to farm and were lead to believe that Baal and their God Jehovah together would bless their endeavors.)

"In its place build an altar to God and bring in your offerings of restoration there," (Judges 6:25-32).

America has built many false gods that have replaced the Altar of the God of the Bible.

Will you; like Gideon; pull down the altars to the false gods of your father?

The bottom line is that America has brought their offerings and laid them at the altars of false gods. (Worldly lusts and ungodliness) "Teaching

us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" (Titu 2:12 KJV).

America has allowed the people of other nations to bring their gods and practices into America and have allowed those false gods to be placed on the same level as Jehovah God thinking all gods lead to salvation.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me," (Exodus 20:3 KJV).

"I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me," (Isaiah 45:5 KJV; 44:6, 8).

When we restore God's altar and bring our offerings to His altar, then we qualify for victory over our enemy.

The FOURTH thing God does is to possess his righteous and obedient judge Gideon with His Holy Spirit (Judges 6:34).

The problem in many denominational churches of America today is that many have replaced the Holy Spirit of God with man's religious education.

Just as Adam was instructed not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, (Genesis 2:17, a tree of education). Education has its place but not at the expense of the Omniscient Teacher, The Holy Spirit of God.

No person, whether Old Testament or New Testament, can conquer any enemy without the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God (Acts 1:8; Matthew 12:28).

After the initial call of God, dealing with an inferiority complex, excuses, the test of obedience, being possessed by the very Spirit of God, and Gideon's testing God, there comes a point in time that our faith must become action.

1)THE FEARFUL & FAITHLESS ARE DISMISSED (Judges 7:2-3)

For those who believe the old adage; "there's strength in numbers" really do not know how God works.

The Midianite army numbered 135,000 while the

Israelite army only numbered 32,000. The odds are at a little over 4 to 1. As far as the facts of mathematics go, it's not looking good for Israel. If that's not discouraging enough to the soul of Gideon, God tells him he has too many men. What?!

God tells Gideon to tell the men that if any man is timid or afraid to go home! Twenty Two Thousand (22,000) Israelite soldiers went home because they were shuddering and trembling with terrorizing fear. That was a majority of the men in the Israelite army.

**"There is no fear  
in love; but perfect  
love casteth out fear:  
because fear hath  
torment. He that  
feareth is not made  
perfect in love,"  
(1 John 4:18 KJV).**

The Bible says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love," (1 John 4:18 KJV).

Twenty Two Thousand (22,000) men weren't confident that God loved them enough to help them defeat their enemy that outnumbered them 4 plus to 1.

Their faith was weak because the Midianites had been permitted to oppress them for 7 long years and now each man has done the math and knows he has to kill 4-5 of them to win. No Way!!!

The Facts of your life will always intimidate your soul and try to send you home (mind, emotions and will).

During the release of covid19, I've witnessed much of the Church who are God's people act

like the 22,000 Israelite soldiers that refused to fight because of fear.

Many even used scripture to defend their "cautious" position and putting man's wisdom above God's wisdom and power. Caution is just a precursor to Fear.

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]," (2 Timothy 1:7 AMP).

**“Don’t be selfish;  
don’t try to impress  
others. Be humble,  
thinking of others as  
better than yourselves.  
Don’t look out only for  
your own interests,  
but take an interest in  
others, too. You must  
have the same attitude  
that Christ Jesus had,”  
(Philippians 2:3-5 NLT).**

Many acted and still act like the God of the Bible is not relevant to the challenges of this hour.

Man's wisdom is not God's wisdom.

Paul the Apostle said, "And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom [using clever rhetoric], but [they were delivered] in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit [operating through me] and of [His] power [stirring the minds of the listeners and persuading them], so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom and rhetoric of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those spiritually mature [believers who have teachable hearts and a greater understanding]; but [it is a higher] wisdom not [the wisdom] of this present age nor of the rulers and leaders of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in

a mystery, the wisdom once hidden [from man, but now revealed to us by God, that wisdom] which God predestined before the ages to our glory [to lift us into the glory of His presence]," (1 Corinthians 2:4-7 AMP)

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," (Revelation 21:7-8 KJV).

Point: Fearful and Faithless People Won't Engage In The Battle When Push Comes To Shove.

2)THE SELF-SERVING ARE DISMISSED

God's Mathematics Will Mess The Educated Man's Mind Up.

Judges 7:3-7

There are now 10,000 willing Israelite soldiers left to fight the 135,000 Midianite soldiers. The odds are now at 13.5 Midianites to 1 Israelite. Now it seems insane to think that every soldier in Israel's army needs to defeat nearly 14 Midianite soldiers.

"But the Lord told Gideon, There are still too many!" You've got to be kidding Lord!!!! Nearly 14 to 1 is still too many? Take the 10,000 men to the water and watch how they drink. The Ready Men drink the water from the stream cupped in their hands and lap it up with their tongues. These are the observant fighters.

The Self-Serving Men kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream. These are the distracted fighters.

Send the 9,700 Self-Serving Men home!!!

Selfish people only think of their immediate needs, not looking ahead nor planning for the future.

The Fearful, Faithless and Self-Serving people can always be manipulated by the circumstances and facts of life. They are motivated by the Soul.

### 3)THE FEARLESS, FAITHFUL & SELFLESS ARE SECURED

Gideon is now left with only 300 Faithful Warriors. 31,700 Israelites are headed to the house.

Now the odds are laughable at 450 Midianites to 1 Israelite.

450 to 1!!!!

Have you ever felt like the odds were so stacked against you that there was no hope and no way to think you could make it?!

I'm reminded of the words of Jesus, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth," (Mark 9:23 KJV).

If you only look at the facts and figures of life, then you disqualify faith from working.

"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever," (2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT).

Three Hundred Faithful, Fearless and Selfless Soldiers divided into 3 groups of 100 men each bearing a ram's horn, a clay jar concealing a torch, and surrounding the Midianite camp.

Just after midnight when the guards of the Midianite camp changed their watch Gideon's ram's horn sounded and his pitcher was broken revealing the light of the torch therein. The 300 did likewise and shouted with one voice, "A Sword For The Lord and Gideon!" It so startled and confused the 135,000 Midianite soldiers that they turned on each other with their swords and most were killed. The rest fled for their lives but were pursued and overtaken.

If you are a Spirit-filled believer in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, take a stand in these evil times. Don't cower, compromise, concede, or comply to the spirit of this age.

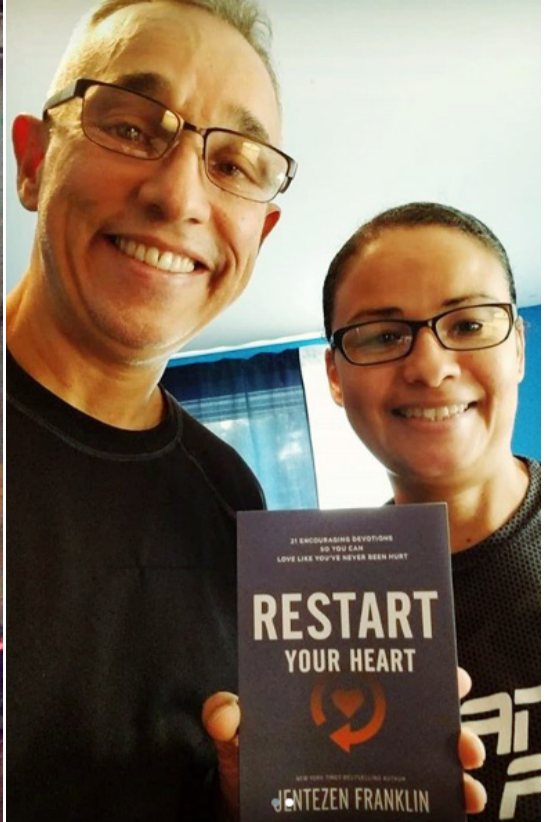
The Church is the most powerful nation on this people planet called earth. We Win Against All Odds!

