

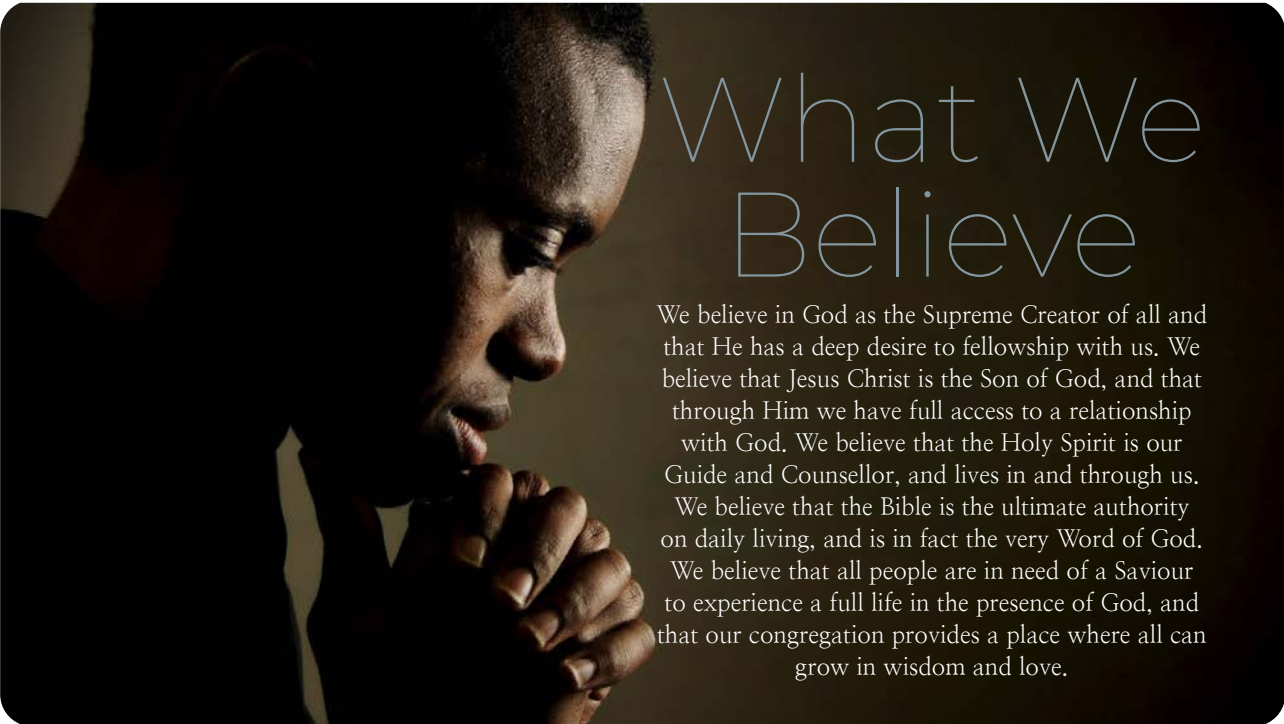
# **my** Faith

*magazine*

January – March 2025  
Issue No.38



**Now, if  
anyone is  
enfolded into  
Christ, he  
has become  
an entirely  
new person.  
All that is  
related to  
the old order  
has vanished.  
Behold,  
everything is  
fresh and new**



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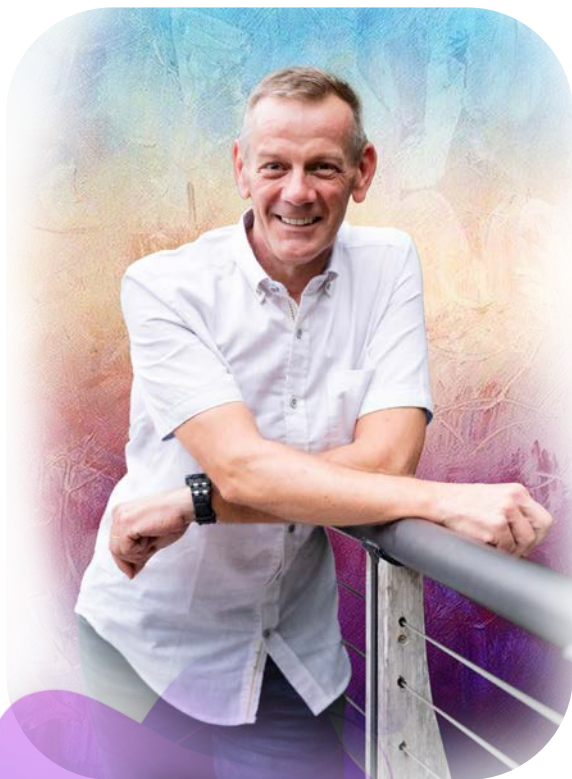
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# EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

The resolutions made to God are not necessarily made when circumstances are desperate. These resolutions are what I like to call Desperation Resolutions. How many of us have been in a situation where we pray prayers such as “God if you do this or that, I promise I will be a better person,” or “I promise to go to church.” I think it would be safe to assume that most people have found them in a situation where such a resolution to God was made. Unfortunately, these resolutions are often also ignored or forgotten in the aftermath of whatever crises caused the promises to be made. And so, the ‘bargains’ made with God are dismissed with a flick of the head and a shrug of the shoulders.

As children of the God, we must be careful about how and when we enter into agreements with God. I am not suggesting that we should never make agreements but saying we must be careful. God has set the precedent in the Bible for making resolutions, or better known as covenant. God often makes covenant with man, and He places great importance on the binding qualities in such covenants.

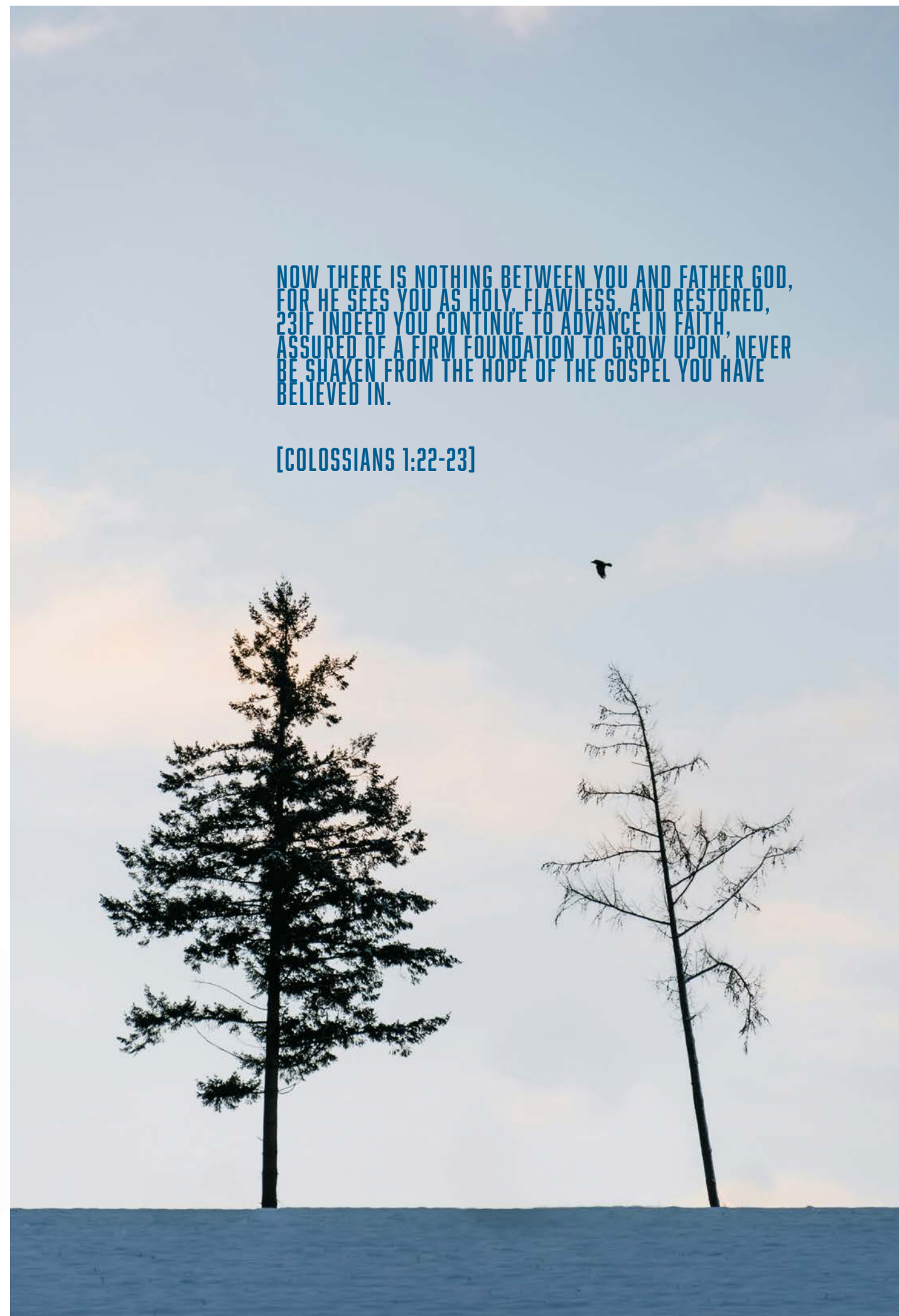
Simply put: WATCH YOUR MOUTH! Do not blabber incoherently in the heat of an emotional moment; do not simply say things without thinking; do not promise things you are not able to uphold later.

Join me today in making a ‘new year’s resolution’ to God : God, as for me, I will sacrifice to You with a voice of thanksgiving and worship You for ever and ever. Amen!

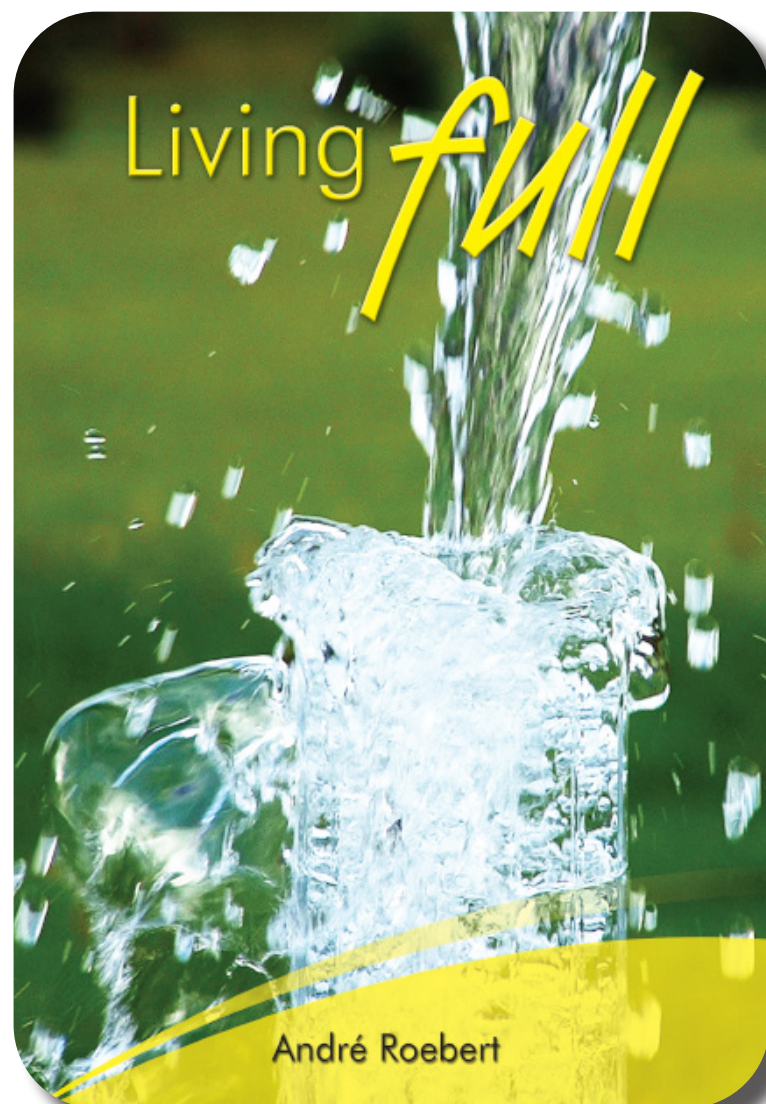
At the start of a new year many people are tricked into making lists of so-called New Year’s Resolutions. Whether it be tradition, peer pressure or simply The-Thing-To-Do, many people end up making promises to themselves, other people and even God on the dawn of a new year. In most cases, however, the inevitability of failure is soon a reality. Perhaps the promises made in the heat of the moment lose their attractiveness or feasibility after a week or so. For most, the New Year’s Resolutions fade away to a meaningless prattle by the end of the first month if not the first week.

