

DENNIS BURKE MINISTRIES

# Insights

The Way to a New Life

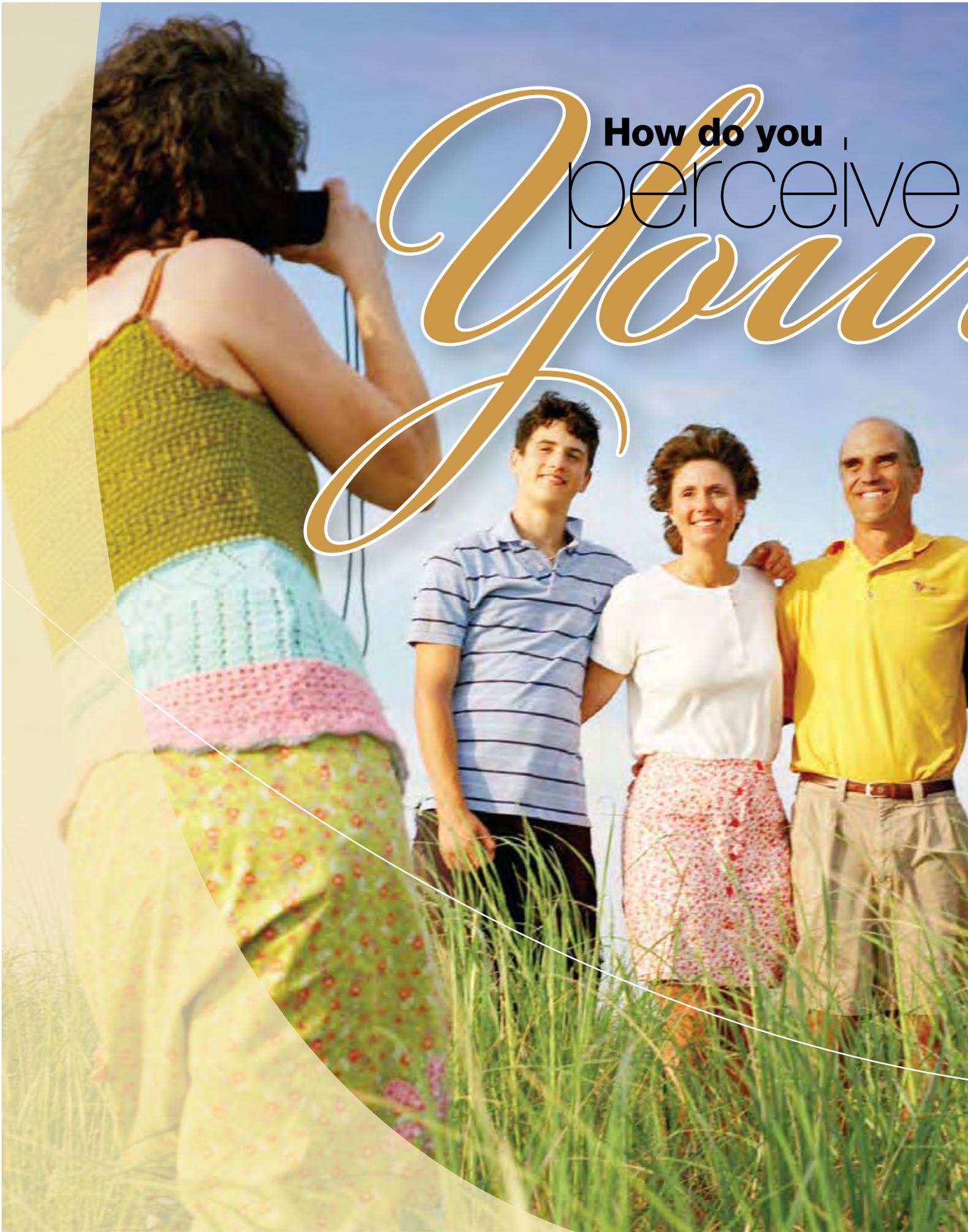
MAY / JUNE 2008

## Your Heavenly Father

has released you from guilt, condemnation, and the sense of inferiority, granting you freedom that cannot be attained through human effort.