"...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light," (1 Peter 2:9 NLT).

"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere," (Ephesians 6:11-18 NLT).

Preaching God's Word & Pastoring Over 43 Years Until He Comes



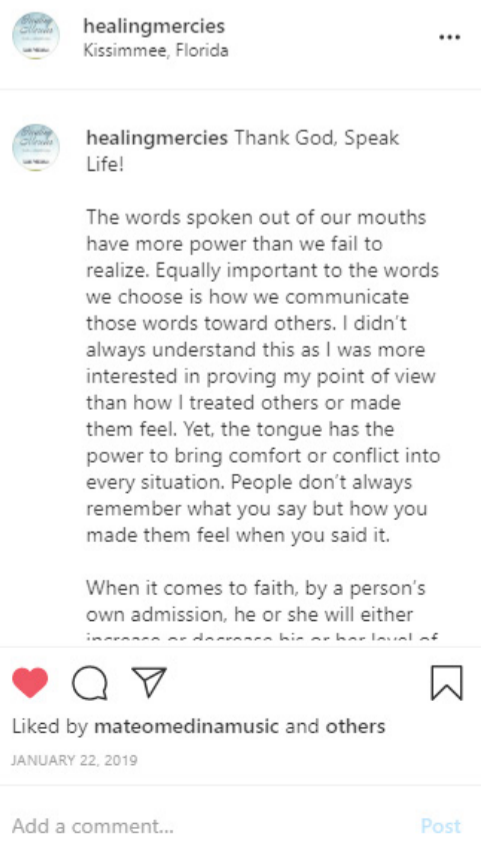


# Set Free in the Valley

LUIS MEDINA

Sometimes what we want is not God's will for us. We want to pitch our tent and camp out on the mountain top like the apostle Peter during Jesus' transfiguration. We become mindful of the things of men rather than the things of God and then deny Him. When we find ourselves in a crisis, we want another way around the valley. We don't want the experience of a valley. A valley brings with it pain and suffering and no one looks forward to that. I have found that in the valley God does some of His deepest work.

The valley provides an opportunity to demonstrate faith to God. Looking back now my valley has become a mountain top experience. It's been a place of complete brokenness, humility, and total surrender to God. I've been told that grace is what we don't deserve and mercy is God holding back for a time what we do deserve. I'm here to tell you that when you draw near to God, He is faithful and will draw near to you. His unseen hand is at work right now in your life. There is still hope. Ask God to search you and lead you in the way everlasting.





On August 29th, 2017 in the emergency room, God gave me a life-changing testimony. The doctor's news that night flooded my heart with despair. I was diagnosed with end-stage liver cirrhosis. The doctor said unless I get a transplant, I would die a slow and painful death - All of my organs would slowly shut down one by one." She asked me if I wanted to speak with a priest or a pastor. I had no idea I would fight to stay alive for the next 16 months.

The surprising thing about this disease is you may be sick for decades and not even know it. It doesn't matter how old you are, if you eat a healthy diet, exercise on a regular basis, or don't drink alcohol, some diseases, such as cirrhosis, can take up to 10 years before they emerge. By the time you begin to experience some of the symptoms, the disease has already begun to wreak havoc in your body. One day you are feeling well and the next day you are suddenly diagnosed with a life-threatening condition, and your world is turned upside down.

I was desperate and exhausted from the ascites and carrying up to 19 pounds of bodily fluid every week. I had to be drained on a weekly basis to reduce the pressure on my body and ongoing threat to my life. I felt chained to the hospital and would be there for several hours as complications would arise. This process went on week after week and then worsened. The procedures got so bad the nurses and technicians were having a difficult time getting my body to accept catheters of all sizes.

When the technicians finally got a catheter in, they were not able to remove the water from my body. I was informed my peritoneum was scarred from all the paracentesis procedures. My body had reached its limits. I was seen by many doctors and specialists from Georgia to New Mexico and ran out of guarantees. No doctor could explain the root cause and referred to the condition as "idiopathic cirrhosis" meaning unknown origin.

If you had told me that one day I would be standing and sharing my testimony at churches, I would not







have believed it. Especially, when there appeared to be no end in sight to all the procedures I had to undergo (over 35 paracentesis). After resisting a TIPS procedure (where they insert a stent into the liver) I had to trust in God and view laying down my body on the table as an act of worship to Him.

I wanted God to heal me on my terms and not His will. I struggled to let go of control of how I wanted God to heal me. While I waited for my physical healing, He touched me and healed more than I could have imagined. He began to heal my soul (mind, will, and emotions). He began to touch my family. Faith was increased. He comforted me

in my suffering. God delivered me in the name of Jesus. He prepares our beds and restores us back from sickness.

I'm pressing into Him more than ever. I need Him. He is my everything! He desires diligence in faith from us. The blood of Jesus can wash away your sins. The power of the Cross gives you power over every sin. The Kingdom of Heaven resides within you. We are co-heirs with our Lord Jesus. We want to walk in full health, but God's will is greater than that, He wants us to be yielded vessels that give thanks to Him in everything, rejoicing always, and praying without ceasing. We can walk in full health and in wholeness.



**healingmercies**  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

**healingmercies** Trust in God and Give Thanks!

It is not always easy to trust in God and give thanks to Him when you receive terrible news regarding your health, and you feel like you are sinking in quicksand. The primary thoughts on your mind may be what happened and how do I get out of this situation.

Trusting in God and giving thanks to Him did not cross my mind at first. I had backslid from my faith and first love! At the time, I didn't think I was worthy of a second chance.

However tough it was at night to deal with this disease, each morning that I



Liked by **mateomedinamusic** and others

JANUARY 7, 2019

Add a comment...

Post

# Freedom Our Birthright

EDDIE MASIH

Whom the son sets free is free indeed. It is well said by one of the Indian freedom fighters, "Freedom is my birth right, and I shall have it" I had been in prayer for a very long time in order to write this article because I didn't want to pen my thoughts but the thoughts of God. I am glad the Lord has given me a revelation to share with you all, and I believe it will pump a high dosage of hope, belief, faith and boldness to face in the days that are coming ahead.

It is God's desire for every believer to live in freedom and enjoy His benefits. God's Spirit freely moved before the creation of the earth. God made the rivers, and they flowed freely; the high mountains danced freely, and the wind blew freely. God made Adam, and he ran freely, full of life God had given him. Everything God made was free, free, and free. Then, sin entered

into this world and corrupted everything in it. As a result, the freedom was turned into bondage. The world drowned deep in the wickedness of the devil. Jesus came into this world, fought against the powers of the darkness, against the principalities, against all the authorities of the world and placed it back in the hands of you and me. So, rejoice for "You are free indeed." You can jump, dance, and cheer and sing it loud, "Freedom is my birth right, and I have it in Jesus."