NOW THERE IS NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND FATHER GOD,  
FOR HE SEES YOU AS HOLY, FLAWLESS, AND RESTORED,  
23IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE TO ADVANCE IN FAITH,  
ASSURED OF A FIRM FOUNDATION TO GROW UPON, NEVER  
BE SHAKEN FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL YOU HAVE  
BELIEVED IN.

[COLOSSIANS 1:22-23]







**“Beloved, I wish above all things, or I pray that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospers”. 3 John 2**

**A** while ago I came across a rather interesting article. An extensive survey was done on people who were fortunate enough to come into a great amount of money at a particular moment in their lives. The money came to them either through winnings at a casino or lottery or an inheritance. In almost every case, within a year, the recipient of the sudden ‘prosperity’ had lost or squandered every cent and had in some cases even found themselves in a worse financial position than they were in before their ‘stroke of luck’. Somehow their sudden winnings or “prosperity” was just too overwhelming for their character or emotional maturity to handle.

According to the scripture in 3 John, our prosperity and good health are determined and measured directly in proportion to the prosperity of our souls. In other words, the prosperity of our souls is a measuring stick or gauge for the prosperity and good health we are to experience in our lives. In simpler terms, John is saying in the above scripture that the measure by which your soul is prospering is the measure by which you will experience

prosperity and good health in every other area of your life. If your soul is not prospering, don’t expect your lifestyle and health to do anything else than follow suit.

**“...true prosperity, or prosperity in the true sense of the word, is not necessarily surrounding ourselves with all the ‘things’ we desire in life...”**

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And all these things will be added to you besides” Matthew 6:33**

Could it be that true prosperity, or prosperity in the true sense of the word, is not necessarily surrounding ourselves with all the ‘things’ we desire in life, but rather our desire to please first the One who supplies all desires, abundantly. Matthew was simply saying that seeking God first in our lives is the primary means to attract the ‘things’ we desire in life. The scripture teaches that in Christ there is a fullness of life that extends to every part of our lives. Whether it be financial; emotional; physical or mental. It includes healing. It includes protection. It

includes favor and it includes wisdom. True prosperity most certainly speaks of well-being and success and every good thing that comes into our lives.

**“Understanding our call to be vessels of God’s goodness will cause us to step straight into the fullness He has for us.”**

Perhaps one of the most liberating scriptures in the Word concerning God’s intention for us to live prosperous lives is found in Galatians chapter 3. It reads as follows: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. For it is written cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree that the blessing of Abraham might come to you through Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:13,14

The blessing of Abraham that has been passed down to every believer is one of obvious prosperity. God promised that the nations of the earth would be blessed by Abraham and that His great wealth would be a testament of God’s goodness and faithfulness. God’s purpose for blessing us is so that we can be living testimonies of His goodness as we allow His prosperity to flow through us to others. Understanding our call to be vessels of God’s goodness will cause us to step straight into the fullness He has for us. The power of the cross has made for us a sure and clear way to walk in the fullness of life that was intended for us from before the foundations of the earth. The curse of lack and poverty has been cut off and its power broken over our lives. Christ has made the way to prosperity available for us by the finished work of the cross and His Word. He has given us wisdom on how to apply principles of righteousness to obtain prosperity in its fullness. There is no looking back! The responsibility is no longer Christ’s, but ours. We are in fact obligated to take up our God-given purpose to responsibly apply the blood of Jesus and obey His word. Without a doubt, the supernatural benefit of faith-filled obedience to God’s Word is a lifestyle of abundant prosperity!

## ***True Prosperity is enveloped by our Covenant of Peace***

**“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement (needful to obtain) peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes (that wounded) Him, we are healed and made whole.” Isaiah 53:5**

This scripture speaks of our covenant of peace made available to us by the finished work of the cross. This same peace is spoken of in Galatians 5:22 where the fruit of the Holy Spirit is mentioned. The word ‘peace’ comes from the Greek word eirene, which expresses the idea of wholeness, completeness or tranquility in the soul that is unaffected by outward circumstances or pressures. This word eirene strongly suggests the rule of order in place of chaos. A person who is dominated by eirene (peace) has a calm, inner stability that results in the ability to conduct himself peacefully, even amid circumstances that would normally be very traumatic or upsetting. Now the Hebrew counterpart, the word shalom, indicates that this dominating peace ultimately gives rise to prosperity in one’s soul. As well-known Greek scholar and author of ‘Sparkling Gems’, Rick Renner puts it: “Rather than allowing the difficulties and pressures

of life to break him, a person who is possessed by eirene (peace) is whole, complete, stable, and poised for blessing.” To live in true prosperity is to live a life where no lack; harm or brokenness prevails or dominates one’s soul. This does not mean that hard times and tough challenges will not invade our lives. On the contrary, the Word makes it clear that stressful, perilous times are sure to be a reality in our lives. However, when we allow the peace of God to dominate our lives, through our faith in Christ Jesus and His finished work on the cross, along with our determination to live by His word, we are more than conquerors. Being ruled by God’s peace enables us to have the power to victoriously overcome every obstacle and challenge that presents itself.

**“...faith to overcome takes time to develop in our lives, so does the process of the prosperity of our souls.”**

This faith to overcome takes time to develop in our lives, so does the process of the prosperity of our souls. True prosperity does not happen overnight. However, the amount of attention we pay to the principles of righteousness found in the Word of God will be directly proportionate to the increase that pours in and through our lives. True prosperity becomes a lifestyle of learning to walk uprightly before God; a lifestyle that honors His Word above all else. There is much to be said about diligently seeking God first in our lives. The results are nothing less than a life that overflows with abundance of life and goodness. Over the next few chapters of this book, we will delve into seven foundational principles relating to obtaining true prosperity in our lives. I believe that these foundations will give you a clearer understanding of what true prosperity really is and so direct you in the right direction and along the accurate path towards living a life that is truly representative of God’s very best for you.

*(Excerpt from the book LIVING FULL)*





# THE LOVE REVOLUTION

Joyce Meyer

Revolution. The word itself sparks hope, ignites passion, and inspires loyalty like no other word in the human vocabulary. Throughout history, the idea of a revolution has poured fuel on firebrands and injected courage in the fainthearted. Revolutions have rallied those in search of a cause larger than themselves and given previously aimless men and women a cause they were willing to die for. They have birthed great leaders and bred great followers; they have literally changed the world.

A revolution is a sudden, radical, and complete change from the way things are normally done. Revolutions are usually ignited by one person or a very small group of people who are unwilling to continue living the way they have lived in the past. They believe something can and must change and they keep promoting their ideas until a groundswell movement begins and ultimately changes the situation, often in radical ways.

The world has experienced revolutions in the past, as governments known to be taking advantage of their citizens were overthrown. This happened in the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and the Russian Revolution (also called the Bolshevik Revolution), to name a few. Revolutions also took place as outdated, ineffective systems or ways of doing things were replaced and as old ways of thinking gave way to new ideas, such as took place in the Scientific Revolution or the Industrial Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson said, “Every generation needs a new revolution,” and I believe now is the time for the world’s next revolution, the greatest revolution of all. We don’t need the same kinds of revolutions that have dotted the landscape of world history in the generations before us; we don’t need a revolution based on politics, economies, or technology; we need a Love Revolution.

We need to overthrow the dominance of selfish, self-centered living in our lives. Nothing will change in our world unless each one of us is willing to change. We often wish the world would change without stopping to realize that the condition of the world is the result of the way we live our individual lives and of the choices we make every day.

If every person on the planet knew how to receive and give love, our world would be a radically different place. I think we all know something is wrong in society and that it needs to be fixed, but nobody seems to know what to do or how to begin

making changes. Our reaction to a world out of control is to complain and think someone should do something. We think and say that perhaps God or the government or someone else in authority needs to take action. But the truth is, each one of us has to do something. We must learn to live life from a totally different viewpoint than we have had. We must be willing to learn, to change, and to admit that we are part of the problem.

We cannot fix what we don’t understand, so our first need is to locate the root of the problem. Why are the majority of people unhappy? Why is there so much violence in families, neighborhoods, cities, and nations? Why are people so angry? You may be thinking these things happen because of sin. You may say, “People are sinful. That is the problem.” I agree in theory, but would like to approach the problem from a practical viewpoint that we all deal with daily. I firmly believe the root of all these issues and many others is selfishness. Selfishness is, of course, the outworking of sin. It is a person saying, “I want what I want and I am going to do whatever I need to do to get it.” Sin exists whenever a person goes against God and His ways.

We tend to live “backwards”—exactly opposite of the way we should live. We live for ourselves and yet we never seem to end up with what satisfies us. We should live for others and learn the wonderful secret that what we give away comes back to us multiplied many times over. I like the way a famous Doctor named Luke put it: *“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity” (Luke 6:38, The Message).*

In many societies owning, possessing, and controlling have become people’s number-one goal. Everyone wants to be “number one,” which automatically indicates that a lot of people will be disappointed, since only one can be number one at any time in any given area. Only one person can be the number one runner in the world; only one can be the president of the company or the best-known actor or actress on stage or screen. Only one can be the top author or the best painter in the world. While I believe we should all be goal-oriented and do our best, I don’t believe we should want everything for ourselves and care nothing about other people.

I have lived for 65 years at the writing of this book, and I suppose that alone qualifies me to know a few things. At least I have lived long enough to have tried

a variety of ways to be happy and have discovered by virtue of elimination what works and what does not. Selfishness does not make life work the way it was intended to work and is definitely not God’s will for mankind. I believe I can prove in this book that selfishness is indeed the major problem we face today worldwide and that an aggressive movement to eliminate it is our answer. We need to declare war on selfishness. We need a Love Revolution.

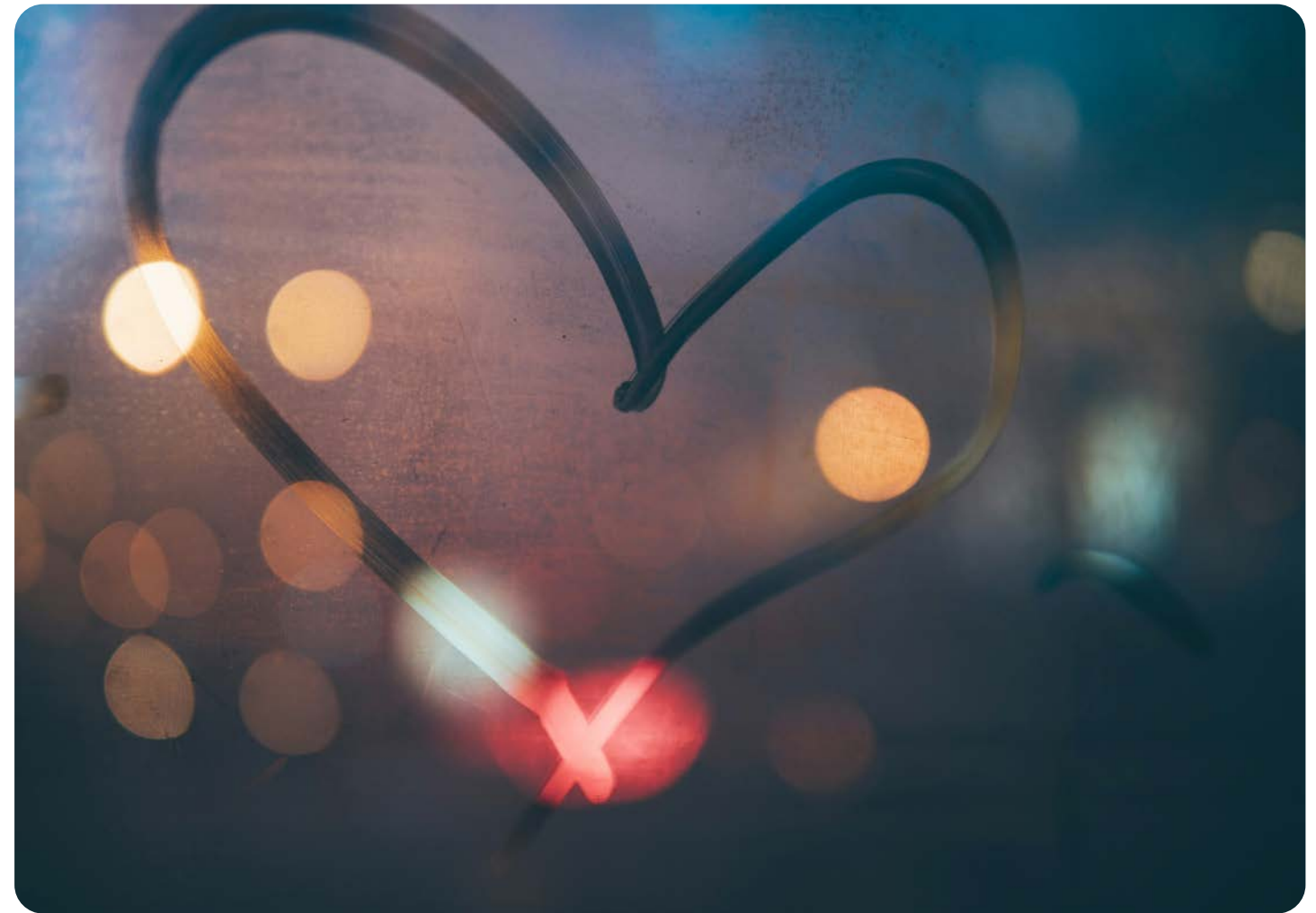
Love must be more than a theory or a word; it has to be action. It must be seen and felt. God is love! Love is and has always been His idea. He came to love us, to teach us how to love Him, and to teach us how to love ourselves and others.

