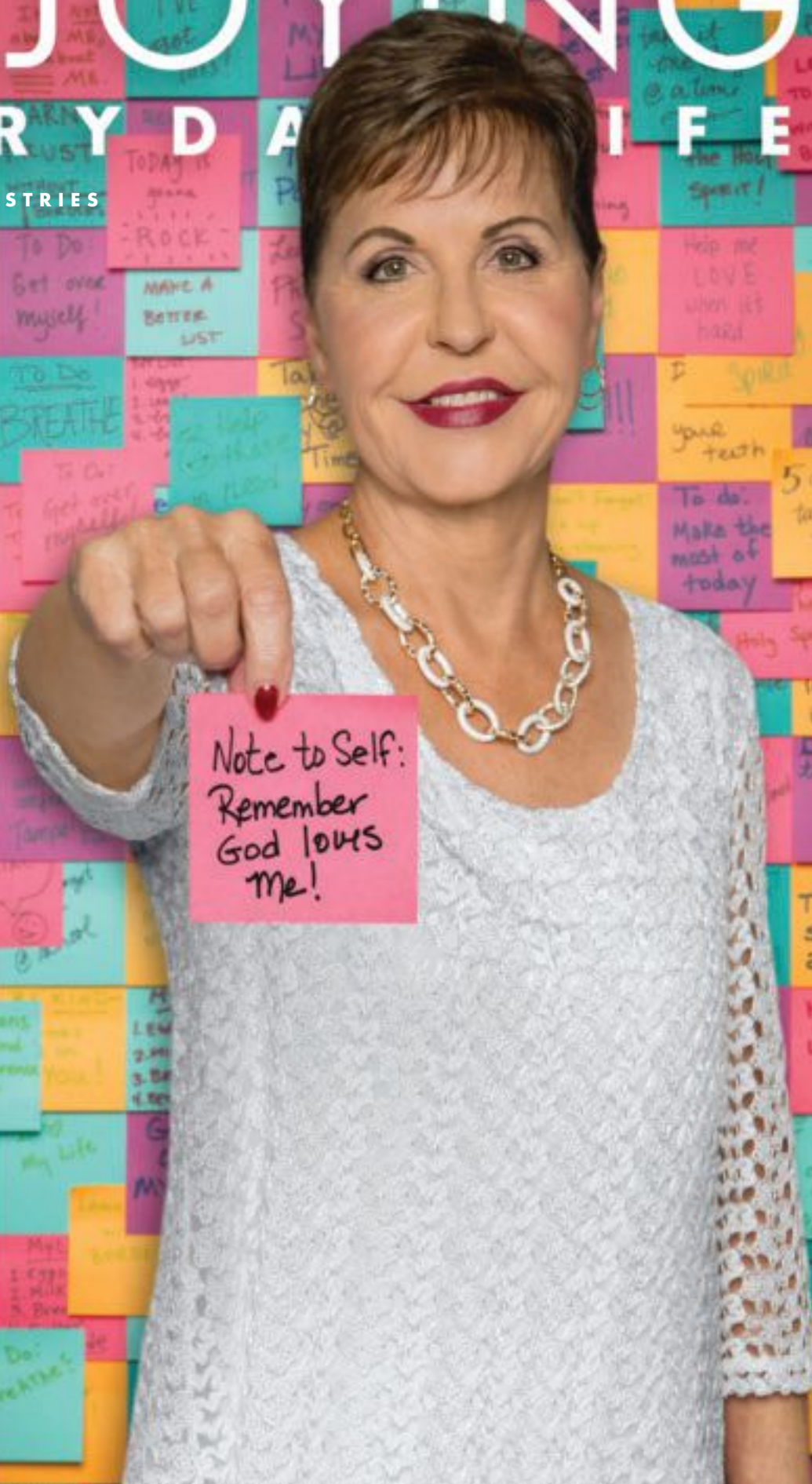


ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE

JOYCE MEYER MINISTRIES

WINTER 2018



Note to Self:
Remember
God loves
me!

THINGS TO DO!
NOT BE
OVERWHELMED

BE KIND-
It looks good
on you!!

TO DO
BREATHE

Today is
gonna
-ROCK-

To do:
Make the
most of
today

HELP ME
LOVE
WHEN IT'S
HARD

Make plans
to attend
a conference

TO DO
TAKE ONE
STEP AT
A TIME

Do:
Breathe!

5 a.m. 5
tasks do
today

Take
step
a ti

HELP
LOVE
IT'S H

TODAY
IS BR
ROCK



Straight from the **HEART**

Friends,

Knowing God brings so much purpose to our lives. We're all in different places on our journey, but God's work in us and through us is never done. He's constantly loving us into new areas of obedience, taking one more piece of our mess and turning it into a beautiful message that everyone around us can see. Christ in us is nothing short of miraculous!

Still, not much changes in our lives without a plan, and a to-do list is a great way to keep track of what you've accomplished and what you still have to do. I'm very goal-oriented, and having a list in front of me keeps me focused on my goals. So, with this issue, I want to help you get inspired about your own personal to-do list.

God may lead you to start with something practical like cleaning up your house or starting an exercise routine.

Or He may lead you to work on your relationship with Him or with someone He's put into your life. I encourage you to make a list of everything God leads you to do or ways His Word describes His love for you —and keep those lists in front of you. Cover your house in sticky notes if you need to! It's amazing what we can do if we stir ourselves up to do something. When you start to feel overwhelmed, remember that God is with you, and if you will do the part you can do, then He will do the rest.

God has amazing plans for you! And making a little progress every day will take you a long way.

Joyce

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.”
 –Proverbs 16:3 NIV



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THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

BY JOYCE MEYER

LETTING GO OF THE PAST & MOVING ON WITH YOUR LIFE





Everyone experiences times when they're tempted to give up. Maybe you tried something and it didn't work out the way you expected, or someone hurt you and you're struggling to get past the pain and move on.

It's easy to get discouraged, but God doesn't want us to get stuck in a moment in our lives when things didn't work out the way we planned. He wants us to keep going so we can fulfill His purpose and truly enjoy our lives.

John 10:10 says, *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].*

“God will lead us into the best life we can possibly have, but first we need to let go of our past mistakes.”

God has a wonderful life planned for us, but we often allow the enemy to steal our joy by focusing on the past. The devil would love for you and me to believe: “I’ve made too many mistakes,” “There’s no way to overcome the mess I have in my life,” “I’m too old,” or “It’s just too late.”

But the truth is, whoever you are, wherever you are, or whatever you’ve been through, it is never too late to begin again!

THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE FOR A SECOND CHANCE

I had a lousy start in my own life. My father sexually and verbally abused me for many years, and it caused me a lot of pain and sadness. However, God not only restored what was stolen from me, but He made my new life in Him better than I ever could have imagined. It's been a long journey, but I can honestly say that now I love my life and I'm determined to have a great finish.

God's Word is filled with examples of people who were given a fresh start...

• A woman known only as “Rahab the harlot” was rescued and given a noble name in the bloodline of Christ. ▶

PRACTICAL STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY

These words of wisdom will help you walk out the life-changing principles in God's Word in your life.

- 1 Forgive those who hurt you.
- 2 Let go of your past mistakes.
- 3 Live in God's strength, not your own.
- 4 Don't remain stuck in a moment of your past or your pain.
- 5 Trust God's timing.
- 6 Live each day expecting to see God working in your life.
- 7 Don't allow the negativity of others to take your focus off God.
- 8 Live your life to please God, not people.
- 9 Don't underestimate the value of small steps or resist small beginnings.
- 10 Never give up!

GO DEEPER

Study the following scriptures about Rahab and Paul (formerly Saul). Ask God to reveal more of His character to you through their stories and make notes about what you discover. Pray for God to give you a fresh start, and move forward in His plans for you!