You may have this valid question: if we are liberated by the spirit of the Lord, then why do we have to stay under home arrest in this COVID situation? The answer to that is, "The Lord has something great" to bring to you, in you, and for you. The Bible tells us Joseph (the last second born of Jacob) was locked in the prison for years, and the Lord made him the Prime Minister of the

nation of Egypt. When he came out of the locked state, the Lord had prepared new beginnings, new authority, new assignments for Joseph that were waiting for him. When Moses was with the Lord in Mount Sinai, he was captivated by the Glory of God, and it was there where the new era for the Israelites began. It was in the captivated state on the Mount Sinai The Lord gave the Israelites new laws, new commandments. Today, what we call Old Testament was new to them then. The

Bible mentions, "Our God is same yesterday, today and forever." The same God who gave the new beginnings to His people in the Old Testament is the same God who gave the new beginnings in the New Testament. We all know about 120 people gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. They were fearful because Jesus was no longer with them in flesh, but they obeyed

the commandment of Jesus. We see in Acts 1:4 that it says, "Jesus said do not leave Jerusalem." They stayed together at one place. They were locked in the room for 10 days, and then, they heard the rattling sound, saw tongues of fire descending and settling over all of them. This was the beginning of the time of the Holy Spirit, the time that we live in, this day. At this time, when you are being relieved from the lockdown situations, believe that the new things and the new beginnings are on your way. The Lord is in control of your life, the One who has called you into

His kingdom is faithful and will surely lead you to live a victorious life.

I would like to take you through few scriptures from the book of Acts to escort you into the

**It is God's desire for every believer to live in freedom and enjoy His benefits.**

deeper realm to understand the plans of God for your life.

## **There is power in prayer, power to move mountains and to turn situations around.**

**The Church Begins to Pray:** Acts 12:3-4 tells us King Herod seized Peter and put him in chains with four soldiers around. The first church was terrified with this arrest of Peter and started to pray. The Bible tells us in Acts 12:5 "The Church Prayed Earnestly." When the church prayed, Peter's chains fell off, and he was free! The church, by now, had learned to pray earnestly to the Lord. Before Peter was held captive, James (the brother of John) was murdered by sword of King Herod. It is sad to see there was no one to pray for James, had the church prayed for James, he would have lived as Peter lived. The church learned that there is power in corporate prayer. My Dear Friends, we all go through different phases in life and this Covid situation is one of the many phases that has taught us lessons. The lockdown led many to come on their knees and to pray earnestly to God. This is a global pandemic, and nations across the world have made their best efforts to engage the best experts to get rid of this. However, all of them failed miserably. The Bible tells us that the biggest of the battles were won on knees, and so is this. Praise be to God! There is power in prayer, power to move mountains and to turn situations around. For many, you have developed the lifestyle of prayer during this season. Continue to pray and rejoice in The Lord.

**Beginning of Angelic Ministry:** Acts 12:7 says, "Suddenly an Angel of The Lord appeared." Peter was in the jail, and the church prayed earnestly, and the Angel of the Lord appeared in rescue of Peter and brought him out of the jail. This was the beginning of the Angelic Ministry. Jesus said to Nathaniel in John 1:51, "Very truly I tell you, you shall see angels of The Lord ascending and descending," and this was the time the church

was seeing the fulfilment of the word spoken by Jesus. The Angel of the Lord directed the steps of Peter, and supernaturally, he was brought out of the jail. Supernaturally, his chains fell off. Supernaturally, he passed through all the gates, and supernaturally, he was brought back safe together with the church. This is the answer to the prayer the church offered to God. Dear precious saints, during this lockdown time, you have sought the face of God and were pressing on in prayer. Now, here comes the time that you will manifest the power of God in your life. The angelic army of the Lord has surrounded you from every corner. You are delivered, protected, covered, and liberated in The Lord. Delight in the freedom of God.

**New Season of Evangelism:** It was King Herod who stood against evangelism and put the Apostles behind the bars. He was the blocking wall against the Gospel to spread freely. When the angel of the Lord brought Peter out without any chains on him, there was commotion among the soldiers and in Herod's kingdom. In Acts 12:23-24, it says, "because Herod didn't give praise to God, an angel of The Lord struck him down and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to spread and flourish." Hallelujah! Herod, the blocking wall to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was knocked down by the angel of God and his kingdom were brought to shame for dishonouring God and his people. You are God's precious people, and whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye. God's divine protection is over you, and He has protected you to fulfil His plans that He has for your life. You are blessed to be a blessing to others. You are saved to save others. There are millions of people around the world living in the darkness and bound in all the schemes of the devil. The Lord has kept you to be His voice to them, sharing with them the love of God, and snatching them from the hands of the devil. It is the perfect will of God that no one should perish but have an eternal life, and you are one of the precious instruments in the hands of God to be used for the great harvest. You are free to set people free.

Dear Precious Saints, you see how the Lord turned the situation complete opposite? Exactly how he turned the water into wine. It all started by the arrest of Peter. The church started to pray because Peter was in jail.

The Angelic Ministry started because Peter was in jail. Herod was knocked down because Peter was in jail. It was sad that Peter was arrested, but the Lord brought great things from His store and turned the situation from sadness to rejoicing. This is how the Lord will turn your situations around. If He could do it for him, expect the same will happen you. Great things are on your way.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11, "as I received from the Lord so as I tell you," and so I repeat his words. This was the thought the Lord gave me to encourage and exhort your spirit. The hour has come to lift up the banner of God and proclaim His name in all the nations. You are one of the very important pillars in preparing the kingdom of God. Be excited for what the Lord is about to do through you.

In my conclusion, I would like to leave you for now with the thought that will help you maintain your freedom. When the Apostles were stopped by the Jews from doing what they had been commanded by God, their reply was "It is right to listen to God than to any human." God cherishes talking to each one of us. Always listen to Him, obey Him and the devil can by no means bind you ever and you shall live in fullness of life and fullness of freedom.

Blessings in Jesus' Name!

Eddie Masih

Minister of the Gospel, Music & Worship Leader

# TOH HOPE COLLECTION: 1ST PIECE IN THE COLLECTION (RAHAB'S THREAD OF HOPE)

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# THE SECOND MAN FREEDOM

PASTOR MICHAEL HEIL

The decade of the 1960's was known for many social movements, black power, women's liberation, flower power are just a few. However, one of the bigger movements amongst the youth was freedom. They believed parents, government, business and education all were a form of bondage, pushing them to be the same, think the same, conform. The music of the 1960's expressed this theme: "People Gotta Be Free", "Freedom", and "Me and Bobby McGee". What this desire for freedom conveyed was something more than deliverance from external restraints!

Fast forward to 2020 and will still see this same desire for freedom, but it has taken a more radical, dangerous direction. Now, in their zeal for freedom to be what they want and do what they want, militant groups are intimidating and shaming people in their quest to be free. Think about it, in their desire to be without restraints they are attempting to place others in bondage. How did this go so wrong? What happened to "peace and love"? What are you and I, the redeemed of the Lord, to do?