How do you  
perceive

*You*



# wrestle?

Do you ever struggle with feelings of failure? Do you wonder why you wrestle with a sense of worthlessness and inadequacy, even though the Bible says God loves you unconditionally? Will the nagging voice of guilt that bombards your mind ever stop? Can the sense of shame that overshadows your mind ever be tamed? Certainly a loving Father would never intend His children to wrestle with these tormenting feelings. Then why do you?

The answer to that question can be found in the beginning of man's story on this earth. Man's struggle with guilt and shame began the moment our first parents decided to believe something other than what God said. That was the moment God's dream of an intimate love relationship with man was spoiled.

Naively, Adam and Eve were fleeced by an imposter's challenging question about God's motives and His love. The imposter claimed that if they would eat what God had forbidden, they would become like Him. Adam and Eve chose to believe that perhaps God hadn't quite told them the whole story — that maybe He had withheld a few empowering bits of information from them.

The moment Adam and Eve trusted the tempter, a transformation took place. God's divine life that had pulsed through their bodies was instantly exchanged for the death nature of the imposter. Death surged through their bodies like a tsunami converging on a coastline, bringing with it the tormenting sensations of fear, guilt, and shame in every realm of their being — spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

In that instant, the first man and woman became bitterly conscious of their limitation, inadequacy, and weakness as the awareness of their wrongdoing engulfed them like an angry sea swallows a sinking ship. In that unparalleled moment in history, man experienced a sense of loss, not because of what he had done, but because of what he had become: separated from God and spiritually dead.

The difference between the glorious place they'd fallen from and the misery they'd sunk into assailed Adam and Eve with waves of despair as unsuspecting as a thief in the night. Surely they hadn't anticipated just how destructive and far-reaching their decision would be — that through their decision to disobey God, all of humanity would inherit the nature of death.

*by Vikki Burke*

Paul brought this dreadful truth to light when he said, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12 NKJV). This fatal and irreversible decision made by earth’s first parents poisoned the conscience of mankind like toxic venom surging through the veins of its victim. The very essence of human thinking and belief became contaminated after Adam and Eve recklessly trusted the tempter. Their sense of right

grace and loving-kindness of God. This poisoned mindset:

- Begins to identify more with sickness and disease than with the divine healing that God provides.
- Settles for frustration and torment rather than the peace that surpasses human understanding.
- Unconsciously concludes that faults and failure carry more weight than the free gift of favor and forgiveness.
- Puts more confidence in human weakness than in God’s supernatural strength.

- Places more faith in personal inability than in God’s immeasurable ability.
- Emphasizes human restrictions and limitations above God’s limitlessness.

E. W. Kenyon made this observation about the fallen state of mankind: “To sin consciousness can be traced the reason for practically every spiritual failure. It destroys faith. It destroys the initiative in the heart. It gives to man an inferiority complex. The sense of unworthiness destroys faith, robs us of our peace of mind, makes ineffectual the most earnest and zealous prayer life.”<sup>1</sup>

So what about you? Has your faith been destroyed? Are you plagued with an inferiority complex? Do you experience more spiritual failures than successes? Is your prayer life ineffectual? The cause of every one of these merciless curses is a deep-rooted sin consciousness.

Throughout history, people have struggled to remove the effects of sin from their conscience by reciting prayers, doing penance, fasting, doing good deeds, attending church, and

imposing every sort of self-depravation imaginable on themselves. Yet no self-inflicted penalty will ever prevail over the crushing sense of guilt. These acts of self-punishment may bring temporary relief or a momentary reprieve, but no amount of punishment of any kind will ever free mankind from the contamination of a deep-rooted awareness of wrongdoing.