JOSHUA CHAPTERS 2 AND 6

ACTS 8:1-3 AND 21:39-22:16

▶ • Ashamed because he gave in to fear and denied that he knew Jesus, Peter was forgiven and inspired to preach at Pentecost.

• Paul was caught in a trap of dead religion, persecuting the early Christians, but God transformed him and called him to write much of the New Testament.

God loves new beginnings, and if you need a fresh start, He has one for you!

WALKING OUT YOUR NEW BEGINNING

The greatest new beginning any of us can have is becoming a new creature in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). And a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus is the key to a restored life, healing in your soul, and the second chance to become everything you were created to be!

Whether you're just starting your life with God or you gave your heart to Him long ago, it's important to understand that growing in Christ is a process that takes time. We learn how to walk by faith little by little, one step at a time. It's like this: When a baby is learning how to walk, he falls down many times. But he always gets back up and tries again.

That's what God is asking us to do. No matter how many times we fall down in life, if we continue to get back up, eventually we'll get to the place where we need to be.

God will lead us into the best life we can possibly have, but first we need to let go of our past mistakes. Hebrews 8:12 says, *For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more* (NIV).

God chooses to not only forgive all of our sins, but also to forget them! And we need to stop remembering what God has forgotten.

You know, there's not a thing about me or you that God doesn't know. We're no surprise to Him! Yet when we turn to Him, He still opens His arms and invites us into a relationship with Him.

LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES

Our history is not our destiny, but it can teach us what worked and what didn't work in our lives. As we walk through life, these experiences show us how to hear God's voice speaking to our hearts so we can follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We need to

“The greatest new beginning any of us can have is becoming a new creature in Christ!”

learn how to yield to the Holy Spirit because He's smarter than us and always has our very best interest at heart (see Jeremiah 29:11).

God loves you so much, and He has a wonderful plan for your life! Refuse to stay stuck in a moment or season of your life when things didn't work out as you thought they should.

Romans 5:5 says, *Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* If you will hang on to your hope in Christ, you can enjoy the life God has planned for you. Because God will never give up on you! 📌

10 KEY SCRIPTURES* FOR YOUR FRESH START



1 ISAIAH 43:18-19
Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a
new thing!...

2 HEBREWS 12:1
...Let us throw off
everything that hinders
and the sin that so easily
entangles. And let us run
with perseverance the
race marked out for us.

3 GALATIANS 2:20
I have been crucified with
Christ and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me. The
life I now live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son
of God, who loved me and
gave himself for me.

4 PSALM 27:13
I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of
the Lord in the land of
the living.

5 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, the new creation
has come: The old has
gone, the new is here!

6 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21
God made him who had
no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might
become the righteous-
ness of God.

7 JEREMIAH 29:11
“For I know the plans I
have for you,” declares
the Lord, “plans to pros-
per you and not to harm
you, plans to give you
hope and a future.”

8 PHILIPPIANS 4:13
I can do all this
through him who gives
me strength.

9 MATTHEW 19:26
Jesus looked at them and
said, “With man this is
impossible, but with God
all things are possible.”

10 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9
He said to me, “My grace
is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect
in weakness.” Therefore
I will boast all the more
gladly about my weak-
nesses, so that Christ’s
power may rest on me.

HOW TO KNOW JESUS

Knowing God through a personal relationship with Jesus is key to experiencing the fresh start you need today—in any area of your life. If you want to begin a new life in Christ, visit joycemeyer.org/KnowJesus

*All scriptures are taken from the New International Version.

THE ULTIMATE STRESS RELIEVER

HOW TO TRUST GOD WHEN
LIFE THROWS YOU A CURVEBALL

BY JOYCE MEYER



Stress is a modern-day epidemic. Every one of us deals with a degree of stress, however God never intended for us to live our entire lives *stressed out*.

Proverbs 12:25 says, *Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down....* Stress and worry have an impact on every single area of our lives—they affect us mentally, emotionally, and even physically.

But God has given us the antidote in His Word.

Proverbs 3:5 is one of my favorite scriptures. It says, *Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.*

Trusting God is the greatest stress reliever in the world. But the choice is up to us. We can “rely on our own insight and understanding”—endlessly thinking about our problems, trying to figure everything out ourselves. Or we can choose a trusting attitude that says:

“God, I’m not sure what to do about my situation, but I know that I can’t fix it on my own. If there is something specific You want me to do, please show me. Meanwhile, I’m going to trust You and enjoy my life while You work on my problems.”

Worry is the opposite of faith and trust. It steals our peace and joy and even makes us sick. When we worry, we actually torment *ourselves*—we’re doing the enemy’s job for him!

Worry is caused by not trusting God to take care of the various situations in our lives. Too often we trust our own abilities, believing that we can figure out how to take care of our own problems. However, we eventually learn one way or another that trying to take care of everything ourselves is too big of a task.

I used to be a professional worrier—*I was good at it*. Years ago, when my children were young, I would sit at our kitchen table and spend hours looking at our bills, worrying how we would pay them. My husband, Dave, on the other hand, would be sitting on the floor in the TV room, letting the kids put curlers in his hair.

I would say, “Dave how can you have fun at a time like this?” And he would answer, “Joyce, we’ve prayed about it, and we’re doing everything we know to do. I refuse to be miserable with you.”

It made me so mad! But Dave was right. I was allowing myself to get upset and waste time I could have been spending with my children.

In John 14:27 Jesus says, *Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]*

I love this! God is saying, “I am giving you My peace, but the choice is up to you!”

We don’t always have to know *what* God is going to do or *when* He’s going to do it. All we really need to know is that God has a plan and He is in control. We can rest in the truth that at the right time, God will execute His plan.

The truth is, God knew about your problem before you ever got it, and He already has a plan for your solution. In the meantime, you can choose to enjoy your life while you wait. With His help, you can *trust more* and *stress less*. ☺

5 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU’RE TEMPTED TO WORRY

- 1 PLACE YOUR TRUST IN GOD**
Believe that God will take care of your situation, in His perfect way and timing.
- 2 HUMBLE YOURSELF**
Honestly come before God and let Him know you can’t do it on your own. Recognize that you need His help to have success in any area of your life.
- 3 CAST YOUR CARES ON HIM**
God wants us to throw our cares and worries onto Him and allow Him to carry the weight of them. (See 1 Peter 5:6-7.)
- 4 CHOOSE TO THINK AND SAY POSITIVE, FAITH-FILLED STATEMENTS FROM GOD’S WORD.**
For example: “The Lord is going to take care of this. It doesn’t matter what it looks like—I believe God is working!”
- 5 ENJOY YOUR LIFE WHILE YOU WAIT!**
Enter into God’s rest, knowing He will come through!

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LET US PRAY FOR YOU!

It's *way* too hard to weather life's challenges without prayer. And let's face it, some of us aren't very good at asking for help and support even when we desperately need it. But life is not meant to be lived alone. In fact, God wants you to know He'll *always* be with you (see Deuteronomy 31:6)! We encourage you to slow down, stay engaged in intimate conversations with Him, and essentially say, "I trust You."

FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR LOVED ONES

God, I'm praying for [*list your loved ones by name*] today...that their hearts would open to You. I pray that the Gospel suddenly makes sense to them, and that they would finally feel and know for certain that You love them. I pray that You would show them that what they're missing—and what's most important in life—is a close, personal relationship with You. And Lord, help me to be consistently encouraging to them no matter what. Give me the grace, Lord. **Amen.**

» **SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:** John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Ephesians 3:17-19, 1 John 4:19

FOR HEALTH & HEALING IN YOUR BODY

God, I want to be healthy and I want to take better care of my body, but I need Your help. You know I've been struggling with this. I need You to change how I think about food and exercise and everything else. I'm also facing [*share any illnesses or injuries you're suffering from*], and that makes me feel [*share your emotional condition*]. God, I want to do all the right things but I'm just not strong in this area. Help me to do what I can do, and then help me trust You for the healing I need. God, thank you for hearing my prayer. **Amen.**

» **SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:** John 10:10, Psalm 30:2, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 103:3, Psalm 107:20, Isaiah 53:5

FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD TO FLOURISH

God, thank you for listening to my prayers. I'm amazed by the fact that You do. Today, I'm praying for my faith to grow. I want to be able to trust You through anything life throws at me. I want to be able to stay peaceful when bad things happen. I want to have joy when the enemy wants me to be angry or sad or depressed. And I want to see the good plans you have for me come to pass. God, I'm praying for [*share your needs, and your hopes for the future*]. I know that if I will put all my trust in You that Your will for my life will come to pass. Nothing is impossible for You, Lord. And I choose to trust in You. **Amen.**

» **SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:** 1 Corinthians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 5:2, Romans 15:13, 1 Timothy 6:12, Hebrews 10:22-23, Hebrews 11:6, James 2:17

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIPS

God, I'm having a hard time dealing with [*say the person's name*] right now. Honestly, I feel like [*share your emotions*], and it's so hard not to just react. I really need Your wisdom here. Help me take the time I need to seek You so that I can see this situation from Your point of view. Help me to be understanding and sincerely kind, and to have a good attitude. Lord, I also pray that You would provide great opportunities for open and honest communication. I know I can trust You to show me what to say and do. And then no matter what happens, I can be at peace in You. **Amen.**

» **SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:** John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 13:4-13, Ephesians 4:1-2, Ephesians 5:2, Colossians 3:12-14, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 4:17-19

FOR FREEDOM IN YOUR FINANCES

God, My financial situation is [*share what's going on*] and I need Your help to [*complete your request*]. So I'm asking You to come in and show me what I need to do. Help me to trust You through the process, and strengthen my faith in You. Help me to remember those in need with generous compassion. Thank You for caring for me, and giving me exactly what I need. **Amen.**

» **SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:** Deuteronomy 8:18, Psalm 34:10, Psalm 1:3, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 6:19-21 and 26, Luke 6:38, Romans 13:8, Philippians 4:19, 3 John 2

MARCH 7 IS OUR

celebration OF prayer

a special time we set aside to lift up our friends and partners in prayer—and we'd love to pray for you!

Tell us how we can pray for you...
Please submit your requests at
joycemeyer.org/prayer



We met

PAUL BUSHEY
at our Minneapolis
Conference and he
shared his awesome
testimony!

GOD MET ME WHERE I WAS

A few years ago, I had three heart attacks and two cardiac arrests because of cocaine. *I never saw my life heading that way.* I was always responsible.

I had a great job, and I was married for 30 years to my sweetheart. I fell in love with her right after high school.

I was sitting in the living room one day when I heard her call my name from the other room. I hurried into the bedroom and she was sitting on the edge of our bed. I looked into her eyes and saw distress that I had never seen before.

“Oh my Lord,” she cried, grabbing her chest...and just like that, she fell into my arms and died from a heart attack. I tried to revive her but couldn’t.

I don’t want to blame that instance as to why I started using, but it was an incredibly traumatic experience in my life and I really didn’t know what to do. My life went into a tailspin.

At the time of my wife’s death, I had about \$160,000 in the bank. *Suddenly I was close to a \$600-a-day crack addict, and I spent every penny in 16 months.*

I was supposed to be taking care of my mother when I went broke. I was as far down as I could get.

At 53 years old, I had never opened a Bible, never said the name “Jesus.”

The last time I went into cardiac arrest was from using heroin. I was laying in my driveway when the police showed up. They put the paddles on my chest. And the thing I remember was how black and cold it was.

No matter what anybody tells me, I had both feet in Hell...it scared the dickens out of me.

That’s the night I received Jesus deep in my heart. *God met me where I was and gave me a second chance.*

Now I’m on this remarkable journey, and I can honestly say I wouldn’t trade anything that’s happened to me. *I went from \$160,000 to zero, but I’m richer now than I’ve ever been.*

God used the situation to really draw me close to Him. Today I love Him dearly.

Coming into a relationship with God has changed everything in my life. I’m humbled by His mercy, and I’m so thankful for the hope I can find in Him.

I’d done a lot of damage to my heart. But the last time I was tested, about a year and a half ago, my numbers were almost back to normal. My heart is really good and my cardiologist is amazed.

I know it’s only by prayer. It’s only by faith. It’s only by my surrender to Him. And it’s all by the grace of God that today I am well. 🙏

BY JOYCE MEYER

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

I believe a lot of people never achieve their God-given potential because they think they can't do enough to make a difference. If that's you, I want to share two little words that can literally change your life—**do something**. Let me give you some suggestions...



1

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

At one point in my life, I didn't think there was a way for me to keep all my commitments and exercise. However, the Lord continued to deal with me about it. So, I finally decided to do something. As a result, I am now committed to a healthy diet and regular exercise. If you need to exercise, do something today to get your body moving and your blood pumping.



2 CURB YOUR FINANCIAL ANXIETY

Maybe you're in debt so deep that you can't foresee ever getting ahead. As a result, you're tempted to not pay your bills at all and go spend more money. But even if you paid one dollar a week toward your bills, it's still better than doing nothing at all, and you are at least moving in the right direction.

4

BUILD A LOVING, CARING COMMUNITY

One group of ladies said they heard me teach about joining together as a group to accomplish something great. So they went and organized a large garage sale. Each of the 21 families that decided to get involved relished the opportunity to work toward this shared vision. And they raised a whopping \$2,100 for world missions!

3 WHEN INSPIRATION COMES, JUST GO WITH IT

Last year, ten-year-old twins Brianna and Bethany came to one of our conferences with their mother, and were inspired to help drill a clean water well. They obviously didn't have \$10,000 to give, but they decided to do what they could. These two young ladies made and sold bracelets, eventually donating \$200 toward water relief!

5 WHEN IN DOUBT...DO SOMETHING

There are a lot of things we can do in life, but there's one thing we must never do—*nothing*. If you need to exercise, then start with five minutes a week. If you need to clean or organize your home, then start with a dresser drawer, a closet, or the dishes in your sink. And if you notice a need in the world or in the life of someone around you, then tell yourself, "I can help. I can do something about it. I may not be able to do it all, but with God's help, I will do something."



- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

- 5 _____

- 6 _____

- 7 _____

- 8 _____

- 9 _____

- 10 _____

FOUR WAYS YOU'RE HELPING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

BY RACHAEL ATHEARN, STAFF WRITER

1. FOOD TRUCKS THAT RELIEVE HUNGER

When intense rains ravaged parts of Peru earlier this year, hundreds of thousands of families were left devastated and without homes. And as the community sorted through the muck and mud, searching for whatever belongings remained, you were there to help them.

Thanks to your financial support, *Joyce Meyer Ministries, Hand of Hope* could partner with *Mission Cristiana Camino de Vida* to provide immediate assistance to the families struggling from this disaster. We pumped houses; shoveled out dirt; mobilized hundreds of church volunteers; and bought gas-powered pumps, shovels, wheelbarrows, gloves and boots.

And even today, your partnership continues to help families in the

flood-affected areas. When another need—for regular, nutritious meals—was unearthed, we knew we had to find a way to feed the people. With the help of another church, we were able to purchase brand-new food trucks, which serve as traveling feeding centers throughout Lima, Peru.

More than 13,000 meals have been distributed in 13 districts around Lima to date, with 5,000 additional meals served in Piura, Peru, during the disaster. The most exciting part of it all is that the meals draw people to a place where they hear the life-changing message of the Gospel and walk away knowing how very much God loves them.