To understand this "freedom" gone wrong, it is vital we comprehend truth; because without knowing reality, without knowing truth, you and I will be bond. In fact, those who are coercing and manipulating others into the social norms and values they see as important push their agenda exactly because they have a perverted view of truth. Seeing life through the bifocals of hate and

bitterness, they see others as selfish for even trying to hold a different perspective. Their truth goes as far as their eyes can see, their ears can hear, and their touch can grasp. They walk by sight but we, as the saints of God, walk by faith (II Corinthians 5:7)! Faith sees the spirit realm, faith sees the truth of God from all eternity.

So, how do we walk by faith in the "freedom that Christ set us free" for? Let me say right from the get-go, everybody on earth will have one of two types of control over their life; either sin

will control a person, or a person will willingly submit to Christ's control. Through Paul God tells us in Romans 6:17-18 *"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness"*. Every person-black or white, rich or poor, male or female – is born with Adam's

DNA (Romans 5:12-15). And, Adam's DNA is a spiritual cancer that keeps us from God. It is a view of life that see us as the sun and everyone else as the planets which must revolve around us. It is selfish and self-centered, and, by it very nature, at war with everyone else. So, we end up miserable, frustrated, and defeated because we can't always get our way; which is where the cancel culture and social justice movement is today. They can't find peace or freedom because they are infected with Adam's DNA.

**... in their  
desire to  
be without  
restraints they  
are attempting  
to place others  
in bondage.**

Still, even though we were born into Adam's race the blessed truth is . . . we don't need to stay there! And, this in the second type of control, the control we willingly step into, willingly submit to, the control which is "freedom" in all aspects of life because it is graphed into our hearts. Remember I said we walk by faith? Faith sees the spirit realm. Faith comes from knowing God's will and God's way. Faith comes from meditating on His revealed Word. And, faith reveals after Adam there came a second Man (I Corinthians 15:45-49)! This second Man was born without the dreaded DNA of Adam because His Father was not human; His Father was (is) Jehovah God. So the second Man was not tainted with sin. The second Man did not by nature magnify His whims, wants, and interests above others. This second Man is Jesus the Christ, and He promised a "second" birth for those who wanted it which would bring ultimate freedom.

This is freedom, true freedom, the freedom God knows will bring peace and love and joy, freedom from ourselves. I guess one could say "I've met the enemy, and the enemy is me". When you and I finally get fed up enough that we admit we can't be free, and we can't find peace, and we can't quit sinning, we are right on the threshold of freedom. Because now, we our spiritual eyes wide open, we can throw ourselves at the feet of the second Man who took our self centered nature and killed it on His cross, and say "Lord, I repent of my sin, please save me"! In an instant, faster than a speeding computer, this second Man kills Adam's DNA and gives us a new spirit and a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26,27). A heart like on to His own, a heart that desire not our will but the Father's will on earth (Hebrews 10:8-10). This is true freedom. This is what the flower children of the 1960's were seeking, but didn't know it. This is actually what will free the cancel culture and social justice warriors, if they will receive Christ.

Given that this is the truth beyond the five senses, how should you and I, the saints redeemed by the second Man, walk? Galatians 5:1 says this ***"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore***

***keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery"***. First, we must recognize we are free! Sin cannot contain us, Satan cannot bind us, because God has given us part of His Divine Nature (II Peter 1:4). I'm not saying we are gods, or divine, rather that God's nature of not being controlled by anything or anyone is now working in us. The world will try to mold us and control us (Romans 12:2); we are seeing this daily as Antifa and

**... the freedom  
God knows will  
bring peace and  
love and joy...**

Black Lives Matter throw their weight around trying to intimidate us. We see this each time a person still tainted by Adam's DNA pushes us to do their will. But the freedom Christ has given is, as I have said, internal it is beyond the control of man.

The inner freedom we possess is ours to use. This is where our faith comes in. Once the world, or an acquaintance, or even a religious system seeks to manipulate, we have the ability in Christ to "stand fast". Stand fast is another way of saying "be who God created you to be". In Christ our conscience is free to give in to another or not; our conscience is free to do that which blesses others and glorifies our Lord, it is always ours to control because we have made Christ our Lord (I Corinthians 10:27-33); and, sadly, this is what those apart from Christ are missing. This is why they struggle and strain, yell and scream, because their heart is not free. May God grant you and I opportunities to introduce the world to the second Man, the One who is true freedom, even Jesus the Christ.

# How God Called Me Into Skill Acquisition

STELLA JUMOKE WILLIAMS

Skill Acquisition is a talent/gift God gave to me from childhood. While growing up, I loved recycling objects around me into reusable items and my Dad was so supportive of my talent.

In 2008, I became passionate about teaching and impacting children. So, I started working as a teacher and in the process; I have also been able to teach a lot of pupils and students how to make different crafts, including adults.

I'd like to encourage everyone to know that 'Skill Acquisition' is a very vital part of living and it is of utmost importance to learn a craft that will, at least, keep you busy, help you earn additional income, and also give you the opportunity to impact lives by training others, thereby, helping to curb unemployment and poverty in the world.







STELLA JUMOKE WILLIAMS IS A COMPUTER SCIENTIST AND HAD A CALLING IN 2008 TO TEACH IN ORDER TO HELP CHILDREN WITH READING AND WRITING DIFFICULTY SO SHE BECAME A CERTIFIED TEACHER. SHE IS VERY FOCUSED, PURPOSE DRIVEN, AND RESULTS ORIENTED. STELLA JUMOKE WILLIAMS IS AN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST/GUARDIAN, COUNSELLOR, WRITER, CREATIVITY EXPERT AND CEO OF J-STAR CREATIVITY.

FACEBOOK PAGE (J-STAR CREATIVITY)



# Power Surge

DR. CAROL DRAKE WHEATLEY

## Free at Last, Free at Last...Really?

We're hearing a lot about freedom these days... mostly from people who don't realize they're already free.

When Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," He was talking about Himself! Remember, He IS the Truth! More often than not, however, this scripture is misquoted when people say, "The truth will SET you free." There's a huge difference between being SET free and being MADE free:

- To be SET free means that your bondage (like a locked cell door in a jail) has been released. You can now go out or stay in because the door is unlocked. You've been set free.
- To be MADE free means that even if the cell door is still closed and locked, who you are within yourself is free. To "make" something means to create it; you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, wonderfully and fearfully made...and free! Free no matter who you are. Free no matter where you are. Free no matter what anyone else says or does.

## How does He make us free?

The above scripture from John 8:32 is actually self-explanatory. Jesus tells us that knowing the truth is what makes us free. So, let's look at that a little bit. In John 17:3 Jesus said this to His disciples (don't forget, you're a disciple, too):

"And this is life eternal, that they may know You the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."

That's pretty awesome in and of itself, but it's really verse 2 that has the power:

"As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."

There is absolutely nothing that we can do to earn our freedom. Jesus paid the price—the penalty—that we were supposed to pay because of our sins. He didn't just go to jail; He went to the cross and died for us. We didn't have to do anything. He did it all...for all people, all sin, for all time. Think about this: every person who dies, leaves this earth with their sins forgiven. Does

**When we repent,  
we actually  
change the way  
we think.**

that mean they all go to be with the Lord? Sadly, that's not what it means. Jesus forgave our sins, but we have to believe in Him and accept what He did, repent for our sins, and then receive our forgiveness from Him by faith.