When we do this, life is beautiful; when we don’t, nothing works properly. Love is the answer to selfishness because love gives while selfishness takes. We must be delivered from ourselves, and Jesus came for that very purpose, as we see in II Corinthians 5:15: “And He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake.”

Recently, as I was pondering all the terrible problems in the world, such as millions of starving children, AIDS, war, oppression, human trafficking, incest, and much more, I asked God, “How can You stand to see all that goes on the world and do nothing?” I heard God say in my spirit, “I work through people. I am waiting for My people to rise up and do something.” You may be thinking, as millions of others do, I know the world has problems, but they are so massive what can I do that will make a difference? That is exactly the kind of thinking that has kept us paralyzed while evil has continued to triumph. We must stop thinking about what we cannot do and begin to do what we can do. In this book, I and some guest writers I have invited to join me will share with you many ideas and ways you can be part of a new movement that has the ability to bring radical, positive change.

I refuse to stand by any longer and do nothing while the world spirals downward. I may not be able to solve all the problems I see, but I will do what I can do. My prayer is that you will join me in taking a stand against injustice and be willing to make a radical shift in the way you approach life. Life can no longer be all about what others can do for us, but it must be about what we can do for them.

Every movement needs a motto or a creed to live by.



At Joyce Meyer Ministries we have prayerfully crafted a covenant that we have committed to live by. Will you join us?:

- I take up compassion and surrender my excuses.
- I stand against injustice and commit to live out simple acts of God’s love.
- I refuse to do nothing; this is my resolve.
- I am the Love Revolution.

I pray that these words will also become your creed—the new standard by which you live. You must not wait to see what someone else chooses to do, and

you dare not wait to see if the movement becomes popular. This is something you must decide for yourself, a commitment you alone must choose to make. Ask yourself: “Will I continue being part of the problem or will I be part of the answer?” I have decided to be part of the answer. Love will be the central theme of my life. What about you? Will you perpetuate the problems in the world today? Will you ignore them or pretend they don’t exist? Or will you join the Love Revolution?





# EDUCATION VS. CERTIFICATION

Martie Du Plessis

It amazes me how many parents diverge from their core responsibility when confronted with the schooling of their children. Parents begin their families by teaching their children foundational values and knowledge, yet once their children enter institutions like crèches, daycare, preschool, or formal school, many parents start doubting their ability to continue this process. This insecurity often arises from a shift in focus. Parents move from educating their children to pursuing certificates that they believe signify success. In their quest for these certificates—symbols of a “quality education” to prepare their children for adulthood—parents often relinquish their educational role. Instead, they become spectators in a process where their authority is gradually diminished.

Parents tolerate numerous unnecessary demands on their families, such as hours spent in traffic, late-night homework, unhealthy friendships, strenuous schedules, and exorbitant school fees, all for the sake of acquiring a certificate. Rarely do they stop to ask: “Are these sacrifices truly benefiting my child, beyond obtaining a certificate?”

## The South African Context

In South Africa, the educational system faces serious challenges. The matric certificate, once considered a ticket to employment or further studies, now offers little security. This has led many parents to reevaluate their values and the importance they place on certification.

The term “matric” refers to the qualification obtained at the end of formal schooling. Historically, matric was governed by university heads and served as a standard for university admission. However, since 1994, control of matric has been transferred to the Minister of Education. The curriculum has since been influenced by political ideologies, which has contributed to the growing demand for alternative routes to matriculation.

Until 2008, anyone could write the matric exam by studying independently. However, regulations now require candidates to attend registered schools full-time from Grades 10 to 12. This change has limited access to the traditional matric pathway. Currently, there are two primary routes to obtaining a matric:

- Academic Matric: Options include the National Senior Certificate (NSC, International);
- Occupational Courses: These are equivalent to a matric. There are limited opportunities to complete the ‘old matric,’ but the government plans to introduce an adult matric option in the future. The most common academic matric qualifications in South Africa are the National Senior Certificate (NSC), also known as Grade 12, and the international Cambridge qualification. Additionally, learners can pursue a GED (General Educational Development) or SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) qualification. For more information, visit [www.sahomeschoolers.org](http://www.sahomeschoolers.org) and follow the Matric link.

## The State of Education

The effectiveness of South Africa’s education system is questionable. Prof. Jansen, rector of the University of the Free State, cited a World Economic Forum survey ranking South Africa’s public education 133rd out of 142 countries. He remarked, “Education has not improved over many years in South Africa, and all the promises made have not borne good fruit.” Similarly, Errol Naidoo, founder of the Family Policy Institute, lamented that, “The dismal state of education is beginning to bear its tragic fruit.” Alarming, only 4% of matriculants currently secure employment.

These realities expose the narrowness of placing hope solely in certification. Education should go beyond acquiring certificates; it must involve holistic development—cultivating a person’s inner resources, skills, and values to contribute meaningfully to society. True education emphasizes character and motivation, focusing on the heart of the child.

## A Paradigm Shift

To address these challenges, schools and parents must prioritize equipping children with 21st century skills and values. While many schools strive to develop learners’ full potential through academics and extracurricular activities, a certificate alone does not guarantee success. A child may leave school unchanged in heart and values, leaving parents to question where their trust and efforts should be placed.

## The Role of Parents and Communities

Authentic education begins at home. Parents are the primary educators, tasked with instilling values and nurturing their children’s development. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us: “Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it.”

Parents and like-minded communities should collaborate to raise responsible, capable adults. This can be achieved through home education, learning centers with strong mentorship, or other alternative pathways tailored to each child’s needs. True education considers a child’s God-given design and potential, aligning efforts with a higher purpose.

## Examples of Hope

Efforts to reform education are emerging. For instance, the Hope for Education in South Africa Summit in 2012 gathered church leaders to address the nation’s educational struggles. Participants committed to active involvement in aiding the poor, sick, and suffering, while advocating for governmental recognition of religious bodies as key partners in fostering change.

Similarly, Errol Naidoo emphasizes the need for Christian communities to intensify their focus on education, warning against the detrimental effects of liberal, humanistic values in the current schooling system. He

calls on parents to reclaim their roles as primary educators, guiding their children through values-driven education.

## Conclusion

My challenge to parents is to give certificates their rightful, limited place and to prioritize true education, as commanded by God. Parents and communities must take responsibility for shaping their children into capable adults by combining skills and resources. Learning centers with the right ethos can complement home education to provide comprehensive development.

It is the role of governments to protect (Acts 21:27–37), punish (1 Peter 2:13–14), and promote (1 Timothy 2:1–2). However, it is the parents’ role to educate (Joshua 24:15). In our fatherless generation, the future will not change by altering systems but by transforming the hearts of fathers and equipping them to lead their families. By God’s grace, movements like Dynamis inspire young fathers to embrace their roles, creating a secure foundation for real change.

**WE WILL NOT CHANGE THE FUTURE OF A NATION BY CHANGING SYSTEMS, BUT WE CAN CHANGE IT BY CHANGING THE HEARTS OF FATHERS.**



@uncappededucation





# THE MIRACLE WORKER

Angus Buchan



Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). I just want to confirm that this is really the case. A while back I went to Uppington for a campaign. The people, who had been spending a lot of time fasting and praying, were very excited. Flying from the green hills of Natal, where we experience over 40 inches of rain every year, we flew around Lesotho and landed in Bloemfontein to refuel. We continued our flight west towards Namibia, and the further we flew, the drier and more barren the landscape became. When we passed Kimberley I started saying, "Lord, where are the people coming from because nobody lives out here?"

I've previously had the privilege of touring the outback of Australia, but what I was seeing was even more barren and deserted! All of a sudden I saw what looked like a bright ribbon, which turned out to be the Orange River. Like an oasis I saw Uppington in the distance, spreading out on either side of the river, its obvious life source. They grow some of the finest dates in the world and they have a very up to date processing factory there.

We were expecting a turnout of thousands of people

and I was still saying, 'Lord, where are they going to come from?' God is amazing. He is indeed a miracle working God because the stadium was packed! There must have been over eight thousand people there, all expectant. As a result God did amazing miracles because He honours faith. These people organized a campaign in the middle of the Kalahari Desert and something happened that I've never seen before in thirty years of preaching: when I made the altar call, literally the whole stadium came to the altar! Of those who came forward about 75-85% made first time commitments for Jesus Christ.

The Kalahari hardly gets any rain, but when it does, it comes around October or November. As we flew back the next day, passing Harrismith we engaged huge, turbulent winds and it threw the light aircraft all over the place. Thanks to good pilots Dirk Ardendorff and Etienne Gerber (flying for Zululand Mission Aviation Trust), and us praying fervently, we got back home safely, albeit slightly nauseous. The next day we got a phone call to say that it has been raining in Uppington, totally out of season, but I firmly believe with all my heart that it was a sign and favour from God.

We read the story where Jesus was fast asleep in the midst of a great storm (Mark 4). He must have been exhausted from all His preaching and the disciples woke him up and said 'teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' Jesus got up and rebuked the wind, it died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

I want to say to you no matter what you are going through at the moment, how hard it's been or how hard it's going to be, I know that the Lord Jesus Christ is alive and well! He has confirmed His word through the elements and of course, being a farmer, it means so much more to me because it is actually life that He is showing us in a tangible and a physical way. There is nothing too hard for God! If you can believe God, He will do it for you and there is nothing, I repeat, nothing, too hard or too big for Him. He did it in Uppington and He can do it for you. The greatest miracle for me was not that it rained but that the whole stadium repented as a people and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.