Thank you so much for helping people recover from natural disasters around the world.



As friends and partners of *Joyce Meyer Ministries, Hand of Hope World Missions*, you are helping share Christ's love with millions of people around the world every day. And whatever form that takes—providing a plate of food to someone who's hungry, getting Joyce's books into the hands of people who need the Gospel, drilling a water well or mending a wound—we want to say thank you. Your gifts and prayers make every single outreach possible, and we couldn't do any of this without you. Over the next couple of pages, we want to share with you just a few of the exciting ways you are with us...sharing Christ and loving people every day.



2. STRENGTHENING GOD'S LITTLE ONES

Over the last year, we have been working with *Crisis Aid International* to rescue and restore the health of children who are suffering from severe malnutrition in East Africa.

Though the region is known world-wide for its booming coffee-production business, this area is home to some of the poorest, most malnourished people on earth.

But our newly built, state-of-the-art *Malnutrition Clinic in East Africa* is designed to help change that...one child at a time.

This facility houses 20 in-patient beds, exam rooms, a surgical area and plenty of space for continued education and rehabilitation.

The program allows children to stay for approximately three to four weeks—or however long is necessary—to regain their health and strength. During this time, our team of professionals uses every means possible to provide them the nutrition and medical help they require. They are even able to perform surgeries in extreme cases where the

effects of malnutrition have caused internal damage.

But it doesn't stop here. Our goal is to see these children and their families thrive even after they leave our clinic. That's why we provide extensive training and education about health and nutrition.

We're happy to report that our new pediatric medical clinic is already changing lives. So far this year, our team was able to treat more than *11,329 patients!*

Best of all, we have the privilege of sharing the Gospel message with so many of the families. We let them know that Jesus Christ loves them tremendously, and *He* is the reason why we do what we do.

Thank you so much for your incredible support, which is making all of this possible. Because of you, there is now a bright light of hope in the middle of a place where so many children are suffering from chronic malnourishment.

Here, at this new medical clinic, they are experiencing God's incredible love, grace, mercy and healing.

3. DRAWING WATER FROM GOD'S WELL

We all know how important water is. But to really understand it, we have to put ourselves in the position of a person who just doesn't have access to it. And that is the case for many, many people around the world. The water that they do get is rancid...it's dangerous...and it's hours and hours away.

Stefano knows firsthand how difficult life is without water. At 14 years old, he remembers his mom spending her days walking from hut to hut, collecting from neighbors any drops of water they could spare. Even so, by nighttime his mother rarely returned with enough water for cooking, leaving Stefano and his six siblings with hungry, rumbling tummies.

"You could see the food (like porridge)," Stefano says, "but you could not eat it because there was no water."

In his village in Tanzania, the children's days revolve around shepherding their family's livestock. And with no water or shade to relieve them from the blazing African sun, it was all too common for the little ones to die from heatstroke in the fields.

That was before we drilled a fresh-water well in their village...one the people declared is "God's well." Now, thanks to the financial gifts of our friends and partners, Stefano's family has plenty of water for drinking, cooking and even washing. And since the well was established, *not one person there has died from dehydration.*

Not only that, so much more has been flowing forth to the Datooga people.

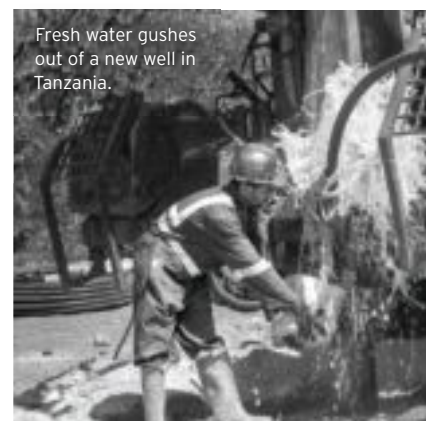
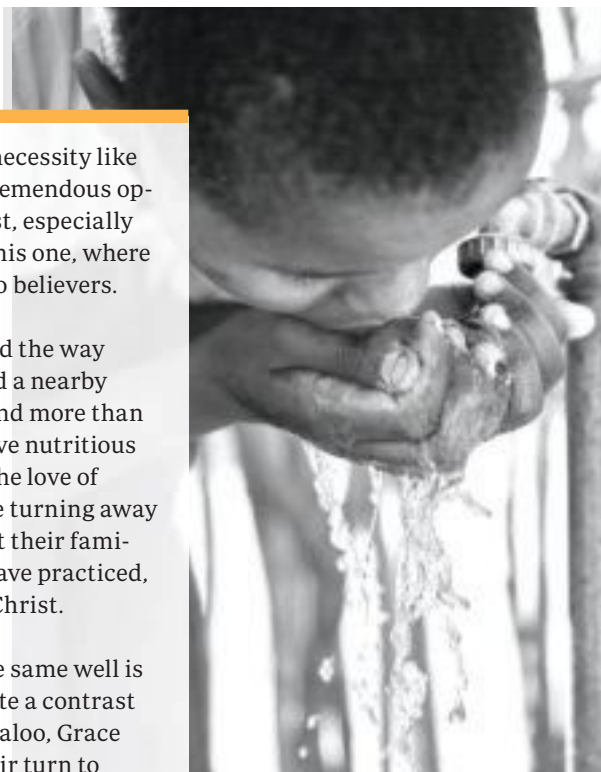
Providing such a basic necessity like fresh water gives us a tremendous opportunity to share Christ, especially in remote villages like this one, where there were previously no believers.

The water well has paved the way for *Hand of Hope* to build a nearby school, where Stefano and more than 100 other children receive nutritious meals and learn about the love of Jesus. Many children are turning away from the witchcraft that their families—for generations—have practiced, and they are following Christ.

Just a few steps from the same well is another scene that's quite a contrast from decades past, as Maloo, Grace and Hospital waited their turn to fill bowls and jugs with pure water. Hospital was there to wash her laundry. Grace and Maloo would load up their donkeys with containers to carry home. And all could drink.

It used to take the women a day and a half to find water...water that was dirty and full of disease. And when they finally did reach a small pool, the animals took priority...in fact, the women were the last to have a drink. After such a grueling journey, they often slept at the waterhole, putting themselves in danger of being attacked by hyenas and baboons in the night.

At that time, water was only for cooking and drinking...to use the precious resource for bathing just didn't make sense. This led to many skin conditions, infections and diseases among the people, especially affecting children and pregnant women. There was no water to wash newborns, and many mothers were so dehydrated they lost their babies while giving birth.



Fresh water gushes out of a new well in Tanzania.

But thankfully, these women and children are now thriving because they have access to clean water. There's water to drink. There's water to make meals. There's water to clean with. There's water and food to draw children to an education, and there's water to draw people to church. It's just one step after another that started with digging a well. And what God does next...the reach is unending.



Partnership is **simple.**

Partnership is **beautiful.**

Partnership **changes lives.**

IN ADDITION to the outreaches you've read about over the last few pages, your giving helps do even more through education, helping women and girls, and providing medical and dental care to people who simply don't have access. Maybe you've been wondering how you can join us in sharing Christ's love with even more people in the United States and abroad. If you'd like to give a special gift to any of these areas, visit joycemeyer.org/GiveHope today.

OR YOU CAN be a part of these outreaches and so much more every day by becoming a partner. When you partner with *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, you're not only playing an active part in alleviating people's physical needs around the world, but you're also helping us share the Gospel through our TV program, online and more. Visit joycemeyer.org/partnership to learn how you can automatically make a difference each day!



Partnership

Join us now.



"I knew the wells would save these mothers' children"

BY KATHI RYKS, partner

In the late '80s and early '90s, I brought missions teams to places like Haiti and Jamaica. I can't tell you how many women I saw lose children...all because of the water.