Repentance is the critical element in a person's life and death. When we repent, we actually change the way we think. People who reject God here on earth will reject Him in the heavenly realm when they die. Rejecting God and doing your own thing is rebellion and rebellion is likened to witchcraft in the Bible. Not every act of rebellion looks like chaos or temper tantrums or evil. Rebellion is subtle and can slip into a person's life very quickly

and bring spiritual death with it. There are a lot of people who are doing “good” things based on their own definition of good. These days especially, people have a form of godliness but do not have the actual power of the Living God within them. They look good, they sound good, they do good. Rebellion is often shrouded in the appearance of good. However, in the book of Genesis, the Lord’s only rule for Adam and Eve was that they do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It’s not that He didn’t want them to know the difference between good and evil, it’s just that He wanted everything they knew and everything they did to be based on His word and His will. It’s the same today.

In our society, we don’t hesitate to do our own thing. Most people seldom refer to God before they get dressed in the morning or when they go out for the day; and they certainly don’t trouble the Lord about what they eat, or how much money they spend. That may not sound like rebellion to you, but it is.

We need to repent. We need to seek God’s will in everything we do.

### ***But how do we actually live in His freedom?***

Easy. Re-read the sentence above: Repent. Seek God’s will. That, Dear Reader, is the only way to truly live in freedom and truly enjoy the peace that freedom brings.

Now let’s clarify something before we go any further. We are not talking about living “under the law.” That’s a really popular term among church-goers who don’t want to obey God. They simply state that they don’t have to live under the bondage of rules and regulations and that God’s grace allows them to do anything. Grace does provide freedom, but wrong behavioral choices bring their own consequences. Let me give you a real-life example:

A friend of mine says God set us free from having to eat according to the Levitical laws, and therefore, he can eat whatever he wants in whatever quantity he desires. Now while it’s true that he has the Biblical right to eat anything, does he have the wisdom to live in that kind of freedom? Looking at his girth and his frequent visits to the doctor to treat his

various food-induced ailments, the answer is quite obviously, no, he cannot handle the kind of freedom God has given him.

## **Freedom is a gift that requires wisdom and self-discipline.**

That only comes from repenting from the way you’ve always done things and how you’ve always thought. When your mind comes into alignment with the word of God, your actions will change accordingly, and you will live in an abundance of blessings that only come from a life of freedom.

When we make Jesus the Lord of our life, He fills each of us with the exact same kind of power that raised Him from the dead; the kind of power we need to live in the freedom with which God has imbued us. This type of lifestyle takes some practice. It takes dedication to God and a true and sincere desire and commitment to “seek first” the Kingdom of God. Look to Him before you do anything...yes, even before you get dressed in the morning. When you are certain you are doing what you hear God tell you to do, you will have the confidence of knowing that you are living in the center of His will.

And that, My Friends, is freedom.

### ***So are you free at last?***

America’s great proponent of freedom, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, will always be remembered for his powerfully anointed message to our country. While he drew from numerous historical speeches and documents (as well as the Bible) to prepare his oration, the “take away” is that the human heart cries out for freedom. Nothing else can bring contentment, nothing else can bring peace, and absolutely nothing else can bring rest to our souls.

There is a battle that is raging in America today. It is the same battle that other countries across the globe have been fighting for centuries. The

battle is for possession of the human soul to keep it from serving the Living God. No matter what the liberal media tells you, America was founded on Godly principles; the same principles that have kept rebellion in America somewhat at bay for two centuries. Shamefully, however, we have strayed from our Biblical values, desecrated our laws to fit ungodly demands, and allowed our freedoms to be stolen.

Whose fault is it? It is clearly and singularly the fault of the Church. Walk into almost any church in this country and there will be people who are sickly, living in fornication, grossly obese, doing drugs, getting drunk, and getting divorced. The average church-goer looks and acts like the average person who doesn't bother to consult with the Living God. There is no noticeable involvement of our Lord in their lives, there is no abundance or prosperity, no health, and no joy.

### **Why not?**

There is no evidence of the fulfillment of God's promises in their lives because they do not seek the Kingdom of God first. When we seek to fulfill our own desires and lusts first and then check with God to see if it's okay, we miss out on His abundant blessings. Every church-goer wants

God's blessings, and they want to see miracles in their own lives and in the lives of the people they love. Their hearts cry out for freedom and peace and to see God's promises. Is your heart crying out, too? Of course, it is. Then seek God first. Repent for putting other things before Him. Pick up the Bible and you will find out that your eternal life is right here, right now. Begin to renew your mind, and when you do, you will enjoy the freedom that you so desperately want and need.

***"Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last." (MLK)***

***Whom the Son makes free is free indeed. (John 8:36 KJV)***

### **Column description:**

**Power Surge** focuses on bringing power for success to your everyday life by teaching you practical principles based on God's Word. It presents guidelines so you can realize that God's way of doing things is going to result in the best solution for any situation. **Power Surge** is preparation for people who want to consciously function in the Kingdom of God.

DR. CAROL DRAKE WHEATLEY IS A RETIRED ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT AND GRANT CONSULTANT. SHE IS THE FOUNDER OF POWER IN THE WORKPLACE MINISTRIES AND IS A RESPECTED TEACHER AND LEADER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. CAROL IS ALSO AN ORDAINED CRISIS RESPONSE CHAPLAIN, AS WELL AS A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED BUSINESS MENTOR. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS AND NUMEROUS TRAINING PROGRAMS PRESENTED TO CHURCHES AND INDUSTRY.





**This section on education is important to us and is there to help encourage parents for better communication between home and school for a successful academic career.**



# Helping Students with Learning Disabilities Amid Pandemic

DR. MARK TAYLOR

The COVID-19 epidemic has impacted special education service delivery in the United States and beyond. When schools shut down for the COVID-19, the country was unprepared for this situation as learning shifted to virtual learning.

The pandemic's fallout is likely to be severe and long-lasting. Early reports suggest that students may re-enter school in the fall of 2020 almost a full year behind academically. The pandemic's timing was especially worrisome since it coincided with the summer slide when the loss of learning occurred for most students. This loss will disproportionately affect some student populations, including those from low-income households, those who lack access to online learning technologies, and those whose parents have a non-standard work schedule that limits their ability to participate in homeschooling. DCF reports also indicated that students in volatile home environments faced extreme hardships as most of their safety nets were removed.

Please refer to my article on "maintaining the momentum" to learn what parents can do to minimize the summer slump.

Most students with disabilities in the US operate under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as specified by the IDEA. There is strict adherence to the contents of the IEP, and there were no provisions in the IEP that accounted for emergencies like that of the COVID-19 situation. School districts scrambled for support and guidance from the top educational department in their various states.

Previously, there were no legal mandates for whether a school was required to continue providing such services to students with disabilities in the case of extended school closures due to exceptional circumstances.

Most states encouraged public agencies and school departments to work with parents to reach a mutually agreeable extension of timelines

related to children with disabilities. It was also recommended that the district and parent agree to amend IEPs without convening a PPT meeting when appropriate.

Almost all schools in the US shifted to remote learning during the pandemic.

The consensus was that students with a learning disability would struggle with virtual learning due to the teacher's inability to make accommodations remotely. Most teachers provide accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities, as specified in the IEP. There were no such provisions for remote learning in the IEP for teachers to follow.