Your behavior and performance can never earn a right relationship with God. The Apostle Paul reveals the only way to a rewarding and enjoyable relationship with God: “You have this new relationship with God simply by accepting it. It is his gift to you through his unconditional love. It is not something you could ever earn by any effort of your

## pärt'ner • shĭp'

**N.** 1. an alliance with a mutual devotion between two or more parties who commit their time, money and dedication with the understanding that there shall be a communion of benefit between them.

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and wrong suddenly and unexpectedly became warped and twisted.

This same poison continues to influence and shape the thoughts and beliefs of mankind, generation after generation. And with every successive generation, the feelings of inferiority and worthlessness grow stronger than the approval and acceptance freely offered by our Heavenly Father. A greater power is attached to wrongdoing than the cleansing power of forgiveness.

For the vast majority of mankind — including far too many Christians — the guilt and shame that contaminates human perception becomes more real than the amazing

<sup>1</sup> E. W. Kenyon, *Two Kinds of Righteousness* (Lynnwood, WA: Kenyon Gospel Publishing Society, 1965), p. 11.

Your Heavenly Father has released you from guilt, condemnation, and the sense of inferiority, granting you freedom that cannot be attained through human effort.

own, so you can't brag about having it, or about doing anything" (Ephesians 2:8 *Ben Campbell Johnson*).

Paul makes it clear that a relationship with God cannot be achieved through your own efforts. Rather, you can only receive this amazing gift by faith in God's grace — His unmerited and undeserved kindness that emanates from His mercy, compassion, and love toward you.

Your Heavenly Father has released you from guilt, condemnation, and the sense of inferiority, granting you freedom that cannot be attained through human effort. As Paul said, "...Where unconditional love prevails, merit ceases to exist" (Romans 11:6 *BCJ*). Jesus powerfully expressed this same truth this way: "It is the Spirit who gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing..." (John 6:63 *NLT*).

Try as you may, nothing you do will ever produce a right relationship with God. You can only receive by faith the gift He freely bestows because of His intense love for you.

How, then, can you bridge the gap between God's love for you and your feelings of worthlessness? Are you simply left to struggle with feelings of inadequacy? Not unless you continue to believe the lies of the imposter as Adam and Eve did. Your thoughts must go through a process of renovation — and like any remodeling job, that process takes time.

The truth is, although your spirit was recreated the moment you made Jesus the Lord of your life, your mind was not! So what does it take to renovate your thoughts? The only way to change the way you think is to spend time every day meditating in God's Word. Consistently exposing your old pattern of thinking to God's way of thinking will begin a process that eventually results in the transformation of your thought life. And how will you know when that transformation has taken place? You'll know when the impossible seems like the reasonable to you.

Isaiah 55:8,9 (NIV) says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." This passage doesn't say that God wants your thinking to remain lower than His. No, it's His desire that you abandon your own ways and thoughts and rise to a new level of walking in His ways and thinking like Him. This is the key that will elevate your life above anything you could ever ask or think!

The Apostle Paul clarifies in very simple terms the two forces that can shape your thoughts: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God

remold your minds from within" (Romans 12:2 Phillips). Either the world is molding your thoughts, or God is. If you're not purposely spending time in God's Word, allowing it to remold your thinking, you will continue to be haunted by the same destructive thought patterns that have plagued you for a lifetime. Fear, guilt, shame, and blame will keep