In Haiti, our teams would have to go to the river to clean up and take a bath. But you could look up the river and see that the people's animals, their cows and oxen, were in there too. And they were in there for anything and everything you can imagine. That's where the people got their drinking water.

I remember being in a little area with our interpreters and hearing loud wailing coming. The nurses on our team had just told a woman how sick her child was. We thought her baby was an infant, but the child was actually about 18 months old...so little and emaciated. The nurses took the mother and baby to a different city that had a clinic, but the child was just too far gone and ended up dying.

Over and over, this is the heart-breaking scene we saw, and so much of the problem could have ▶

► been solved simply by having clean water. One thing I quickly realized was that these mothers love their children the same as we love ours. Just because they lose them so often doesn't make the sorrow any less.

So when I saw that *Joyce Meyer Ministries, Hand of Hope* brings clean-water wells to people in need around the world, I knew I had to become a partner. I knew that these water wells would change lives forever. They would save these mothers' children.

The thing with partnership is that there are so many people who come together. You may have a small amount to give or a large amount to give, but every piece comes together to make one big mosaic, and that mosaic might be a well. It might be a neighborhood you helped rebuild after a flood or a brand-new start for a woman who was pulled out of an abusive situation. That mosaic is a beautiful picture for all those people who will testify to how their lives have been changed. And you can play an important part.



4. MEETING A COMMUNITY'S SPECIAL NEEDS

At *Joyce Meyer Ministries, Hand of Hope*, we are always on the lookout for opportunities to reach out to those who are overlooked or underserved.

So, when God opened the door for us to help give children who have special needs the chance to experience some fun, meaningful Easter activities, we knew we had to be a part!

Earlier this year, through a partnership with True Life Church in Newark, Delaware, we were able to help provide children in the community with a variety of Easter egg hunts...all tailored to their unique needs.

And in addition to the 8,000 Easter eggs that were distributed through this outreach, your giving enabled us to help provide 400 meals and give away 300 of *Joyce's Battlefield of the Mind* books.



Wendy Felts was there with her 4-year-old grandson Jeremiah, who is blind. All the eggs in his area were outfitted with a beeping mechanism so that the children could find them.

She says these types of activities are hard to find in the area.

“We try and do things with him to allow him to be typical like other children. And I was really attracted to the fact that (you) actually (had) a different area for the visually impaired children...(with) the beeping Easter eggs,” she says.

“(Jeremiah) absolutely loved it. It was just a beautiful day, and the kids had a really good time and were able to just be kids.”

We love how God can use something as small as an Easter egg hunt to make such a big impact in a family's life! Through such a simple yet meaningful event, you helped us take the Gospel to families who sometimes feel isolated and connected them with churches that truly care for their needs. 🙏



YOU CAN HELP US reach more people around the world by giving a special gift today. Visit joycemeyer.org/GiveHope



FACING THE STORMS

RENEWED HOPE AMID AN HISTORIC HURRICANE SEASON

BY GINGER STACHE

You never get used to disaster sites. Scenes of twisted, destroyed property and sorrow written all over people's faces do sadly become familiar, but never routine. Walking into each new disaster situation is jarring, like a punch to the gut. And every time someone shares their story of loss, it is heart-wrenching.

We at *Hand of Hope, Joyce Meyer Ministries World Missions*, have responded to many disasters over the years including Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, Earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal, many floods and tornadoes, as well as the tsunami in southeast Asia.

2017 was a year overwhelmed by various natural disasters, but because of your faithful support, we were poised and ready to go when and wherever needed. And each time we approach an area with an attitude of hopefulness—even in the middle of chaos—sincere gratitude poured from them because they knew we were there to help. We took this responsibility to heart: to be living examples of God's love.

The following story is a beautiful example of the precious people we encounter.

RESTORING HOPE IN HARVEY'S PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Driving through the neighborhoods of Houston, Texas, after Hurricane Harvey brought yet another difficult blow. The streets were lined with each household's contents piled as high as the rooftops, including photos and family heirlooms—just things, yet many irreplaceable. But it's the stories of fear, loss and heroism that we remember most.

When we pulled up to Phil and Sheila's home, volunteers were carrying out the ruined contents and ripping up flooring and drywall. Phil and Sheila sat in shock, watching silently as volunteers moved in and out. The pile of rubble in their yard grew larger and larger until their home of more than 30 years was completely obscured.

Life was difficult enough for the couple before the storm. Sheila is on oxygen and has faced many

physical challenges. Phil cares for Sheila, though he has health difficulties of his own, and it is obvious that the couple shares a sweet bond. But the destruction of their home left Phil feeling particularly hopeless.

That's when *Hand of Hope* showed up with the help of our disaster relief partner, *Eight Days of Hope*. As the energetic crew of smiling volunteers from all across the country did the work that would have taken a couple weeks and a great deal of money to accomplish, Phil's hope was renewed with the knowledge that God had truly provided for them.

When we met Caron, the first words out of her mouth were, "If you're looking for someone who is going to cry over what's happened, you've got the wrong house." Caron's home was completely flooded and would have to be gutted and rebuilt, but she was determined that God's grace would get her through. It's something she says she learned from Joyce's teachings — and it's something she saw in action when help knocked on her door.



Hand of Hope is partnering with Eight Days of Hope to rebuild homes in Texas.



Alicia and her son, Chris

RESCUED BY HER SON

Perhaps the most harrowing story we heard was of a son who was determined to keep his elderly mother safe. Chris's mother Alicia is a beautiful 87-year-old with diabetes. As the water began to unexpectedly rise in her neighborhood, Chris picked her up from her bed and carried her to his pick-up truck to keep her safe from electrocution. The water was moving faster than they could escape and they were trapped in the truck for 12 hours.

Hours spent riding out the storm, the water rising and Alicia without her medication could have resulted in the worst. Thankfully a family member was eventually able to rescue them, taking Alicia and Chris to safety through the neighborhood streets in a boat.

Alicia and her family have lost many irreplaceable family mementos, but with tears in their eyes they shared their gratitude that God spared what mattered most—their lives. And on top of that, He sent a special group of people to help them begin the rebuilding process with the help of *Hand of Hope*.

Real life stories like these are the reasons we are dedicated to doing all we can to help more families rebuild after Hurricane Harvey in Texas. And it doesn't stop there. We're also providing critical support for those affected by Hurricane *Irma* in Florida and the Caribbean, *Maria* in Puerto Rico, and *Nate* in Costa Rica. With your financial support, we are encouraging, praying for and helping people rebuild as they face the future.

We never get used to disasters like these, but we do love to see God's people come together to reach out in times of need. Together, we are restoring hope, rebuilding lives and helping share the love of Christ in a beautiful way! 📌

YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!

After the winds died down, your support enabled *Hand of Hope* to partner with vital relief organizations to help families pick up the pieces. Together, we are rebuilding homes, removing debris, providing food, water, diapers and other rescue supplies, and offering critical emotional and spiritual support.

HARVEY

MADE LANDFALL: Aug. 26, 2017
WHERE: Texas & Louisiana
OUR RESPONSE: Partnering with multiple organizations, including *God's Pit Crew* and *Eight Days of Hope*, to bring relief to families all across Texas.

IRMA

MADE LANDFALL: Sept. 10, 2017
WHERE: Florida & Caribbean
OUR RESPONSE: Partnering with *Next Level Church*, *Christ Fellowship*, and other organizations and local churches to provide emergency relief and help them rebuild.

MARIA

MADE LANDFALL: Sept. 20, 2017
WHERE: Puerto Rico
OUR RESPONSE: Partnering with *Convoy of Hope*, *New Life Covenant Church* and *Tommy Miranda Ministries* to provide rescue and vital necessities in Puerto Rico.