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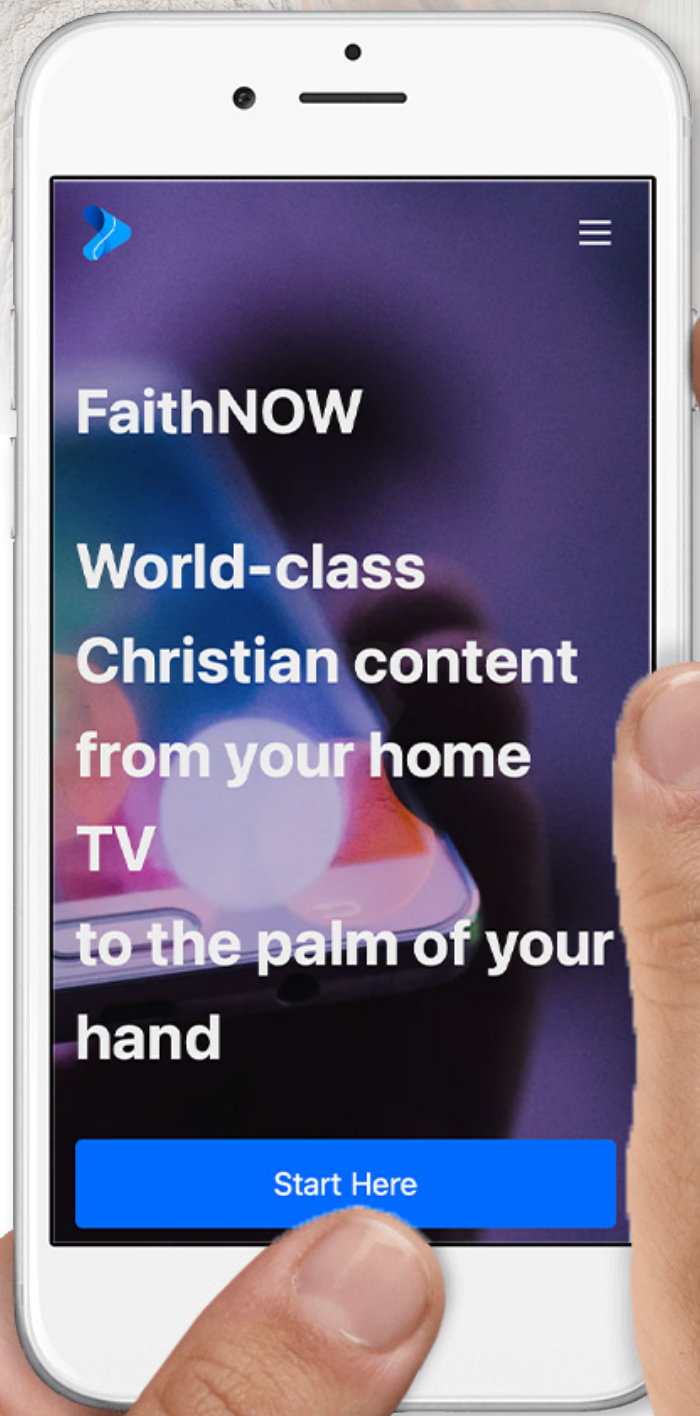
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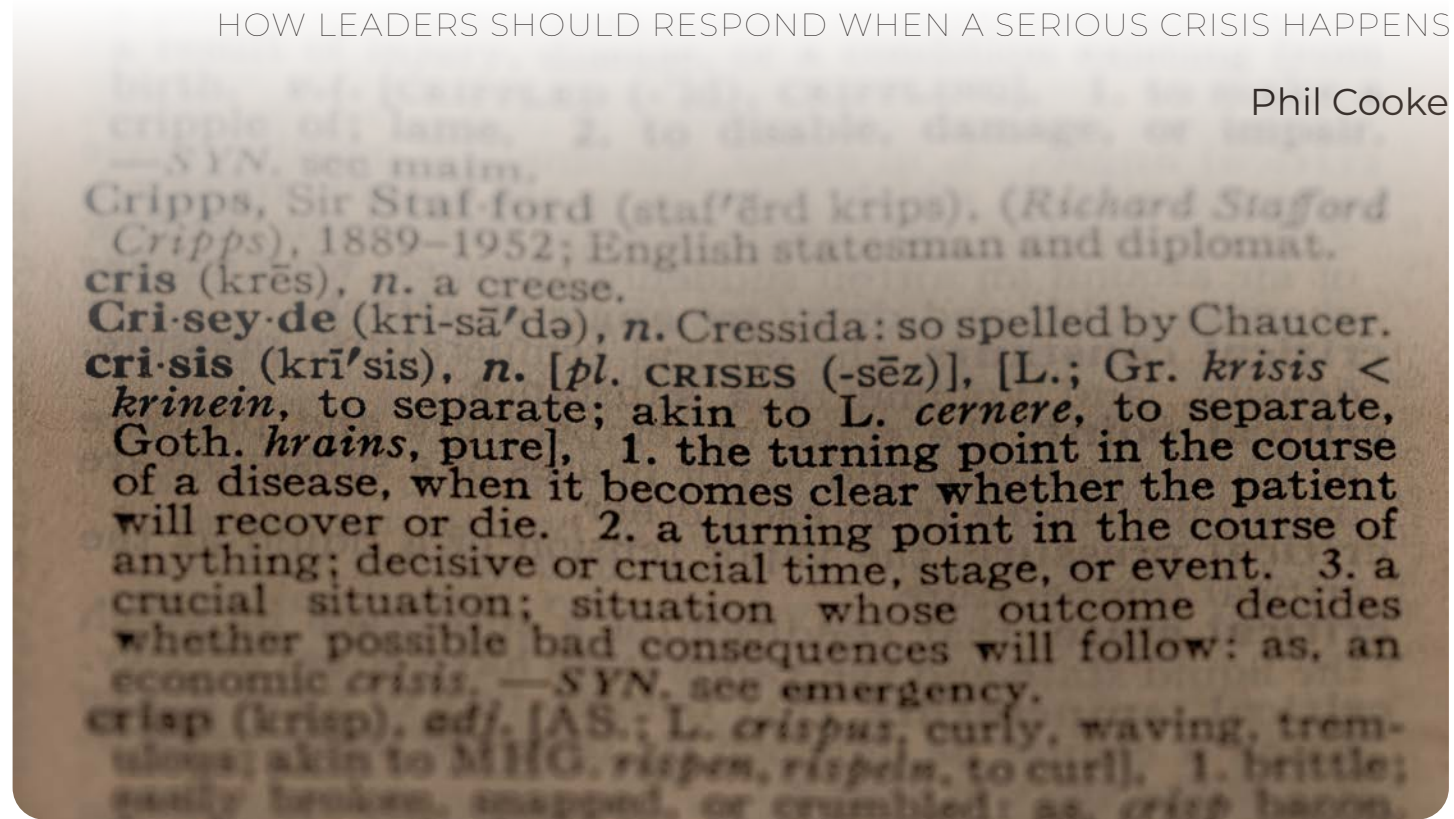
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# THE FIRST 48 HOURS

HOW LEADERS SHOULD RESPOND WHEN A SERIOUS CRISIS HAPPENS

Phil Cooke



You're a pastor, senior church leader, or lead a growing ministry. You've been a faithful shepherd your entire career and always sought what's best for your church family. But out of the blue, and with no warning at all, you just got the call you hoped you'd never receive:

A respected member of your staff has confessed or been caught in a serious moral failure.

It could be embezzling money, an adulterous affair, a drunk driving arrest, possession of pornography, illegal drugs, or sexual abuse. Whatever the accusation, you have to respond. But this isn't covered in seminary or Bible college, so what do you do?

Over my career as a media producer and communication professional, I've helped a significant number of churches navigate these exact situations. And when I take the call, the pastor, ministry leader, elders, or board members are usually blindsided. They had no idea how it could have happened and, worse – no idea how to respond.

It goes without saying that a spiritual leader's moral, financial, sexual, or other sin can have a significant and often devastating impact on the church or ministry. Aside from the theological and scriptural implications, a significant trust issue is involved, and in many cases, one or more victims.

As a result, churches and ministries take a heavy hit when a leader is accused of financial mismanagement, engages in unethical or illegal actions, or worse, is involved in abusive sexual behavior. How you react in the first 48 hours is critical in these cases. Every situation is different, often requiring different actions to address various crises. But having advised numerous organizations through these difficult situations, and based on my book “Church on Trial: How to Protect Your Congregation, Mission, and Reputation During a Crisis,” here is a good general list of recommendations on the actions you should take during the first 48 hours:

**1. Act quickly.** In our digital era, it's not just our theology, legal, or moral

principles at issue; it's about telling the truth and getting the facts straight. Otherwise, things can quickly spin out of control in our media-driven culture, and rumors and lies will mount up. When that happens, your congregation, donors, and the general public start losing trust, and trust is incredibly hard to rebuild. You can spend decades building trust, but all that work can topple in an instant. In today's text message and email universe, word travels fast, so you're living in a dream if you believe you can hide it or keep a lid on it for long.

**2. Your first call should be to get your attorney's advice.** Especially if it involves offenses like sexual abuse with minors or downloading child pornography, not reporting it promptly can be a crime in itself. There have been pastors who had nothing to do with the abuse and yet were threatened with prosecution simply because they didn't report the situation to authorities. An experienced attorney can help guide you through that process and will know which authorities to notify.

Along that line, it's worth noting that any sexual relationship with an employee or church member is also considered sexual abuse because of the power dynamic involved. Aspects of the relationship, such as if a salary is on the line, or they highly respect or feel they should submit to a spiritual leader, etc, are coercive by nature – even when both parties are adults. So, never let a perpetrator pass something like that off as consensual – because it isn't.

**3. Be concerned and helpful to all parties – immediately.** For instance, in the case of a leader being accused of a sexual violation, even if you think he or she is innocent, never criticize or demean the other party involved. Particularly at this early date, no one knows everything about the situation, so never come across as harsh or unfeeling towards the person making the accusation.

There have been major churches and ministries whose leadership initially dismissed or ridiculed the accuser, only to discover within weeks or months that he or she was right. Those critical elders or staff members were humiliated and often forced to step down. I recommend you act out of authentic and genuine concern, arrange counseling or medical treatment, and do what you can to help that victim. Even during the initial chaos, don't forget that abuse can leave a

lifetime of psychological damage, so the immediate offer of counseling and assistance with spiritual and psychological issues is paramount.

**4. Get communications advice from a professional.** Good attorneys can help with legal issues, but an experienced crisis communications and media professional can help you know what to say, how to say it, and when to say it. Many of the crises we've seen in the headlines over the last few years were made worse because of the poor way they were communicated to the church and the general public. Writing official statements and press releases can be tricky, and setting up a press conference can backfire. Talk to someone who has been there and can help you plan. The cost will not only save an enormous amount down the road, but it can also save the church's reputation.

Especially in the case of an outside crisis or natural disaster, a communication professional can also help activate a crisis team if necessary. These are key leaders in your organization who understand the situation, can be trusted to deliver an accurate story, and are good on their feet. Get them together, go over the situation, and implement your plan.

**5. If possible, break the news to your church family first.** This is indeed a family, and they need to be told in person. Don't email the news; tell it to them live if possible. Sometimes, it's difficult if the problem happens early in the week because the word gets out. But if possible, and especially if the news comes to light toward the end of the week, I advocate sharing the truth with the congregation first. They deserve to hear the real story, not rumors, gossip, or through the local news.

Email is acceptable for updates down the road, but whenever possible, the immediate news should be shared face-to-face. Remember that these people have faithfully supported the church for years, sacrificed financially, sat under the teaching of the pastor and other church leaders, and volunteered thousands of hours for church outreaches.

Rusty George, lead pastor of Real Life Church in Southern California, puts it this way: “How do we manage a crisis when we're in the middle of it? Think about the impact as a series of concentric circles. First, evaluate who is the closest to the blast zone in this crisis. What do they need first and how can you help them? Then, think about your staff and how to communicate what's happening and how much to share. Next, ask yourself what the church needs to know, and finally, what the community needs to know.”

Granted, if it's a case requiring immediate notification of local law enforcement, there are many opportunities for leaks. But the staff and the congregation deserve to hear the real story.

**6. Speaking of sharing the story, always lead with the facts.** Don't hide, embellish, or deflect. It will always come back to haunt you. That doesn't mean you blurt out everything you know, and sometimes, especially in the case of minors, there are privacy issues. And for the record, it's not always appropriate to include lurid details (if any), but you do need to be honest and share the truth – according to what you know at the time.

**7. Don't waste time initially worrying about the cause.** Should something happen, it's crucial to remember the one thing you should never do when you're knee-deep in a crisis: Waste time wondering why it happened.

Why it happened is important, but there will be plenty of time for that later. But in the heat of the moment, while the clock is ticking, isn't the time to debate, discuss, or argue about why what went wrong went wrong. The minute you do that, you start falling behind in your response, helping the victim (if any), assurances to the congregation, donors, and the public that you're taking care of it, and, in some cases, communicating with the media. The problem happened, so let's deal with it for now. We'll have plenty of time in the future to examine what caused the problem and make the proper changes.

**8. When it's called for, develop a statement for the press that you've written with the advice of your attorney and communication advisor.** It needs to be clear and express the truth about what happened. But

one thing that most church leaders fail to include is to outline the steps you're taking to remedy the situation. For instance, if the problem was an abusive situation in the youth group, what policies are you putting in place to ensure it never happens again? Without that step, parents will be understandably slow to keep their kids involved.

Remember—the more you hide, the more people will assume you're not telling the whole truth.

**9. Finally, I recommend scrubbing the disgraced leader from all communications.** If a pastor, ministry leader, or other staff member is a public figure, has published books, or produced teaching content online, or on social media, radio or television, pull that content immediately across all platforms. Unless you do that, it will appear that you're condoning the perpetrator. Plus, once the accusations go public, critics will use those images and clips to ridicule the church or organization. So get your web and media team to pull online video, TV programs, websites, or social media platforms that feature that leader. After all, you want the congregation to begin focusing on the future, and constantly seeing products, social media posts, or other resources from the fallen leader is confusing and distracting.