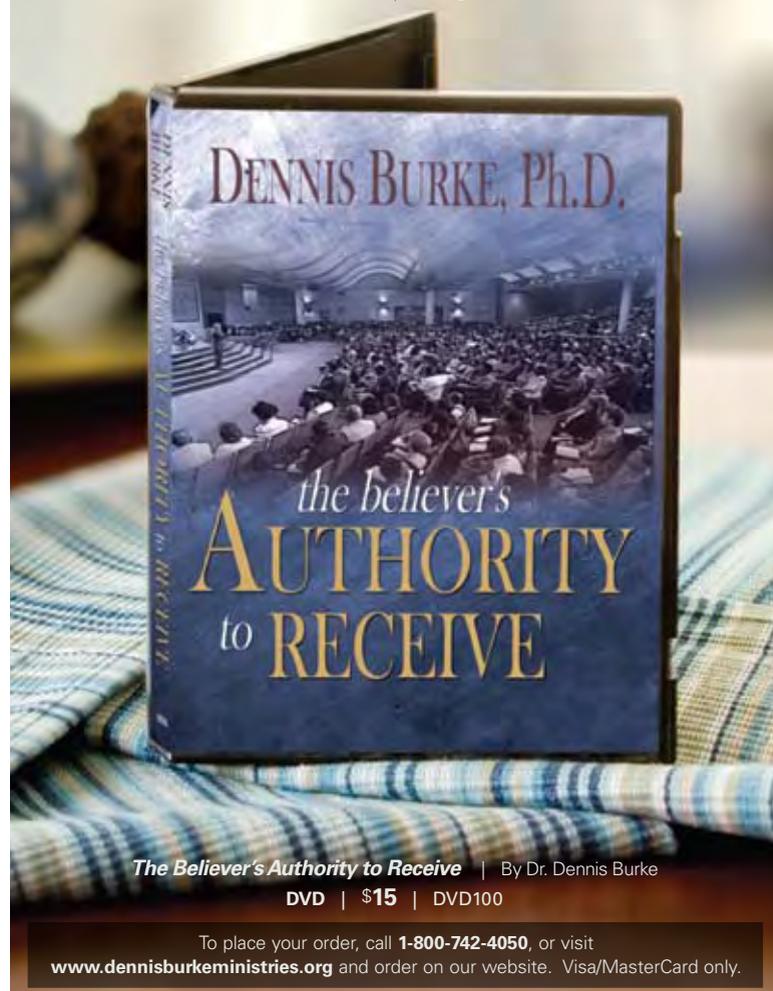
## receive

Why do so many people believe in the promises in God's Word yet struggle to receive from Him? How can a Christian believe right things yet not have the blessing of God active in their life?

So often, people have failed to receive from God because they

have not embraced the authority they have been given to receive results.

This message will give you the insight and answers you have been looking for to receive what is rightfully yours and give God authority to do miraculous things in your life.