NATE

MADE LANDFALL: Oct. 8, 2017
WHERE: Central America
OUR RESPONSE: Working with *Mission of Hope* to provide critical relief in Costa Rica.

READ MORE:

about our 2017 Hurricane Relief efforts & see what you helped make possible and what we are continuing to do at joycemeyer.org/HurricaneRelief

THINK THIS, NOT THAT

HOW TO AVOID THE 10 WRONG MINDSETS THAT KEEP YOU STUCK IN THE WILDERNESS

BY JOYCE MEYER

You're probably familiar with the story of Moses and how God used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the "Promised Land." The Bible says they wandered in the desert for 40 years making an eleven-day journey!

Years ago, God spoke to my heart and said, "The children of Israel spent forty years in the wilderness because they had a *wilderness mentality*." I define a "wilderness mentality" as a wrong mindset. Like the Israelites, our wrong mindsets can keep us dealing with the same problems, never truly making any progress.

I love Deuteronomy 1:6: *The Lord our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, "You have stayed long enough on this mountain."*

God was telling them (and us), "It's time to move on—you have been here long enough!" **And it all begins with our thinking**—renewing our minds with God's Word and exchanging our wrong thinking patterns for the right ones.



"EVERYONE ELSE IS BETTER OFF THAN I AM."

Jealousy is often referred to as "the green monster"...and for good reason. Focusing on others' strengths and everything they have will make you miserable! There is no one on this earth who can be a better *you*. So, set your mind to be happy for others and decide to trust God with yourself.

THINK THIS

"I am unique and special. God loves me, and He has a wonderful, personalized plan for my life."
Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Jeremiah 29:11

2

"MY FUTURE IS DETERMINED BY MY PAST AND PRESENT."

The Israelites came out of 300 years of slavery and had no positive vision for their lives. Everything was based on what they *had* seen and *could* see. They had no faith for their future!

Similarly, maybe you've had a difficult past. You may even be dealing with negative circumstances right now and have no real reason to hope. If so, I encourage you to get a new mindset and choose to believe that *...with God all things are possible* (Mark 10:27 KJV).

Your past and your present do not determine your future! So, make a decision to put your faith in Him. *When you believe, He will do the rest.*

THINK THIS

"All things are possible with God, and I have a bright future ahead of me."
Mark 10:27; Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 3:13

3

"IT'S NOT MY FAULT."

The "blame game"—an unwillingness to take responsibility for our actions—goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. However, Jesus said it's *the truth* that sets us free. Ask God to show you the truth about yourself. It's the first step toward receiving His grace to become more like Him.

THINK THIS

"I always take responsibility for my actions. God, please show me the truth about myself so I can grow and change."
John 8:32; 1 Peter 5:6; Romans 12:16

4

"IT'S TOO HARD!"

The enemy loves to try and fill our minds with "give up" thoughts. However, God's Word says He'll *always* give us the strength and ability we need to do His will.

THINK THIS

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. I can do everything God asks me to do."
1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13

5

“MY LIFE IS SO MISERABLE—I FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF.”

I'll admit, pity was a hard thing for me to give up. I had used it for years to comfort myself when I was hurting. However, self-pity is a major trap, and it's one of Satan's favorite tools to keep us in the wilderness.

One day, during one of my “pity parties,” the Lord spoke to my heart: *“Joyce, you can be pitiful or powerful, but you cannot be both.”*

When you feel those emotions rising within you, check your thinking. Then go to God and ask for help. Pray, “Oh God, give me the strength to change my thinking and let go of self-pity. I have so much to be thankful for, and I know You're on my side through everything.”

THINK THIS

“I am so grateful for all that God has done for me. My life is blessed and filled with good things.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 103

6

“I'M ADDICTED TO COMPLAINING.”

When we *complain*, we *remain*—it prevents us from moving forward. However, when we adopt a good attitude in the hard times, it puts us on the road to freedom.

THINK THIS

“I'm determined to see the good in every situation. I will remain grateful to God and say things that are positive and uplifting.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 18:20-21

7

“SOMEBODY DO IT FOR ME.”

It's easy to get excited at the beginning of something, but it takes commitment to cross the finish line. Don't be afraid of responsibility and hard work—they're the very things that will help you reach your goals.

THINK THIS

“I love to work hard, do my part and see things through to the end. The Lord blesses the work of my hands.”

Colossians 3:23; Proverbs 12:11; Deuteronomy 15:10



“I DON'T DESERVE GOD'S BLESSINGS.”

Because of the abuse I suffered growing up, I had a shame-based nature. I blamed myself for what had happened to me, although there was nothing I could have done to stop it.

The enemy constantly told me that I was no good—that I was unworthy of God's love or help. I spent years trying to be good enough to deserve what God wanted to give me freely by His grace.

But whether it's God's love, salvation, forgiveness, or the many promises in His Word, there's nothing we can do to “earn” or deserve them. We can only humbly accept and appreciate them...*and be in awe of how good He is and how much He loves us.*

THINK THIS

“God loves and approves of me, and today I choose to receive His mercy, grace, and forgiveness for my life.”

Romans 8:31-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Jeremiah 1:5

9

“DON'T MAKE ME WAIT—I DESERVE EVERYTHING IMMEDIATELY.”

Impatience is related to pride—the proud person believes they should never be inconvenienced. The truth is, you're going to spend a lot of time in your life waiting, and being impatient will only make you (and everyone around you) miserable. *So, why not learn to wait with joy?*

THINK THIS

“I am peaceful and patient, and I trust God to give me exactly what I need in His perfect timing.”

1 Peter 5:6; Proverbs 16:9; James 1:4; Romans 12:10

10

“I'M GOING TO DO IT MY WAY OR NOT AT ALL!”

Sometimes we're like two-year-olds, always saying, “I do it my way!” However, it's only when we obey God and do things *His way* that we'll have true success.

THINK THIS

“I want God's will in every area of my life. I'm flexible to obey and follow Him wherever He leads me.”

Matthew 6:10; Deuteronomy 5:33; Proverbs 3:6



TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND COUNT TO 10

HOW TO LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE

BY JOYCE MEYER

Most of the pain and anguish we receive from other people is a result of their own pain. I often say that hurting people hurt people. When someone is miserable, it inevitably comes out somewhere—and it usually comes out on *somebody*.

The truth is, we're never going to be able to prevent people from saying or doing things that hurt our feelings. But if we do things *God's way*, we can choose to save ourselves a lot of misery and hardship.

BELIEVE THE BEST First Corinthians 13:7 says that *love...believes all things [looking for the best in each one]...* When someone hurts our feelings or offends us, we have a choice. We can think, *You did this on purpose just to upset me!* Or we can choose to believe the best and think:

Well, they must be having a difficult day and probably didn't even realize they were being rude to me. Maybe something difficult is going on in their life. It most likely has nothing to do with me.

I know that I desire for others to show me a lot of grace and mercy and give me the benefit of the doubt when I'm having a bad day or hurt their feelings without realizing it. No one is perfect, and we can all use a little room to be human.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF I don't know how many years I prayed for God to change my husband Dave. In my mind, *he* was always the problem. Thank heaven, I finally learned the importance of adopting a humble attitude.

Now I pray more like this: "God, I would like for you to change Dave. But Lord, I may not even see this right—I may be the problem. God, first deal with me if I need to change."

As we humble ourselves and ask the Lord to change *us*, it's amazing how it will transform our relationships and our attitude toward others.

PRAY FOR OTHERS It's easy to give someone an ultimatum like, "If you don't change your ways, I'm leaving you!" They may change for a while, but their bad behavior will eventually come back because their heart hasn't changed.