Now that you know the steps to take once a crisis happens, here are three things I recommend you do right now:

## PREPARE FOR A CRISIS AHEAD OF TIME.

Research shows that organizations that have a crisis plan recover much more quickly (and with less cost) than those that don't. And don't think a crisis can't happen to you. In today's complex, Internet-driven world, the chances your church or ministry will have problems have only increased. With the advent of social media, someone on your team has a greater opportunity to post something inappropriate or say something they'll probably regret. And don't forget that the minute you get upset at someone, chances are, someone is recording the incident on their phone. That's why I advise you to pray and hope for the best, but always have a plan if something goes wrong.

## KNOW YOUR RISK FOR LIABILITY.

Accidents and lawsuits happen, and a good insurance policy can literally save the church. Because there is such a wide range of potential crisis situations, you don't want to bring the entire church down because of legal expenses. Particularly in the case of physical accidents on church property, financial mismanagement, or other liability issues, good insurance policies could save the day. I can't tell you the number of churches that have been forced to close because of the financial cost of a crisis, and church members were innocent people caught in the crossfire. So talk to your insurance agent as well as your attorney and make sure you're covered for these types of situations.

## IF YOUR CHURCH IS PART OF A DENOMINATION OR NETWORK, BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THOSE RESOURCES.

There is often a wide range of information, expertise, and resources available, and access to those assets can make a dramatic difference in the outcome.

In the event of any crisis, be ready for criticism of all kinds because even some Christians, inexperienced in these matters, will criticize a crisis plan as not being spiritual or trying to manipulate the truth. But it's not about manipulation, it's about being honest. It's not about contriving a story, it's about revealing the truth. However – it needs to be handled appropriately so more lives aren't damaged, and the church doesn't suffer even more.

While some may think this strategy is harsh or insensitive, the scrutiny can be white-hot. Without the proper response, negative press coverage, social media criticism, and word of mouth can destroy an otherwise great church or ministry.

And that's an important point. You don't want a victim's life destroyed or a great work undermined because of the thoughtless, inappropriate, or abusive actions of one person.

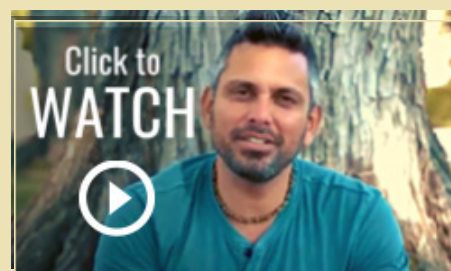


# CHAIM MALESPIN

## GALILEE, ISRAEL

CoFounder and Chairman of the board of directors at the charity, **Aliyah Return Center (ARC)**, registered in Israel as a 501(c)(3). Chaim (HIGH-EM) Malespin is a passionate visionary who strives to educate Christians and lovers of Israel from around the world about the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith.

With a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations, Chaim and the **ARC ministry** focus on education, infrastructural development, innovation and Aliyah.



Watch as Chaim Malespin explains his vision for the Aliyah Return Center.

### CHAIM'S EXPERTISE

- Restoration of Israel
- Entrepreneur
- Sergeant major in the Israel Defense Forces (has been through a few wars)
- Ordained congregational leader in the Galilee
- Bridge builder between Israel and the nations

### AVAILABILITY

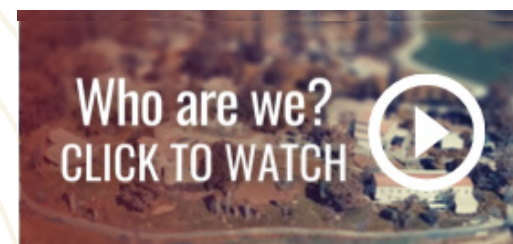
- Chaim Malespin is most widely available between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- Available via phone, WhatsApp, Zoom or Skype. Via email at [watchaliyah@gmail.com](mailto:watchaliyah@gmail.com)
- Time zone: Jerusalem time (ET + 6 hours).

## ABOUT ARC [CLICK TO VISIT »](#)

Aliyah Return Center (ARC) is an Israel-based registered nonprofit organization, helping Jewish new immigrants establish roots in the land of Israel and thrive. A ministry built on a foundation of love in uncompromising faith with a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations through:

- Education
- Innovation
- Infrastructural Development
- Aliyah aid

ARC mobilizes the church to embrace God's call to serve His people and stand as ambassadors/advocates for Israel and the Jewish people through various initiatives such as their Ambassador Academy, Internships, Volunteering, Joint Torah Studies, and various worship events.



## WHAT IS ALIYAH?

Aliyah is defined as the immigration of Jews to Israel, but at the Aliyah Return Center, the meaning goes much deeper.

[64 ALIYAH SCRIPTURES DIGITAL DOWNLOAD »](#)

To book an interview, contact Karen Hepp / [Karen@InfinityConcepts.com](mailto:Karen@InfinityConcepts.com)

# ARE YOU AN INNOVATOR?

Myles Munroe



Eyes that look are common, but eyes that see are rare. How are you living your life? Are you being guided by looking at your circumstances through your natural eyes alone, or are you seeing life with the eyes of a visionary, innovative leader? Vision is the capacity to see beyond your eyes, and it is the attitude of innovation that sets the visionary leader apart from followers.

What is innovation? Innovation is the capacity to create new approaches and concepts to deal with old and new challenges. It is the perceptivity to see possibilities in the combination of old and new concepts. In other words, you have to be able to think in new ways. Why is innovation important? Our world is in crisis. Many people are feeling the effects of economic hardship. Many countries, particularly Third World nations, constantly suffer from crisis caused by corrupt leadership or impeded national development. However, crisis can be an opportunity. Crisis exposes that perhaps a tradition has come to an end. The courage for innovation must be born.

The attitude of innovation allows you to see a solution for crisis. This attitude is seen in the Leader of leaders, Jesus Christ. Jesus was in the countryside, and there were over 5,000 people who had been with Him for three days. They ran out of food. Jesus' staff said, "Send them away." Jesus told His disciples, "They don't have to go home. You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:15-16). Think about it. There were about 5,000 men plus women and children. The disciples requested

that the people be sent away because they had concluded that there was no way to feed the crowd. Therefore, the logical solution would be to send them away to the village. However, it was a three-day walk; they would starve.

A true leader does not believe that there is no way. The worst word that comes to my ears is the word "can't." In my leadership philosophy, there is no such thing. It might be honest to say that you have not figured out a way to solve a problem; however, in this case, Jesus challenged the disciples' conclusion that it was impossible to feed the 12,000 people [5,000 men plus women and children]. Jesus challenged them to think beyond their conclusion. As the biblical story goes on, Jesus continued to insist that the disciples feed the people. They stated that they only had five loaves and two fish. Jesus then told them to bring to Him what they stated was the only thing that they had. Then He directed them to seat the people. Jesus gave them instructions that indicated that something was about to happen that they never imagined. That is what leaders do. Leaders have an attitude of innovation. This story of innovative leadership still inspires us today.

Jesus' leadership style shows us that true leadership demands that we always consider new ways to solve old problems. Whether the leadership position is over a church, business, or family, leaders should not

walk by sight. To evaluate if you are viewing things as an innovator, consider three ways innovative leaders see life differently, as demonstrated by Jesus and His disciples. Firstly, innovators initiate solutions. Secondly, they place demands on the potential of people. When Jesus told the disciples to feed the people, He was drawing on something that He knew they had. Thirdly, innovators test the creativity of their team. If you have a problem, you can call your group together and tell them to come up with a solution. You may know the answer, but inspire them to think and innovate.

Are you wondering if you are an innovator? Wonder no more. Your ability to innovate is inherent. You have within you the capacity to be innovative because you were made in the image of the most innovative Spirit that ever existed. Our spiritual relationship with the Creator gives us access to resources beyond the natural. There are some things that I have discovered to solve problems that I could not have thought about without a relationship with the supernatural. The essence of leadership is innovation. Establish a strong connection with your Source and begin to believe that all things are possible.





# PERFECT BALANCE OF COLOR

Rory Smith-Belton

orange melamine, the type that would provide the perfect definition to the word gaudy, was an excellent, if not perfect choice for a cupboard covering. We lived with that kitchen assaulting our eyes for over a decade until my mother had decided it was enough. The new look was a much cleaner blend of white with wooden accessories. It was the perfect antidote to Agent Orange. That is, up to about six years ago...

You know, when God makes something, He makes it perfectly. Effortlessly, he blends the warm and arid hues of the desert with the azure majesty of the heavens. Jungles, abundant in green are generously lavished with bursts of radiant colour that adorn the beautiful creatures. Tropical fish are coated in mesmerising visual melodies giving life to the crystal sea of the islands. Without doubt, He is the foremost interior and exterior designer.

It's interesting to me how we dedicate copious amounts of our personal time, the same time we normally complain about not having enough of, to creating and perfecting our living spaces. We watch television programs dedicated to home makeovers. We scour the internet poring over the latest trends and unearthing clever tips. Occasionally we drool over magazines and variety programmes that showcase some of the most opulent and exquisite examples of modern living. We deliberate over new colours, furniture and arrangements all the while working to save our money to make these dreams our new reality. Yet, given time, the same building or room project, will become outdated, losing its appeal and charm.

When I look through old photos of our family home, I begin to chuckle when I find the pictures of our kitchen. Somewhere between the 1970s and 1980s, before we had moved in, someone must have decided that bright



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# SOCIAL MEDIA

This department facilitates the Faith Group by establishing and/or maintaining the following websites / social networking sites:

## OUR WEBSITES

Faith Broadcasting Network - myfaith.tv

Daily Devotions - devotions.myfaithtv.com

Faith AFRICA - africa.myfaith.tv

River Hotels - riverhotels.com

Faith TV - usa.myfaith.tv

River Spa - riverspa.co.za

Faith UK - uk.myfaith.tv

FaithNOW - faithnow.net

Faith Cares - myfaithcares.com

Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples.com

Faith Missions - faithcares.myfaith.tv

MyFaith Magazine - magazine.myfaith.tv

Faith Bible Institute - faithbi.com

Faith Global Institute - online.faithgi.com

Faith Kidz - faithkidz.tv

Faith Dome - dome.myfaith.tv

Audio Downloads - dl.myriver.com

Christian Events Diary - diary.myfaithtv.com



## OUR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



### FACEBOOK

MyFaith TV – myfaithtv  
NXT - theNXTlive  
FaithNOW - faithnowapp

Faith Church Buffalo City - faithchurchbuffalocity  
Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples

André & Jenny – andrejenny

Faith Global Institute - faithglobalinstitute  
Faith Cares - myfaithcares  
Faith Missions - myfaithmissions

River Hotels - riverhotels  
Tenahead Lodge - TenaheadLodgeandSpa  
Halyards Hotel - HalyardsHotelandSpa



### TWITTER

André & Jenny - @andrejenny

Faith Broadcasting Network - @MyFaithTv

FaithNOW - @faithnowapp

River Hotels - @RiverHotels



### INSTAGRAM

Andre & Jenny - @andreandjenny  
Faith Bible Institue - @myfaithbiafrica  
Faith Broadcasting Network - @myfaithtv  
Faith Church Buffalo City - @faithchurchbuffalocity  
Faith Church Naples - @faithchurchnaples  
Faith Global Institute – @faithglobalinstitute  
FaithNOW - @faithnowapp  
Faith Missions - @myfaithmissions  
NXT - @thenxt.tv

River Hotels - @riverhotels  
Tenahead Lodge - @tenaheadlodgeandspa  
Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa - @tsitsikammalodgeandspa



### YOUTUBE CHANNELS

Faith TV - @faithbroadcastingnetwork  
The NXT - @thenxtlive

# WEB PORTALS

## GROUP PORTAL | myfaithglobal.com

### The Faith Group.

Dedicated to the effective spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world.



Broadcasting



Ministry



Education



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## EDUCATION PORTAL | faithgi.com



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Learn Anytime, Anywhere. Accelerate Your Future. Always be eager to present yourself before God as a perfect and mature minister, without shame, as one who correctly explains the Word of Truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

VISIT FAITH GLOBAL INSTITUTE



**Faith  
BIBLE  
INSTITUTE**

### ON CAMPUS

We want to invite you to join an army of men and women, young and old, who are ready to let their lives count for eternity - people who want to be used of God by the power of His Spirit to make an eternal impact on their generation.

VISIT FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE

### OUR VISION

The IT / Social Media department is about creating user-friendly websites and to integrate the social networking into these websites. Our vision is to be a step-ahead in the technology field, by continually advancing in our abilities for web design and social media. Our vision is to impact millions of users who visit our websites every day and have them go away with the assurance that they can come back for more, to receive updated and continually evolving content!