A survey of 147 students with and without disabilities was collected in late March to early April of 2020 to assess the impact of COVID-19 on students' education and mental health. Findings show that students with disabilities/health concerns were more concerned about classes going online than their peers without disabilities. These concerns were legitimate. For example, students with motor neuron disease but have visual acuity, pop-ups, and overlays can make web browsing problematic. For those with photosensitive epilepsy, flashing lights or images may cause seizures. However, some experts posit that remote learning can be a blessing in disguise for students with disabilities and could be used to their advantage.

Students with compromised mobility can avoid the challenges of travel and negotiating the confines of a school. Instead, they can design their own study space at home to accommodate their range of motion. Students who struggle socially, can avoid large classroom settings, and instead work in familiar, comfortable settings, such as at home. Communicating via forums and social media removes the pressure of interacting with others for students who are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd or who need time to assemble their thoughts.

Another pro is that freedom from fixed class schedules allows students with psychological or psychiatric disabilities, or post-traumatic stress disorder or cyclical mood disorders the flexibility to map study times according to fluctuations in receptivity.

Students with Asperger's syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders, or who otherwise struggle socially, can avoid large classroom settings and work in familiar, comfortable settings, such as at home. Communicating via forums and social media removes the pressure of interacting with others for students who are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd or who need time to assemble their thoughts.

Online programs also free students with learning disabilities like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, known as ADHD, dyslexia, visual processing disorder, or dysgraphia from the



time pressure, stress, and aural or visual over stimulus and distractions of the traditional classroom.

Through remote learning, most parents have now become familiar with the school curriculum. Parents should help students review materials as often as needed and manipulate digital text to process information at home at their own pace.





# Setting Free to Live Your Purpose

DR. DARIEL "DT" HENRY

Ten years ago, I had a conversation with my older brother who told me that *"You can give all the advice in the world to someone, but they must be ready to receive it."* I never forgot what he said to me. Matter-of-fact, I found it so profound, I have referenced it many times since. That knowledge has stopped me from trying to save every person who I perceive needs help. I've come to understand that everyone's journey is different.

**"You can give all the advice in the world to someone, but they must be ready to receive it."**

Recently I referenced my brother's advice in a conversation I had with a friend after the murder of George Floyd. I won't recount the horrific 8 minutes and 46 seconds. However, something came out of the murder that no one was prepared for; more people ready to receive conversations centered around equity, equality, diversity, cultural proficiency, and relativism.

In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, I saw a wave of information around topics in Black America being shared on multiple digital platforms. I also noticed a wave of questions from White Americans asking how to navigate all of this new information. I had the time, space, and

energy to educate my white brothers and sisters that simply do not know how we became such a country of covert discrimination and oppression. I had an idea, prayed about it, and stepped out on faith to create a virtual course called, **Change 101: Race & Diversity Course**.

**Change 101: Race & Diversity Course for White & Non-Black People seeking change.**



In my professor role, it is more common to teach courses through a university or for an organization. But, this time I was stepping out on my own. I felt anxious about promoting a course strictly for white and non-black people. I thought to myself: Will my black community think I was a sell-out? Would people feel this course was some sort of reverse racism, or white bashing? What made me most anxious was freeing myself from worrying so heavily about everyone's opinion and going with what I knew God had placed in my heart to do. As I often do in moments like this, I referred back to my roots and sought the scripture. For guidance, I focused on Galatians 5:13:

**13** You, my brothers, and sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Over the past 15 years, I have worked at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs), observing interactions, the hidden curriculum, orientations, events, etc. I understood how much white and non-black people don't know about Black America. I understood that some don't know what it means to be Black in this country. I also knew people were ready to receive this course.


I focused on Galatians 5:13 until I released myself from the chains of fear and doubt to teach this class. Once I was free in my mind and my spirit, I went full force on putting the class together. The class ran for three weeks, with all the curriculum components of my typical courses including pre- and post-class surveys, action assignments, access to a Dropbox folder, and videos of each lecture for those who missed a week.

The support was overwhelming and the number of people who registered confirmed I had made the right decision. Since then, I have repeated it (or parts of it) to other institutions and organizations.

Too often we limit ourselves with the weight of anxiety, doubt, or fear. Setting yourself free is necessary for you to give the world what you were purposed to give. Your contribution to humanity is important. If you are looking for motivation in song for setting yourself free, take a listen to *Hillsong United*, "Yes I am", or *Myron Butler*, *Set me Free*.

I know the feeling of being chained down by emotional, psychological, and spiritual fears. Feeling as if the majority of people are against you can require an overwhelming majority of positive force on our side. For anyone with those feelings, remember that You + God equals a Majority. Set yourself free from whatever is weighing you down and live out your purpose.

\*Dr. Dariel "DT" Henry is CEO of Mind 2 Power LLC, Director of TRIO at Bristol Community College, and Admissions and Education Recruiter at Regis College.



**Are you looking to have young and vibrant skin? Are you looking for skin care that reduces fine lines? Great looking skin doesn't just happen. It's something we do. There are so many great products out there for all skin types and all budgets. The important thing is to make sure you get plenty of water, eat clean as much as possible, protect your skin from the sun, and use good cleansers and proper moisturizers, along with anti-aging products.**

# GRACEFULLY GROOMING IN COVID

LISA OSBORN

Three to five months of not being able to attend to our personal grooming in salons provided both a problem and an opportunity.

The first problem being Zoom meetings, the whole world is at home looking at you! Thank goodness for temporary color sprays and online hair color. The second problem is what to do when the salon opens again, and your kitchen beautician work needs an overhaul!

This is no longer a "touch up" appointment; it is the whole enchilada.

Perhaps though, you do not want your previous look. Well, time did offer us a chance to see what could happen if our hair was a little longer, lighter, natural, etc.



Or perhaps you would rather cut it instead...



It was tough on the men too!



What could be better than just coloring for fun or dimension?



Whatever decision you come to with your hair, just have fun!

The best box of crayons had 64 colors!

Enjoy your hair!

Lisa Osborn  
American Board Certified Master Colorist  
Owner of Renzo Salon, Waltham, MA



PHOTOS BY PAULA BASTARACHE-ST CYR.



PHOTOS BY TERESA RAMEtta MCGANN





# MAKEUP & SKIN CARE



# The Eyes Have It!

CITRO COSMETICS L.A.T. MAKEUP ARTIST

It is imperative that you take care of your skin properly before you apply makeup to it. Let me explain. If you're not cleansing your face, you are going to have built-up dirt that gets underneath the layers of your skin that will make your skin age faster, look older, and create even more lines. The idea of using makeup is to enhance your natural beauty and the shape of your face. For more information about products you need to use, please visit the website at the bottom of this article to learn more about the products and what they do to promote healthy and young-looking skin. Yes, this is achievable if you follow the directions as described on the products and if you used them faithfully. It is a proven fact, that if you take care of the skin, giving it what it needs, you too can have a timeless image. It starts with you protecting your skin and doing what you're supposed to do. It pays in the end because it can slow the process of aging.