We should pray that God will help people to be all He wants them to be and do all He wants them to do. Pray the Lord will help them get to the root of their problems and realize when they're hurting other people.

I truly believe that we can use kindness as a weapon to overcome the meanness in people. God's love flowing through us is strong enough to melt even the hardest hearts!

BE READY TO FORGIVE I recently saw a movie that really impacted me. The main character had been mistreated very badly, but he eventually chose to forgive the person. Even his wife asked him, "How can you forgive?" His answer has stuck with me ever since. He replied:

"If you forgive, you only have to do that once. But if you hate, you have to do that every day for the rest of your life."

I encourage you to be quick to forgive—leave it and let it go. If you need to confront a person about their behavior or discuss the issue, that is important. But even then, don't allow the poison of unforgiveness to ruin your life.

COVER THEIR SIN & DON'T GOSSIP!

First Peter 4:8 says that *...love covers a multitude of sins...* What does this mean? In practical terms, it's saying that we shouldn't expose people's faults to someone else.

This can be difficult. When we're hurting, we want to call everyone we know and start gossiping—"Well, you just wouldn't believe what they said to me!"

Yes, there are times when it's healthy to talk to someone about an issue. And there are obvious cases like abuse where it's important to let others know. But for most day-to-day offenses, the Lord asks us to love and protect people.

HELP THEM IF THEY NEED HELP... AND DON'T GLOAT! What if someone at work—a person who is difficult and hard to love—is stranded in the parking lot because their car won't start? What we feel like thinking is, *That serves you right! I hope it takes you all night to get home!*

But the Lord is asking us to love that person through our actions. I love Exodus 23:5—it's so practical. It says, *If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under his load, you shall not leave the man to deal with it [alone]; you must help him to release the animal [from its burden].*

Remember, we are Christ's representatives here on earth. God wants to use us to win these people for Him!

TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED

Years ago, I was the person who was hard to love. I didn't do it on purpose—I just had all kinds of problems on the inside of me, and I needed somebody to show me Jesus.

Well, my husband Dave was a mature, godly Christian who did all of the things I am teaching in this article. No matter how much I complained or argued, he refused to give in and refused to let me steal his peace and joy. After a while, I became jealous of him—I wanted what he had!

I can confidently say that I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today if it wasn't for Dave. *God used him to love me into wholeness.* And you have the same opportunity.

The Lord knows what you're going through, and He wants to give you the grace to forgive people (over and over if necessary!) and love them from a sincere heart.

As you do, you are sowing seeds of breakthrough in your life and theirs. Because in the end, *love never fails* (see 1 Corinthians 13:8). **E**



Is there someone in your life who is difficult to love? If so, take a few moments to pray for yourself and them right now. Then choose to begin putting the following principles into practice.

- 1 Believe the best
1 COR 13:7
- 2 Pray for yourself
MATT 7:3-5
- 3 Pray for them
MATT 5:44
- 4 Be ready to forgive
EPH 4:32
- 5 Cover their sin
1 PET 4:8
- 6 Don't gossip!
PROV 11:13
- 7 Bless them with your words
EPH 4:29
- 8 Help them if they need help
LUKE 6:27
- 9 Don't gloat when they have trouble
PROV 24:17
- 10 Treat people the way you want to be treated
MATT 7:12

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

TEN SYMPTOMS OF A NATION AT RISK

BY DAVE MEYER



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

It's safe to say that America is the greatest single experiment of freedom in history. What began as a cry for liberty soon turned into a *revolution*, then a *republic* that would forever change the world.

However, from ancient Rome...to superpowers of the Twentieth century, all of the greatest nations in history have something in common: They share ten symptoms that inevitably led to their decline.

Yes, some great nations were suddenly conquered or overthrown, but the great majority of them collapsed from the *inside out*. This begs the question, **“Just how healthy is America?”**

On the next page, I have listed the ten symptoms of a nation in decline, as presented by author Jim Nelson Black. I encourage you to review it, then take a few moments to reflect. You'll find that virtually every one of these symptoms is present in our nation today.

Here, I want to address just one of these symptoms—**“A Weakening of Cultural Foundations.”** It's a

symptom that threatens to alter America's past and, therefore, *our future*.

“IF YOU CAN KEEP IT”

Change is good, right? Well, not always. The seeds of national decay are often planted when people insist on change *for the sake of change*. Youth, in particular, tend to want to change the “status quo,” whatever it may be at the time.

Cultural traditions are often at the top of the list. As time passes, the foundational principles that were once considered essential to a nation come to be seen as old-fashioned and undesirable.

However, it's the proper knowledge of history and literature—*our culture*—that is the foundation of free society. **If we are robbed of our past, we will accept any future.**

Maybe the greatest cultural change we've seen in our time is the gradual weakening of morality and religion. John Adams once said, “Religion and

virtue are the only foundations of all free governments.”¹

In fact, when our founders ratified the Constitution, *they were counting on it*. No other form of government had ever allowed so much freedom to its people. And they knew it's success fully relied on the morality of its citizens.

It's what prompted this now-famous statement from Benjamin Franklin. On the day of its signing, a woman asked Franklin, “Well, sir, what have you given us?” He simply responded, **“A republic, if you can keep it.”**²

If you can keep it. These five little words would come to mean an awful lot in the years to come...and never more than they do right now.

You see, morality not only brings tremendous personal gain (see Proverbs 13:24), but it also serves a tremendous social purpose. Conversely, *a lack of morals* leads to social deterioration.

No matter how we try to rationalize it, we cannot flirt with moral weakness and hope to survive. Small sins

eventually grow into big ones. But it doesn't stop there...

The sins of a nation eventually infiltrate every level of society. As morals erode and *decrease*, crime and disorder *increase*. As a result, the people of a nation cry out to the government for help, believing they alone can provide protection and assistance.³

The result? In America today, so many people are looking to the government... when our government was originally formed to help us look to God!



THE CAUSE AND THE CURE

Now, there's nothing inherently wrong with change—we serve a God of change! He is constantly changing and transforming us. In fact, everything in life is subject to change. But there's One Thing that won't ever change—**Jesus Christ**.

Since the time of our Founders, the United States has seen many wonderful advances in medicine, science, and in nearly every area of society. However,

the one area we should never advance beyond is **God** and the principles upon which this nation was built.

The truth is, we've *already* forgotten so many of our godly cultural traditions. In fact, in the last 60 years, most people have never learned them to begin with.

As a result, we've gone from a strong, godly nation, ready to fight for our liberties and moral principles... to one that's *complacent*, allowing ungodliness to creep in little by little. We are yielding our rights and slowly becoming more dependent on the government—not *God*—as our source.

How do we deal with a critical loss of faith that threatens to destroy us from within? *You and I must become engaged in the struggle.*

So much good still remains, but things will not get better on their own. We must exercise our civil liberties and refuse to allow our heritage of faith and freedom to be dismantled and revised.

It all begins with rediscovering who we are as a nation and learning about our rich cultural history. It includes educating ourselves on what and Who made this country great.

We must recommit ourselves to the values from which American society was born. We must recommit ourselves to the very Source of our strength—to the one and only Truth that sets us free.

After all, it's what sparked a revolution over 240 years ago... *and it's what will preserve America for future generations.* **E**

AMERICA'S MOST UN-WANTED

From ancient Rome...to superpowers of the Twentieth century, all of the greatest nations in history have something in common. Ten things actually: ten symptoms that signaled their decline. So, the real question is, "How healthy is America?"