### OUR STRATEGY

We further our skills by doing constant research in the fields of IT and Social Media. Gaining resourceful knowledge through social media sites, various ITrelated forums and blogs.

### OUR FUTURE PLANS

The IT / Social Media department strive to achieve rich-content for users who are seeking information in all the areas of hotels, non-profit, media, business, real estate, TV broadcasting, and ministry.



# “LOOK WHAT I FOUND!”

## BLIND SQUIRRELS AND SPIRITUAL TRUTH

David Ryser

*“Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn sometimes.” (Proverb)*

I do a lot of driving, both on my job and in my personal life. Driving is not exciting to me...and I suppose it's best that way. “Driving” and “excitement” are two words that should probably never appear in the same sentence. In my experience, excitement while driving is almost always a bad thing. But driving can be boring, which poses it's own risks. So I look for ways to keep myself mentally engaged while driving.

I particularly enjoy reading church building marquees.

There are lots of opportunities to read church building marquees. Church buildings are everywhere... like pubs (and for the same reasons). Reading the marquees, I often muse about the folks who gather in these buildings...and why they do. What sorts of people attend the services? Do they love Jesus? Do they even know Him? Does Jesus attend their church meetings? Would I be welcomed in their services...and for how long?

I've come to suspect that the message on a church building marquee says a lot about the people who meet inside.

Many messages I read on church building marquees are...to put it politely... religious tripe. Many others are merely advertising of some kind. I suspect that the latter is less harmful than the former. While advertising harms few people, drinking the religious bilge served in the average church service poisons more. But I digress.

My current favourite example of a church building marquee message that encourages me to stay out of the building at all costs is one I saw in a small rural town. The sign reads: IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE BREAD OF LIFE, YOU'RE TOAST. I must admit that my first reaction was to laugh. A part of me found the sign to be quite funny, if somewhat counter-productive, and it amused me. After all, if you're going to engage in religious buffoonery, at least have the decency to be entertaining.

But what kind of message does this send to people? Much of what is communicated in Christian evangelism...by whatever media...seems to portray God as saying, “Love Me...or else.” Or else what? Or else I'll curse you? Cause you to be sick? Harm you, your family, and your children? Burn you forever in the fires of hell?

Who can resist such an invitation? Doesn't this just make you want to run into your heavenly Daddy's arms?

Jesus never...ever...not even once...issued such an invitation to people. He did encourage them to meet and relate intimately with the Father. A Father who desperately loved them. A Father who wanted very much to fellowship with them. A Father who would not reject them, but who would receive them with gladness into His embrace.

It's been my experience that it's not necessary to threaten a person in order to persuade them to love someone who loves them this much.

So I don't find much truth on church building marquees. And when I do, I often suspect that it's an accident. For example, I was driving past a church building recently, and the message on the marquee read: NEED A NEW LIFE? GOD ACCEPTS TRADE-INS. I found the message clever, and was about to pass

it out of my thinking.

And then the truth of the message exploded in my spirit.

You see, too many Christians...myself included...tend to view our faith as a spiritual automobile repair. Our car (life) is broken, so we take it into the mechanic (Jesus) who repairs (“saves”) it and returns it to us with an admonishment to drive more carefully (live the “Christian life”) and maintain it more diligently (develop robust spiritual disciplines) in the future. This sounds good, but is found nowhere in the Bible.

The Christian life is less like a car repair, and more like a trade-in for a new car.

With a trade-in, a person takes his/her old car (old life) to the dealer (Jesus) and exchanges it for a new car (new life). Ownership of the old car is relinquished to the dealer, and the previous owner forfeits all future rights to it. Signs away the title. Turns in the key. Walks away from the old car and begins to drive the new car, never to own or drive the old car ever again.

This is Paul's view of the Christian life.

Especially in his letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, Paul presents the Christian faith as an exchange of life. We die, and receive Christ's life. We trade in our old man for the new man. We no longer live out of the old life; but rather, we walk in the newness of Christ's life. And as the seed of Christ's life which has been planted in us takes root and grows, it displaces our old life and we progressively come out of the spiritual darkness into God's light. We live “in Christ” (a term found dozens of times in the Epistles), and Christ lives in us.

God not only accepts trade-ins, He welcomes them.

So now I'm left wondering if the people who worship and fellowship inside of this church building are living in...or are even aware of...the truth expressed on their building's marquee. It's one thing for a blind squirrel to stumble across an acorn, but this good fortune does the squirrel no good unless it recognizes the acorn as an acorn. Otherwise the squirrel will mistake the acorn for a rock...or some other inedible object...and kick it aside and resume the search for food, never realizing how close it came to enjoying the feast that it was seeking.

Religion is a lot like that squirrel.

I probably will never go into that church building. I don't even remember where it is. But as I went on my way, the message on the marquee continued to ring in my spirit.

NEED A NEW LIFE? GOD ACCEPTS TRADE-INS.

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*Responses to this article are welcomed. You may contact the author at drdave1545@yahoo.com*





# POWER IS IN THE TONGUE

Nomvuyo Ketiso



One day, I asked God, “Why do I have to speak positively about my circumstances instead of stating them as they are?” He replied, “Because you would be lying about the truth.” I asked, “What truth?” He said, “My truth. My Word is truth.” John 17:17 says, “Sanctify them by Your truth; Your Word is truth.” That moment brought clarity—a light shone into my darkened understanding of God’s Word and His truth. As a child of God, I belong to Him, and now I choose to believe His Word over everything else, including the circumstances in my life. What is written in the Word is truth, and I must believe it daily. For example, I cannot and should not say, “I am sick,” because the Word says, “By His stripes, you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). That is the truth about your health.

You may have heard the saying, “Power is in your hands.” But in the kingdom of God, it works differently—power is in your tongue. The words you speak about your life carry the power to shape it. In God’s kingdom, your tongue, your words, and your consistent confessions manifest in your life. It is impossible to faithfully declare God’s truth and remain in bondage. Likewise, it is impossible to speak sickness and still live in divine health. That cannot happen. Many people suffer and remain in bondage because they haven’t received the light of God’s truth in their understanding. Yet, they have the power to change their circumstances and be set free—the power is in their tongue. Speaking God’s Word in faith can break years of bondage, sickness, and poverty.

Too often, people believe their circumstances more than God’s truth. But remember, Satan is the father of sickness, poverty, bondage, and suffering. If Satan is the father of sickness, then what does that make sickness? A lie from the father of lies. So, let me ask you: Do you believe the lie of sickness, or do you believe the truth—that God gave His only Son to take away sickness and give you divine health? Do you believe the bondage more than the liberation offered by God’s Word? Just because sickness and poverty are lies doesn’t mean they aren’t real experiences. They are harsh realities for many. However, reality is not necessarily truth. You can live your whole life trapped in the reality of lies if you don’t embrace and act on what God has said in His Word.

Have you ever wondered why God cannot lie? It’s because whatever He speaks becomes truth. If God said, “This red cloth is green,” the cloth would become green. That’s why He cannot lie—His Word has creative power. As children of God, we are called to imitate our Father. He created the world by speaking. As His sons and daughters, we are to create our reality using His Word in the same way. There’s a difference between experiencing sickness or poverty and agreeing with it. We are created to speak what we believe, nothing else. If you don’t believe you are sick, why say it?

Many people are waiting for someone or something to rescue them, yet they already have the power to transform their lives. That power lies in speaking God’s truth over their circumstances. Speak as it is written in the Word and as it is in the kingdom of God. In this world, saying “I am healed” when you feel symptoms might seem like a lie. But in God’s kingdom, the opposite is true - saying “I am sick” is the lie because Jesus already dealt with sickness on the cross. He became a curse for us and completely redeemed us. Are you going to speak the truth about your life as God has revealed it, or are you going to rely on your feelings and logic?

As a born-again child of God, nothing will change in your life if you continuously speak words of sickness, fear, failure, poverty, and defeat. In Christ, you are not defeated. You are more than a conqueror and victorious. To change your reality, you must replace it with God’s truth—His Word. Colossians 3:1 (NLT) says, “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits...” So, what is your reality? Why do you believe it? What do you continuously confess with your mouth? Do you focus on what you see and feel?

Today, take a step of faith. Believe God’s Word as the ultimate truth, capable of setting you free. Confess that truth over your life, release its power with your tongue, and witness new realities and possibilities unfold.

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# Faith Kidz

Written by  
Esther Naidoo



Hey guys and girls,

Today I wanted to tell you about a very special journey. Now as you may know, every journey has a beginning, middle and an end. Every journey should also have a purpose or goal, which is something you would like to achieve by completing the journey. As people we are on many journeys throughout our lives. Journeys of growing up physically into adulthood. Journeys of gaining knowledge so that we can be successful.

The most important journey, however, is that of being a child of God. Our journey begins when we accept Jesus as our Lord and continues on as we grow in our faith and in the gifts that God has given us. Our journey as Christians also has a number of goals. Our goals are to reach other girls and boys for Jesus, to help those in need and to complete the special task that God has destined for each and every person individually. Every journey also comes with its own set of challenges. As Christians we often face difficulties of sin and challenges that the devil brings our way. Jesus, however, has given us the power to overcome all the challenges we may face on our journey with Him. All we need to do is ask Him through prayer.

One day boys and girls we will meet Jesus face to face and this will mark the end of a very long journey. Jesus will greet us with open arms and gifts if we have been obedient and walked the journey with Him. I look forward to seeing you all there on that day. Never forget that it is a journey that has the best reward, eternal life.

## Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you give me the power to complete this very important journey of serving you. Help me to live a life that is acceptable to you so that at the end of my journey you will welcome me into heaven as your child.





## Activity

### Cut Out Puzzle

#### Material Needed:

Scissors  
Glue Stick  
Cardboard

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Print this page. Paste on a piece of card using a glue stick. Ask an adult to help you cut out the pieces of the puzzle. Now build your puzzle!

*memory verse*

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;  
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED.

PSALM 23:1



...be heard

prayerlines

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# BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK 1-13 | JANUARY - MARCH

S•O•A•P



SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION  
APPLICATION • PRAYER

**WEEK 1**

GENESIS 1-2; PSALM 19; MARK 1  
GENESIS 3-5; MARK 2  
GENESIS 6-8; PSALM 104; MARK 3  
GENESIS 9-11; MARK 4  
GEN 12-15; PSALM 148; MARK 5

**WEEK2**

GENESIS 16-18; MARK 6  
GENESIS 19-20; PSALM 1; MARK 7  
GENESIS 21-23; PSALM 107; MARK 8  
GENESIS 24-25; PSALM 4; MARK 9  
GENESIS 26-27; MARK 10

**WEEK3**

GENESIS 28-29; MARK 11  
GENESIS 30-31; PSALM 11; MARK 12  
GENESIS 32-34; PSALM 145; MARK 13  
GENESIS 35-37; PSALM 12; MARK 14  
GENESIS 38-40; MARK 15

**WEEK4**

GENESIS 41-42; MARK 16  
GENESIS 43-44; PSALM 24; GALATIANS 1  
GENESIS 45-46; PSALM 108; GAL 2  
GENESIS 47-48; PSALM 25; GAL 3  
GENESIS 49-50; GALATIANS 4

**WEEK5**

EXODUS 1-3; GALATIANS 15  
EXODUS 4-6; GALATIANS 6  
EXODUS 7-9; PSALM 105; EPHESIANS 1  
EXODUS 10-12; EPHESIANS 2  
EXODUS 13-15; PSALM 114; EPHESIANS 3

**WEEK6**

EXODUS 16-18; EPHESIANS 4  
EXODUS 19-21; PSALM 33; EPHESIANS 5  
EXODUS 22-24; PSALM 109; EPHESIANS 6  
EXODUS 25-27; PSALM 90; PHILIPPIANS 1  
EXODUS 28-31; PHILIPPIANS 2

**WEEK7**

EXODUS 32-34; PHILIPPIANS 3  
EXODUS 35-37; PSALM 26; PHILIPPIANS 4  
EXODUS 38-40; HEBREWS 1  
LEVITICUS 1-3; PSALM 27; HEBREWS 2  
LEVITICUS 4-7; HEBREWS 3

**WEEK8**

LEVITICUS 8-11; PSALM 110; HEBREWS 4  
LEVITICUS 12-14; PSALM 111; HEBREWS 5  
LEVITICUS 15-18; PSALM 31; HEBREWS 6  
LEVITICUS 19-20; HEBREWS 7  
LEVITICUS 21-23; HEBREWS 8