In this Fall Issue of Everyday Life, we have chosen to concentrate on the eyes. The eyes, especially around the sides of your face, will show the wrinkles and give the impression you are older than what you actually are. So you want to soften the crow's feet around your eyes, the creases around your eyes, and on your eyelids. Using a hydration cream reduces the puffiness and hydrates the skin, making it smoother, and when skin is hydrated, you don't see so many lines. If you are over the age of 30, you should also consider using a peptide cream that reduces fine lines and keeps more from forming. Once you have done this, you are in a great place, and now you look for colors that do not have harsh chemicals that will create more wrinkles and dryness. You should look for eye makeup which has natural and organic ingredients. This will ensure that you are not harming your skin with chemicals that will make your skin age faster. All of these things are important to the skin. If you apply good products, you will get the look that you are looking for.

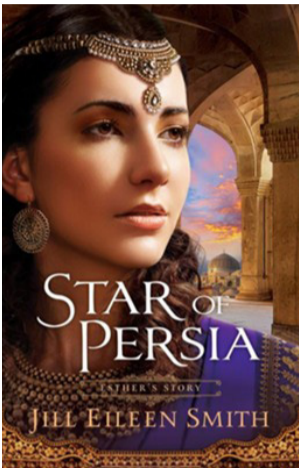
Your eye makeup as we discussed should not contain harmful and harsh chemicals that do more damage. You should look for more eye makeup that has natural and organic ingredients, and especially, eye makeup which contains vitamins. At Citro Cosmetics, we have eye colors which have vitamins and minerals in it such as Vitamin A, Vitamin E, and Vitamin C. These vitamins are essential to maintaining your skin's appearance.

Since we are still required in many states to wear face masks, the eyes are all people are seeing. It is said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. If our soul is still young looking, we want to be able to display our youth through our eyes. Look for colors that easily glide on and stay on throughout the day.

At Everyday Life, we work with Citro Cosmetics and Skin Care. We know that the products work, and the feedback has been remarkable. If you are on a strict budget, here is what we suggest. You can choose Citro Cosmetics or any makeup company of your choice. Pick a light and dark color. I would suggest you pick three-color eyeshadow palette. Apply the light color all over your eye. This will open up your eyes and make them look bigger, and then you can experiment with the two other colors. For example, you can put the darker one on the side of your eyes and the other color in the crease of the eyes which will give it that open look, or you can reverse the two colors, depending on the look you are trying to achieve.

Of course, don't forget your eyeliner or mascara. That is essential to complete your eye look. Choose from the different colors of your eyeliners to create the look you are trying to achieve. Mascara always completes your look. You can choose a waterproof mascara, longer lashes, fuller lashes, or for those who have sensitivity to mascara, there is one for sensitive eyes. In this season, it's all about the eyes. The eyes have it!

# The Top Five Must Read Books



## **STAR OF PERSIA: ESTHER'S STORY**

By Jill Eileen Smith

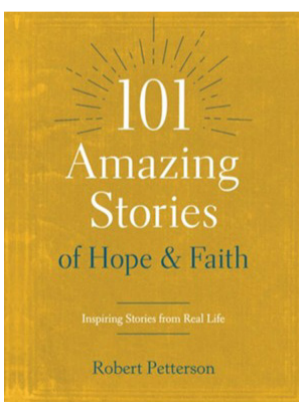
"Persian king Xerxes calls every governor and satrap to Susa for a war council and feast, but his efforts end in his favorite wife's banishment. When he discovers Esther, the beautiful Jewish ward of Mordecai, he makes her his queen—and the palace intrigue begins. A fresh retelling of the biblical story packed with suspense, romance, and faith. 354 pages, softcover from Revell." (Fiction)



## **YOU ARE NEVER ALONE: TRUST IN THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER**

By Max Lucado

"You're stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know! He'll meet you wherever, whenever—in lonely waiting rooms, rehab centers, and convalescent homes. Into all of life's messes and thorny thickets, he'll come to you, without hesitation, to lift you up. Lucado demonstrates by walking you through John's words and Christ's miracles. 240 pages, hardcover from Nelson." (Christian Living)



## **101 AMAZING STORIES OF HOPE AND FAITH: INSPIRING STORIES FROM REAL LIFE**

By Robert Petterson

**"You wouldn't believe it, but . . .**

**James Earl Jones, the voice of Darth Vader, grew up mute.**

**Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team.**

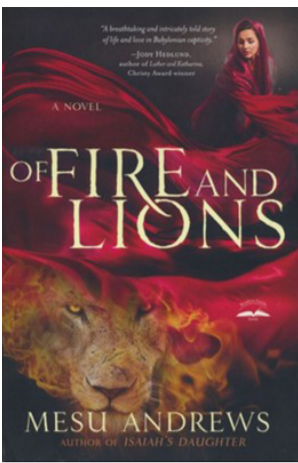
**Albert Einstein was bullied mercilessly in school.**

**Beethoven's mom almost aborted him.**

Life takes the strangest sharp turns—and sometimes, U-turns. Robert Petterson—popular speaker, storyteller, and author—has been a student for his entire life of what God is teaching us through those real-life U-turns. In this short book, he compiles amazing stories that teach lessons you won't easily forget. Each entry is written in the rest-of-the-story style popularized by Paul Harvey.

Marvel at how God has used the lives of these ordinary people to change the course of human history.

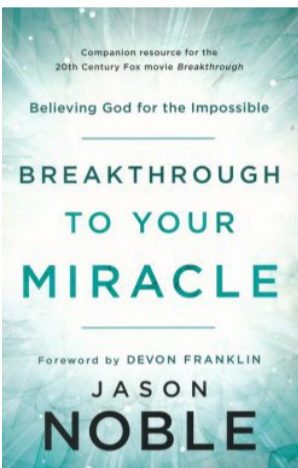
(Adapted from *The One Year Book of Amazing Stories*)" (Christian Living)



## **OF FIRE AND LIONS**

"Survival. A Hebrew girl first tasted it when she escaped death nearly seventy years ago as the Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem and took their finest as captives. She thought she'd perfected in the many years amongst the Magoi and the idol worshippers, pretending with all the others in King Nebuchadnezzar's court. Now, as Daniel's wife and a septuagenarian matriarch, Belili thinks she's safe and she can live out her days in Babylon without fear—until the night Daniel is escorted to Belshazzar's palace to interpret mysterious handwriting on a wall. The Persian Army invades, and Belili's tightly-wound secrets unfurl with the arrival of the conquering army. What will the reign of Darius mean for Daniel, a man who prays to Yahweh alone?

Ultimately, Yahweh's sovereign hand guides Jerusalem's captives, and the frightened Hebrew girl is transformed into a confident woman, who realizes her need of the God who conquers both fire and lions." (Fiction)



## **BREAKTHROUGH TO YOUR MIRACLE: BELIEVING GOD FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE**

By Jason Noble

Throughout his ministry, Pastor Jason Noble has witnessed miracles. And he was there when John Smith—a young boy who had fallen through ice and been declared dead—walked out of the hospital two weeks after being surrounded by prayer. Why, he asks, don't believers see more wonders like this one?

In this powerful companion to the major motion picture *Breakthrough*, Pastor Noble

- Reveals the heart of miracles
- Explores biblical and present-day accounts to inspire readers
- Shows how God works in believers to invade the natural with the supernatural
- Provides principles and tools to help readers welcome the miraculous

God longs to work wonders in your life, too. Let this book help you believe with boldness! (True Story)

# & Must Watch Movies



## **I STILL BELIEVE (2020)**

"The true-life story of Christian music star Jeremy Camp and his journey of love and loss that looks to prove there is always hope."