- 1 Crisis of Lawlessness
- 2 Loss of Economic Discipline
- 3 Rising Bureaucracy
- 4 Decline of Education
- 5 Weakening of Cultural Foundations
- 6 Loss of Respect for Tradition
- 7 Increase in Materialism
- 8 Rise in Immorality
- 9 Decay of Religious Belief
- 10 Devaluing of Human Life



Renewing the Soul of America

Paperback
by Charles Crismier

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1. David Barton, "Original Intent," WallBuilder Press, 2008, p. 162. 2. Gai M. Ferdon, PhD, "A Republic If You Can Keep It," The Foundation for American Christian Education, 2008, p. v. 3. Jim Nelson Black, "When Nations Die," Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1994, p.116.

10 REASONS TO ATTEND A JOYCE MEYER CONFERENCE

1

PLAN TO TAKE A STEP OF FAITH

A conference is a place where you can come to clear up any confusion, set new goals, and stir yourself up to do what God is asking you to do.



4

A HEALTHY YOU

A healthy you is the best gift you can give your family and your friends. Give yourself a weekend to relax and recharge, and focus on your spiritual health!

5

THE ENCOURAGEMENT!

Sometimes you don't even know you need it until you just really do.



6

THE GOD FACTOR

Whatever problem you have, God is your answer...and He wants you to know He's here for you! Come experience His love in a whole new way.

7

TO GET YOUR PRAISE ON!

Sing a heartfelt song to an audience of One, in a gathering of thousands of believers... and then tell us how you feel.

2

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

God uses His Word to touch our hearts and change our lives. And at conferences—those special times we've set aside for Him—we're just more likely to really get what He's saying. Bring a notebook to capture what God speaks to your heart!



8

BE A SPIRITUAL BESTIE

Come with a friend who wants to grow in their faith. Take a selfie together! Have yourselves a time to remember.

3

DAVE'S "AMERICA" MESSAGE

For roughly 20 years, Dave Meyer has been sharing about the spiritual condition of America, and how we the people can make a difference.



9

THE CROWD

Gerald Osborne from Auburn, Washington, explains: "To be around this many of God's people in one place at one time; to experience this feeling is something that you don't want to miss.... You can feel that we are here because we have one single thing in common and that's Jesus."

10

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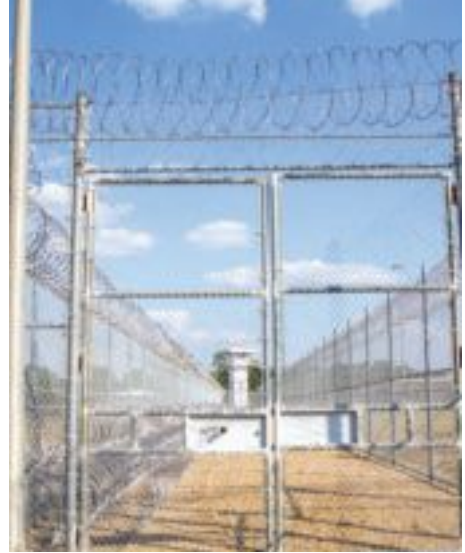
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BRINGING HOPE & FREEDOM BEHIND BARS



Life in prison is not hard to imagine: It's humiliating, scary, and lonely. The desperation and hopelessness that many behind bars experience day after day is overwhelming.

And, let's be totally honest, at times, it is difficult to find compassion for those incarcerated—they've done the crime, and now they must do the time...right? But if we're following the example of Jesus, we should never lose sight of the truth that each inmate is a human being, created by God, loved by Him, and in need of His mercy and compassion. Each one needs a second chance that only He can give. Because true, life-changing rehabilitation only happens when God touches their hearts.

That's why *Hand of Hope*, the missions arm of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, reaches out to those in prison, giving them an encouraging word and simple gifts that demonstrate our mission to share Christ and love people.

Our prison ministry was established in December 1998. Since then, we've visited prisons in all 50 of the United States, as well as 56 other countries. At each location, inmates receive a hygiene gift bag, and when possible, services are held to share God's Word.

The gift bags contain a bar of soap, one of Joyce's books, and a bookmark with an encouraging message from Dave and Joyce. The goal is to express God's love and bring the hope found only through a personal relationship with Christ—no matter who you are, where you've been, or what you've done.

Obviously, this isn't a ministry for the fainthearted. And Roy Lormis, a man with a God-given calling to this mission field, is



the amazing leader of our prison ministry team. For more than 19 years, he has faithfully served, taking more than 288 trips to hand out gift bags and preach the Gospel in all 50 states. He's also ministered to prisoners in 17 other nations.

Roy has a passion for this outreach because he realizes it can literally make the difference between a person merely existing in misery or having hope and really living—even when their physical circumstance seems hopeless.

As a young man, Roy was dangerously close to choosing a path filled with the pain of rejection, anger, and rebellion that would have ultimately led him to imprisonment. But somehow God gripped his attention and



offered him a better option: total restoration through a personal relationship with Jesus. It was a second chance he couldn't refuse.

That's why he shares the truth of God's life-giving love and hope with anyone who will listen. When someone asks him, "How do you keep doing this year after year?" Roy's response is: "God's called me to do this and He's given me the grace to go the distance. I never tire of seeing smiles as we give out the gifts...or of hearing the thousands of *thank-you's* from the offenders. I love sharing a message of hope...and it's so

awesome to watch as the presence of God settles over a room full of convicts and totally captivates their hearts. I'm living my dream!"

Visiting prisons is vitally important to our mission, but we also minister through the mail. Several members in our Correspondence Department are designated to process letters from prisoners. Most contain requests for prayer

or resources to help them learn about God's Word. Some share testimonies of what God has done for them, others tell of the painful circumstances that led them there, and some pour out their fears of the dangers facing them every day behind bars.

Each piece of mail is individually read, and a response is given when we can offer help or feedback. The team gathers weekly to pray for the inmates, asking God to reveal His love, bring healing to wounded souls, and give peace and hope in the midst of chaos and despair. They also pray for the prison staff to be blessed as they do their jobs.

Those touched by our prison ministry often say they have found peace and hope that transcends their circumstance. By God's grace, they are truly free...even living behind bars. **B**



ROY LORMIS

SINCE 1998,

PRISON MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS
HAVE HANDED OUT MORE THAN

3,170,000 GIFT
BAGS,

AND TO DATE, WE'VE WITNESSED
NEARLY

143,000 MEN AND
WOMEN

ACCEPT CHRIST AS
THEIR SAVIOR.

That's thousands of lives touched by God...thousands of desperately hurting people who received the second chance to have the lives they were created to live!

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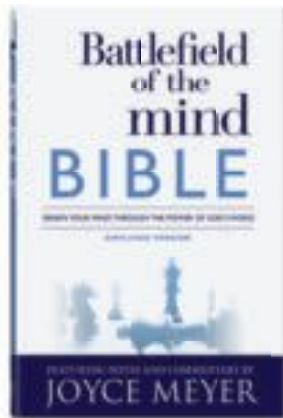
"As I've started reading it, I am so very, very happy about how it contains such valuable and insightful information from Joyce. It contains so much information that is so helpful to me." -Gary

"This [Bible] is exactly what I needed and wanted. I even bought one for a friend of mine, a struggling Christian who needs the hope and direction that this Bible offers." -Marjorie

"The Battlefield of the Mind Bible is hands-down life-changing! ...I'm trying to collect them...and be able to bless my children with each of them having one as they grow up. I've given two away!" -Regina

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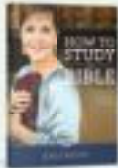
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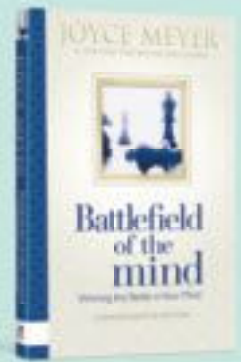
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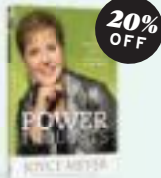
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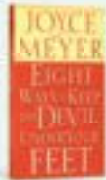
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