**WEEK9**

LEVITICUS 24-25; PSALM 81; HEBREWS 9  
LEVITICUS 26-27; PSALM 112; HEBREWS 10  
NUMBERS 1-2; PSALM 64; HEBREWS 11  
NUMBERS 3-5; HEBREWS 12  
NUMBERS 6- 7; HEBREWS 13

**WEEK 10**

NUMBERS 8-11; COLOSSIANS 1  
NUMBERS 12-14; PSALM 28; COL 2  
NUMBERS 15-18; PSALM 113; COL 3  
NUMBERS 19-21; COLOSSIANS 4  
NUMBERS 22-25; LUKE 1

**WEEK 11**

NUMBERS 26-29; LUKE 2  
NUMBERS 30-33; PSALM 35; LUKE 3  
NUMBERS 34-36; LUKE 4  
DEUTERONOMY 1-3; PSALM 36; LUKE 5  
DEUTERONOMY 4-5; LUKE 6

**WEEK 12**

DEUTERONOMY 6-9; LUKE 7  
DEUTERONOMY 10-14; PSALM 5; LUKE 8  
DEUTERONOMY 15-18; PSALM 115; LUKE 9  
DEUTERONOMY 19-22; PSALM 6; LUKE 10  
DEUTERONOMY 23-26; LUKE 11

**WEEK 13**

DEUTERONOMY 27-31; LUKE 12  
DEUTERONOMY 32-34; PSALM 13; LUKE 13  
JOSHUA 1-4; PSALM 143; LUKE 14  
JOSHUA 5-8; PSALM 14; LUKE 15  
JOSHUA 9-13; LUKE 16

Source: [www.FiveDayBibleReading.com](http://www.FiveDayBibleReading.com)





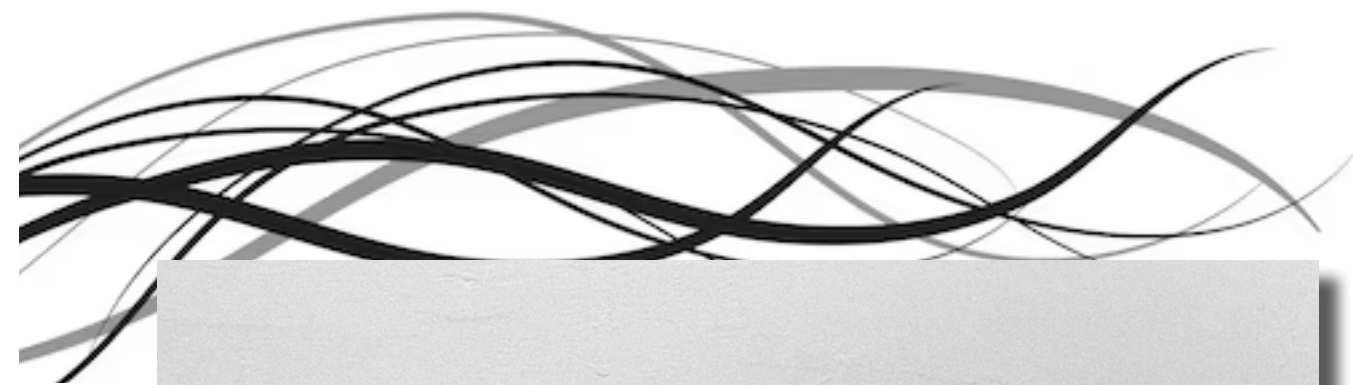
# TV SCHEDULES



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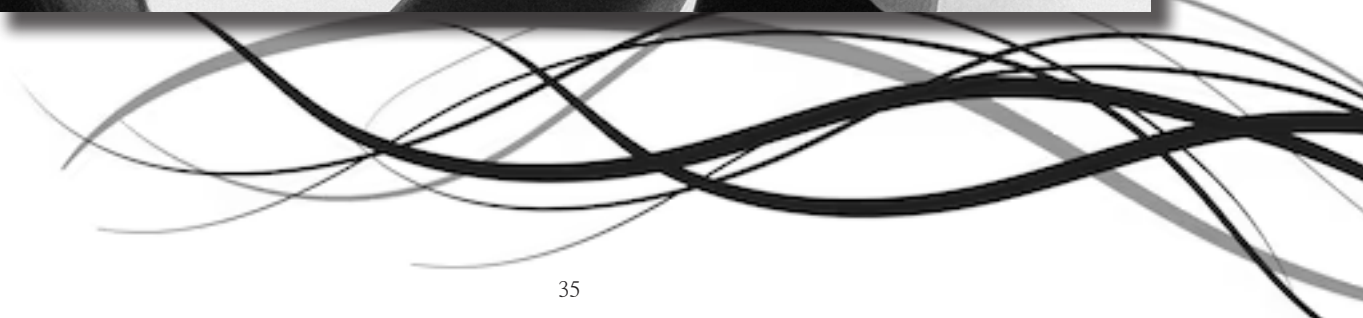


**SCHEDULES**



## WORSHIP

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# GIVING OVER OUR OWN WAYS

Waldo Malan

We have the choice of whom we worship in life. There is not much choice in the fact of whether or not we want to worship, because we were created to worship. Every person on the face of the earth is worshipping something: themselves, or objects, or things, and even other gods. In life it doesn't matter what you worship or who you worship. You could be worshipping a tree stump or you can worship the sun god or river spirits, or whatever. However, as soon as you give yourself over to the worship of that god, you give that god the right to prescribe in which manner to be worshipped.

So you'll find in pagan rituals, often that there are certain things that need to be done. For example, angry or displeased water gods are appeased by the sacrifice of life. Usually we find that people sacrifici-

ce babies or virgins [symbols of purity] to that god. Why do they do that? Because that god requires that sacrifice. Again if you worship the sun god [Ra] you have to wake up before the sun rises because you have to greet the sun. At sunrise certain things need to be done - certain rituals, the wearing of certain clothes, bowing in a certain way. Why? Because the sun god has prescribed the manner in which it wants to be worshipped.

We understand that neither the water god or the sun [god] is not a person. We also understand that a totem pole or whatever other object is being worshipped is not alive, but there is a spirit behind the thing that is being worshipped. So it is the spirit behind that image that will tell you how it wants to be worshipped.

While the water god, the sun god, or a totem pole is not alive, there is a spirit behind the object or entity being worshipped. It is this spirit that dictates how it desires to be worshipped.

If we believe in the God of the Bible—the Creator—it follows that He designed us, as beings created to worship, to worship Him alone. He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. Any other “god” is a counterfeit, an imitation of the Creator, and therefore false. These counterfeit gods (or spirits) pervert the laws and prescriptions of God, twisting them into something that may appear similar but is fundamentally different. The outcomes of following these imitations are vastly different from those of worshipping the true Creator.



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# SUNG WORSHIP: DIVERSITY OF EMPHASES (PART 2) VERTICAL & INDIVIDUAL VS HORIZONTAL & COMMUNAL

Grant Norsworthy

## WHAT'S YOUR GOAL?

When it comes to sung worship - expressing the worth of God through songs - what are you aiming for? Is there a particular set of criteria that you're hoping will be met in order for worship - *real* worship - to be achieved from your perspective?

Are you aware that there are other worshippers - sincere followers of Jesus as the Christ - who might have quite different hopes and goals? People who hold different values from yours for sung worship are not just at other churches with different theology than yours. Some of them might be in the congregation that you lead. Some might be in your band. Your pastor might have quite a different agenda for sung worship than you do.

Have you ever thought about that?

## DIVERSITY OR DIVISION

It's my understanding that there is a wonderful and diverse range of ways music can be used to help Believers worship God. If we have some understanding of - and respect for - these diverse emphases, the differences can be seen in a positive light. We can honor each other, love one another ([John 13:34-35](#)) and perhaps even learn from one another too. We might even grow as worshippers and deepen our understanding of what it means to worship God.

On the other hand, if we hold a position that says, "My way is the superior way" or "*Their* way is less worshipful than mine" we invite disunity and destructive "religiosity". A lack of understanding, respect, and love.

## THE GRAPH

This article is Part 2 of a short series of articles called SUNG WORSHIP: DIVERSITY OF EMPHASES. In these articles, I'm sharing a graph I have come up with that helps me to better understand and appreciate the variety of values that surround sung worship in the Christian Church.

In [my last article](#), I gave some general background information about the whole graph and explained my rationale behind THE RED "X" AXIS: THEOLOGICAL VS EXPERIENTIAL. If you haven't read that article already, I suggest you do so before continuing.

In this second article, let's talk more about ...

## THE GREEN "Y" AXIS: VERTICAL & INDIVIDUAL VS HORIZONTAL & COMMUNAL

Even though we may be gathered in an



auditorium with others, some worshippers seek a very personal, intimate, and individual connection with God through sung worship. If we were going to plot these worshippers on my graph, they'd find themselves on the higher side of the vertical, green "Y" axis.

With this more VERTICAL & INDIVIDUAL emphasis, we may want to, in a sense, "lose ourselves", allowing everything around us - including other people - to fade from our consciousness as we soak in our own "vertical" connection with God. This might be described as, "Having my own Holy Spirit moment" or, "A time of personal intimacy." These experiences can inspire us to live every moment of our week as worshippers of God.

On this northern side of the "Y" axis, song lyrics would usually refer to God/Jesus/The Holy Spirit in the second person "You". In fact, some proponents of this emphasis will change song lyrics that use the singular third person "He" for God to the more personal "You". Doing so can change the atmosphere and help turn individual hearts towards God in a more tangible way. So, for example, rather than singing "He is exalted" we would prefer to sing "You are exalted." They'd also tend to use the personal pronoun "I" so the songs are sung by each individual directly to God.

But at the southern end of the same "Y" axis there are those who see our sung worship as

more of a "horizontal", community-building activity. Yes, we sing to show the worth - or worship - God, but our songs are more likely to refer to God as "He" or use one of His names - Lord, Jesus, Father, God. And we'd prefer to sing "we" instead of "I" if we ever refer to ourselves at all.

While some songs might be prayers sung directly to God or Jesus, we also see value in singing songs that declare truth *about* God or encourage each other to follow Jesus with more intentionality and passion. The sense of the church - the body of Believers - gathered together in a communal, shared expression of God's worth is highly valued. Our sung worship should reflect that value.

Furthermore, on the lower end of the "Y" axis, we would like to reinforce the belief that following Jesus is not supposed to be done solo. We need each other! There might even be a sense that our sung worship should counteract the influence of the prevalent, consumeristic, individualistic "I, me, mine!" of contemporary culture. We could sing "We worship our Lord Jesus" but would prefer not to sing "I worship You, my precious Jesus."

Some people on the VERTICAL & INDIVIDUAL side of the "Y" axis, might believe that those on the lower HORIZONTAL & COMMUNAL side are missing out on a deeper, personal relationship-enhancing exchange with God. Or

perhaps that they don't really "get" worship.

Conversely, the HORIZONTAL & COMMUNAL folk might accuse the VERTICAL & INDIVIDUALs of singing too many "Jesus is my boyfriend" songs ... although never to them directly! Just in hushed tones to their HORIZONTAL & COMMUNAL allies.

But, in a spirit of love and mutual understanding, hopefully we can *all* respect these differences and abstain from such petty put-downs.