## **A WEEK AWAY (COMING 2020 TO NETFLIX)**

"This faith-based musical film tells the story of a troubled teenager who finds love and a sense of belonging in the last place he expected: a Christian summer camp."



## **FREE BURMA RANGERS (2020)**

"Free Burma Rangers is a documentary film exploring the extraordinary 20-year journey of missionaries Dave and Karen Eubank. The film follows Dave, Karen, and their three young children, as they venture into war zones where they are fighting to bring hope. Dave Eubank is a rare hero of the faith. He is a former U.S. Special Forces soldier turned missionary to conflict zones. The film is a real life adventure movie. Viewers will follow the family into firefights, heroic rescues, and experience life-changing ministry. In the midst of this unprecedented journey, you will witness amazing lessons of faith from one of the most inspiring families in the world."



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*~Jonathan Shuttlesworth, Evangelist*

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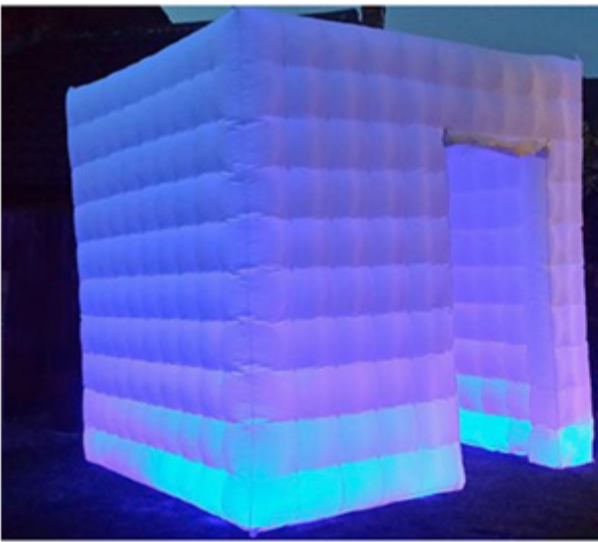
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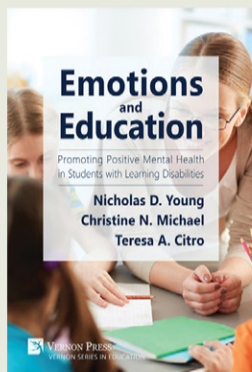
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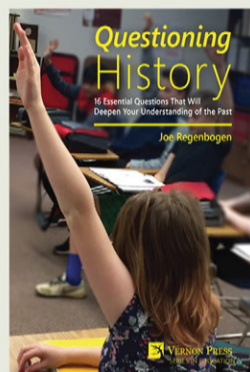
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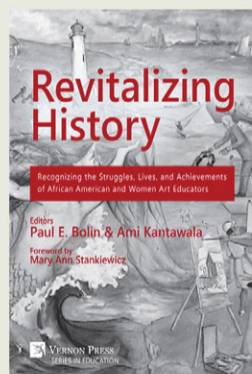
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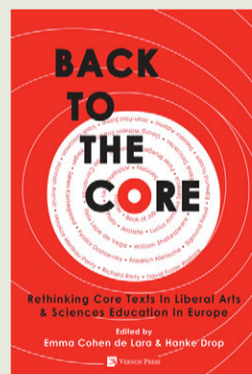
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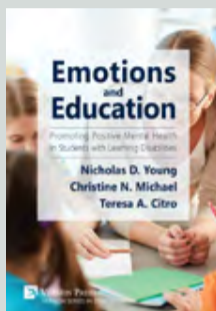


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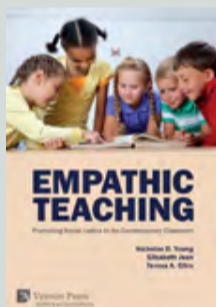


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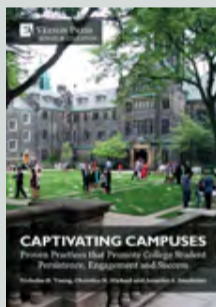


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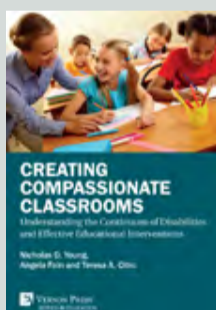


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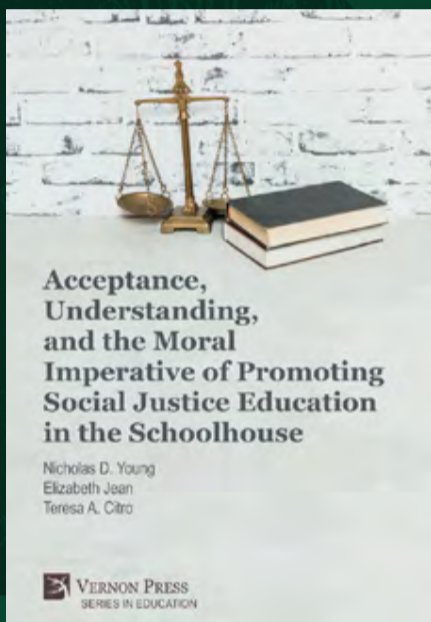
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*“The authors discuss how to use both the Common Core and social justice simultaneously in the classroom as well as how assessment bias plays a role in student performance. This book is of benefit to all educators who wish to dig in a bit deeper into social justice and begin to include more equitable strategies in the classroom.”*

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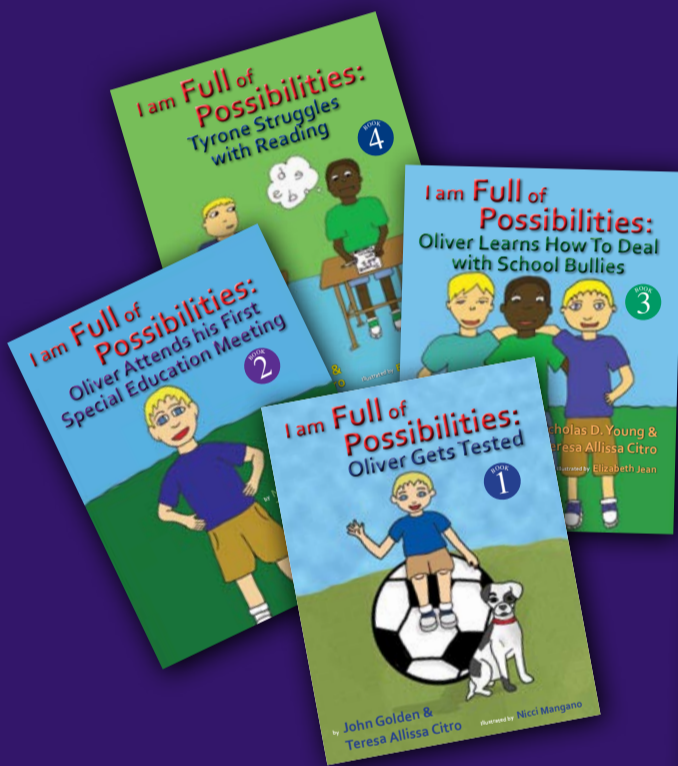
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