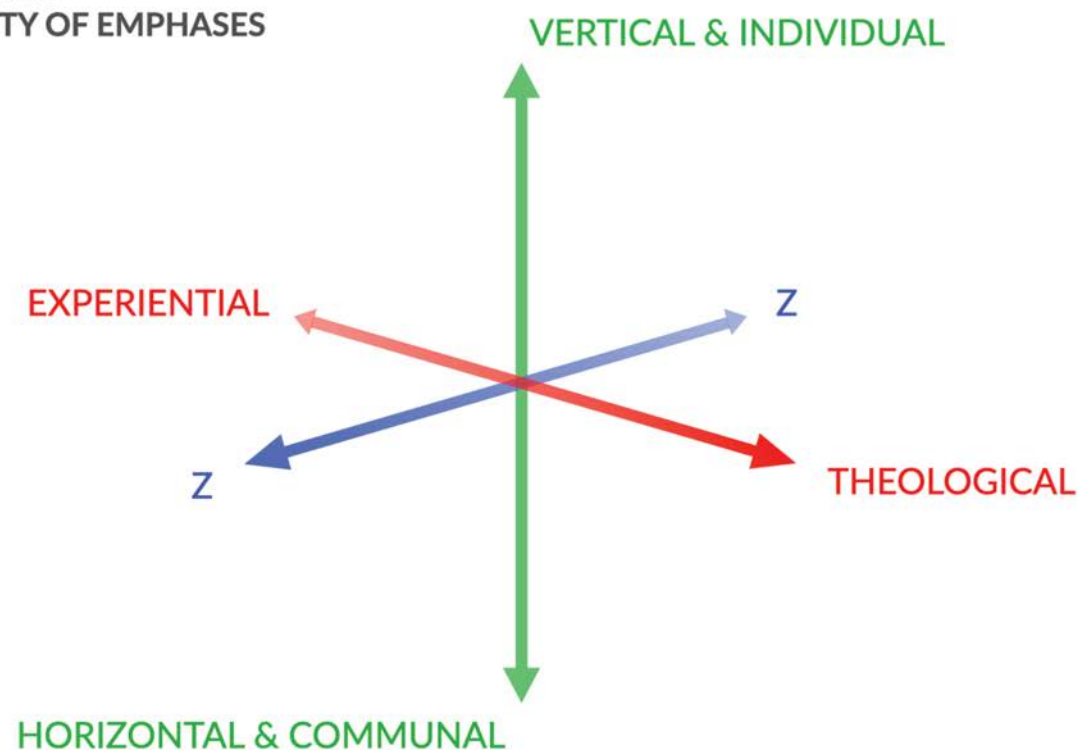
## CONCLUSION

Especially when I'm leading sung worship for an ecumenical gathering, I'm sure this graph helps me lead more effectively. With this green "Y" axis in mind, I'll select songs that (hopefully) give us all a taste of top *and* bottom. Of, "You" and "I" as well as "He" and "we". Vertical/individual *and* horizontal/communal.

The top and bottom ends of the "Y" axis need not be disparate. This doesn't have to be an either/or. It can be a both/and, depending on your context. Read your room. Serve the congregation that God has allowed you to lead. Personally, I see value in both sides! I hope you can too. I think you'll find doing so helpful as you lead.

**Grant Norsworthy**  
founder of [MoreThanMusicMentor.com](#)  
[MoreThanMusicMentor.com](#)

## SUNG WORSHIP: OUR DIVERSITY OF EMPHASES







Meet Grant Norsworthy  
Founder of



- Passionate follower of Jesus the Christ & proclaimer of The Gospel
- Speaker & musician who has ministered in over 20 countries & over 40 US states
- Serves the Christian Church across denominational & cultural boundaries
- Produced "The Blessing | Aotearoa/New Zealand" viral YouTube song video released August 20th, 2020
- Grammy® nominated & Dove Award winning musician – former member of Sonicflood & PC3 (Paul Colman Trio)
- Founder & principal instructor of More Than Music Mentor – providing instruction for the heart & the art of worshipping musicians & technicians
- Recognized by many as a voice of authority on Christian worship & Church music
- Frequent writer for Worship Musician – the world's most widely read Christian music publication
- International online mentor/instructor with Worship Leader Cohorts
- Prominent video presenter/instructor on WeAreWorshipMusic & WeAreWorshipTV YouTube channels for Integrity Music
- Breakout & keynote speaker at multiple US "worship conferences" including ExpCon, WorshipLife, NWLC, WFX & Worship 4:24
- A passionate advocate for children living in poverty around the world with rich field experience, including visits to Thailand, Rwanda & Guatemala
- Child advocacy partnerships with Compassion International, Compassion Australia & World Vision New Zealand
- Over 7,000 needy children have found sponsors through Grant's work
- Partnered with Bishopdale Theological College to provide mentorship for Christian Leadership interns
- Enjoys a coalition relationship with the A.C.T. International community of creative ministries
- Grant's original rework of "Be Thou My Vision" is sung by Church congregations worldwide
- Australian-born; Nashville-based from 2002 to late 2018
- Grant's global ministry operates from his Nelson, New Zealand home-base

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# THE ULTIMATE GUITAR CHORD CHART

A <sup>b</sup>	G <sup>#</sup> m	A <sup>b</sup> 6	A <sup>b</sup> 7	A <sup>b</sup> 9	G <sup>#</sup> m6	G <sup>#</sup> m7	A <sup>b</sup> maj7	G <sup>#</sup> dim	A <sup>b</sup> +	A <sup>b</sup> sus
A	Am	A6	A7	A9	Am6	Am7	Amaj7	Adim	A+	Asus
B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> m	B <sup>b</sup> 6	B <sup>b</sup> 7	B <sup>b</sup> 9	B <sup>b</sup> m6	B <sup>b</sup> m7	B <sup>b</sup> maj7	B <sup>b</sup> dim	B <sup>b</sup> +	B <sup>b</sup> sus
B	Bm	B6	B7	B9	Bm6	Bm7	Bmaj7	Bdim	B+	Bsus
C	Cm	C6	C7	C9	Cm6	Cm7	Cmaj7	Cdim	C+	Csus
D <sup>b</sup>	C <sup>#</sup> m	D <sup>b</sup> 6	D <sup>b</sup> 7	D <sup>b</sup> 9	C <sup>#</sup> m6	C <sup>#</sup> m7	D <sup>b</sup> maj7	C <sup>#</sup> dim	D <sup>b</sup> +	D <sup>b</sup> sus
D	Dm	D6	D7	D9	Dm6	Dm7	Dmaj7	Ddim	D+	Dsus
E <sup>b</sup>	E <sup>b</sup> m	E <sup>b</sup> 6	E <sup>b</sup> 7	E <sup>b</sup> 9	E <sup>b</sup> m6	E <sup>b</sup> m7	E <sup>b</sup> maj7	E <sup>b</sup> dim	E <sup>b</sup> +	E <sup>b</sup> sus
E	Em	E6	E7	E9	Em6	Em7	Emaj7	Edim	E+	Esus
F	Fm	F6	F7	F9	Fm6	Fm7	Fmaj7	Fdim	F+	Fsus
F <sup>#</sup>	F <sup>#</sup> m	G <sup>b</sup> 6	F <sup>#</sup> 7	F <sup>#</sup> 9	F <sup>#</sup> m6	F <sup>#</sup> m7	G <sup>b</sup> maj7	F <sup>#</sup> dim	G <sup>b</sup> +	G <sup>b</sup> sus
G	Gm	G6	G7	G9	Gm6	Gm7	Gmaj7	Gdim	G+	Gsus

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# VISIONARY SONGWRITERS

PAUL BALOCHE



There have always been visionaries – those who catch sight of a new move of God before others see it. The visionary feels a great urge to DO that thing the Lord has shown him – and do it RIGHT NOW. So he starts out boldly and soon finds himself the target of sticks and stones hurled by those who don't understand. Stories abound about the church's resistance to new music forms.

The first monk who experimented with part-singing was excommunicated. J S Bach almost lost his job as a church musician because some thought his music was unsuitable. In 19th Century Scotland, Ira Stankey, evangelist D L Moody's great song leader, was vilified by some for writing "human hymns" with newly composed lyrics instead of new tunes for the Psalms of the Bible, and for having the audacity to draw attention to himself by singing them as solos.

Want some more? Take a look at this, Top Reasons for Opposing the New Music Trends, adapted from a statement directed against the use of hymns, in 1723:

- It is too new, like an unknown language
- It is not as melodious as the more established style
- There are so many songs that it is impossible to learn them all
- It creates disturbances and causes people to acting an indecent and disorderly manner
- It places too much emphasis on instrumental music rather than godly lyrics
- The lyrics are often worldly, even blasphemous
- It is not needed, since preceding generations have gone to heaven without it
- It monopolizes the Christian's time and encourages them to stay out late
- These new musicians are young upstarts, and some of them are lewd and loose persons.

Even in our own time, those of us who have tried to change church music have often been misunderstood. The way of the innovator has not always been easy. Of course, willingness to persevere in the face of criticism sometimes is laudable. Criticism does have some value as a gauge: if we're getting no criticism at all, we probably aren't accomplishing much that's fresh and new and powerful. On the other hand, if we're getting a lot – especially from those who have walked with the Lord much longer than we have – maybe we need to back up a bit and listen. There's always the possibility we've gone too far too fast and we're over the line. I remember when I first started leading worship at my church 16 years ago, there were some who complained that it sounded too much like a nightclub!

## The Lone Ranger Bites the Dust

The secret to being a successful innovator in Christian music lies largely in attitude. We're talking now about true Spirit-led innovation, which means doing something new, not just blindly copying the latest rebellious fad and putting a Christian label on it, as some have done. The scripture tells us to "reprove the unfruitful works of darkness," not imitate them. If the visionary says to himself, "I'm gonna do my kind of music my way (for the Lord, of course) and if the church doesn't 'understand' my music, I'll do it without them; I don't need anyone but Jesus, anyway" – he will fail. He will be perceived as a maverick and his attempts won't be supported. The Lone Ranger will bite the dust. (Ephesians 5:11).

The truth is he does need the church. Whatever we do in ministry must not be on our own. This doesn't mean we have to ask permission from some church authority every time we write a song, but it does

imply an accountability and a willingness to accept correction on matters of doctrine and practice. Carol Owens once said "As Christians we are all parts of the Body of Christ, and what we do in his name affects the world's perception of Christianity, reflects on the church and has implications wider than our own careers. A detached body part moving around by itself is the stuff of horror movies." On the other hand, if one goes about it in the right spirit, the visionary has the opportunity to bring the church along with him into an understanding of what God has shown him.

Of course, this takes patience. He'll need to slow down at times and wait for the church to catch up. Occasionally he'll take a leap that's just too broad for those without his vision to follow. When this happens, he will have to retrace his steps, rejoin his followers, maybe even apologize, do some explaining and teaching and then coax them along step by step until they too, see his vision. Besides patience he'll need love – a genuine love and respect for the church. He'll need to listen to wise counsel. He'll need forbearance – the Bible tells us to forbear with one another (this could be translated "put up with one another") And he will need faith – faith that if God has shown him something, God can also show it to others; and faith in the others, that they'll be able to see it when it's shown to them.

Thank God for the visionaries – the people who strive to see and hear and do the will of God even at the cost of being misunderstood, who put ministry first and are not corrupted by commercialism. They are on the cutting edge, and without them no real progress is ever made. Write on!

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# GIVE HIM YOUR WORSHIP

Phillicia Bester

We believe that it is very important to write and sing songs that are in line with that which God is currently saying to the church and to the nation. God is busy doing a new thing here on earth. He is raising up a new generation that will have a spirit of taking over. This generation will have a culture of being victorious. They will make and sing music that is victorious and that will bring down the Shekinah glory and presence of God on the church and His people. Music is a very important language and it is currently in the wrong hands. God wants to restore the Tabernacle of David back to His end-time church. David understood the value of spending time with God. As God's chosen generation called by His Name, we need to take back the music from the world and bring it back to the Spiritual House of God to glorify His Name. The focus will be on God and not the artist. God will receive the honour and glory and not the artist.

Through anointed music, we must change the spiritual atmosphere for God to manifest Himself in our midst. We must bring heaven down to earth by making music that will cause people to tap into the very activity of heaven. The flame of God's fire must stay alive in our lives and in the church. All over the world God's eyes are moving to and fro, looking for a place where the Ark of His presence can find a resting place. People will experience the anointing and presence of God and their hearts will be touched and changed where God is truly lifted up. A real desire must be embedded in the hearts of the people to truly worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

Where God is truly lifted up and honoured, people will run back to Him. True praise and worship will become a very powerful tool in the hands of the church to get people saved. Where God is lifted up, He comes and dwells

with the people. Amazing things will happen. Supernatural signs and wonders will happen, everything to glorify God. The church has become weak because the church has lost its joy. Nehemiah 8:10 reads that "The joy of the Lord is your strength". Anointed praise and worship will release joy, it will release faith. When we worship God in Spirit and in Truth things begin to change in our lives. We begin to live above our circumstances. We start realising that we are the head and not the tail. Our lifestyle will change, from being negative to positive. The way we look at things will change. The way we speak will change. We will be healed from all negative emotions and find healing in our body, soul and Spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11 reads "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans of a good future and to give you hope".

God's plan for our lives is that we will prosper in all areas of life. Our relationships must be restored. Our relationship with God will be restored. Our first love for God will come back when we worship God and out of that love we will handle and treat people with love and respect. Then God will pour out His prosperity upon our lives. We will be blessed financially and will prosper in all aspects of our lives. But we need to become real worshippers.

Psalms 91:1: "He that dwells in the Secret Place of the Most High God, will abide under the shadow of the Almighty".  
Verse 7: "Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you".  
This Psalm speaks of God's promise of protection to us when we make the Lord our refuge and the Most High our shelter.