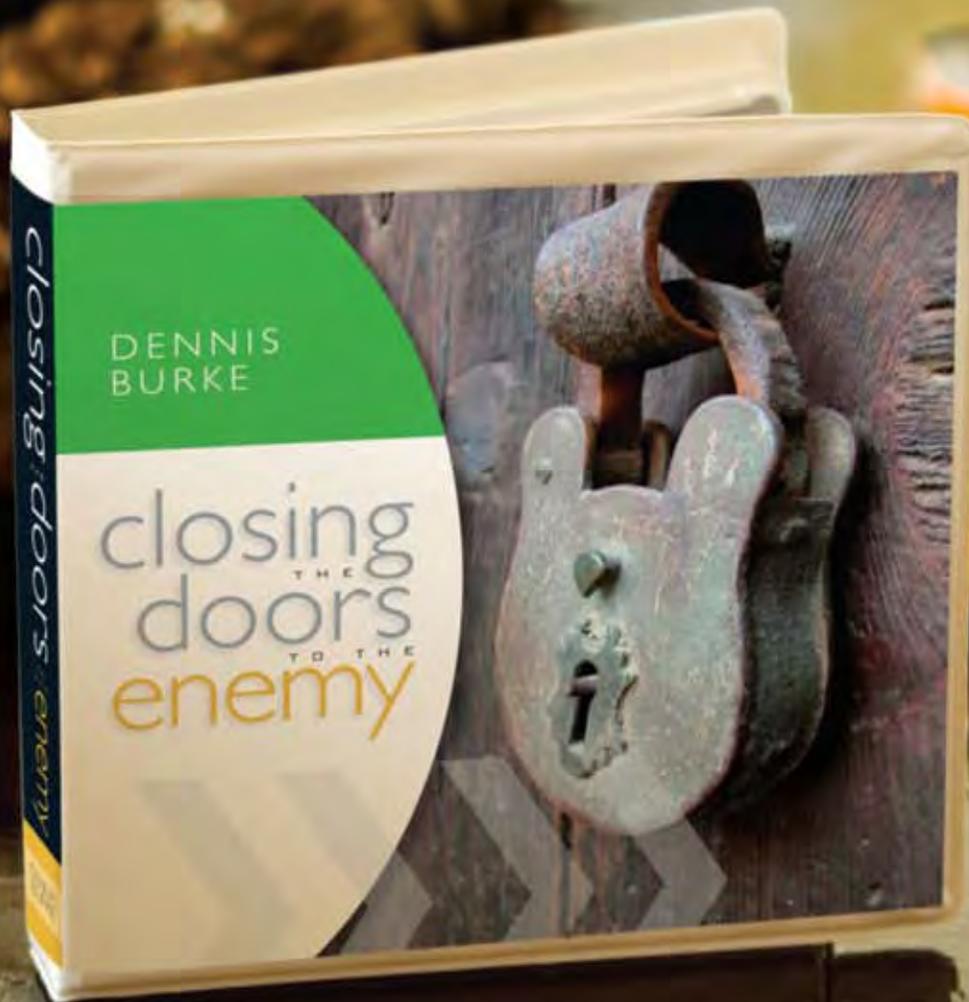


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# accessdenied

There is a thief on the loose – and if given the opportunity, he will take anything and everything he can from you.



*Closing the Doors to the Enemy* | By Dr. Dennis Burke | \$18 | CD-75

**Most thieves do not break in to homes – they gain access through unlocked doors or windows. If a thief can come in unnoticed, he can steal the precious things that belong to you.**

In the same way, Satan examines your life, looking for the open doors that will give him access. His goal is to stop you from receiving from God and to rob you of your destiny.

So many times people have allowed Satan to gain access into their lives by failing to embrace the Word of God or to protect their lives from the enemy's attacks through obedience to God's instructions. In this series of messages, Dennis reveals potential access

points in your life that must be closed so you can neutralize every demonic strategy set against you and fulfill your destiny.

**You will learn:**

- How the thief gains access to your life.**
- How to identify and close the doors you have left open to him.**
- How fear will keep you blind to the truth.**
- How angels are working on your behalf right now.**
- And much more!**

Once and for all, put an end to the conflict between who you are and what you do! *Begin to live before God without a sense of guilt or condemnation* because He has made you righteous in Christ.

dominating your thoughts, and you will remain a prisoner of your own emotions — a hostage taken captive by a nagging sense of wrongdoing and inadequacy.

As you flounder through life in this unchanged state, that sense of flawed character will continue to compel you to cover up imagined “defects” in order to keep from being exposed, much like Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves to hide their nakedness. But you are not defective! Your thoughts simply need to be renewed so you’ll believe what God has said instead of the imposter’s lies.

The truth is, we all have weaknesses and imperfections, and we’ve all made decisions that didn’t turn out the way we anticipated. If we refuse to admit this, we’re simply living in denial. Even the Apostle Paul acknowledges that he hadn’t attained the life God wanted for him: “I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine” (Philippians 3:12 *New Century Version*).

You may strive to be perfect, but no one has attained that goal. The Lord only desires a life of excellence, not perfection.

A good definition of “perfectionism” is excellence pushed to the extreme. The devil is an extremist who likes to push your desire for excellence into the bondage of perfectionism. He will try to keep you busy doing things God doesn’t require of you. And if Satan isn’t condemning you for what you’re not doing, he’s condemning you for not doing enough or for not doing something well enough. He will drive you to do more, attain more, and be more, all in an effort to twist you into a distorted relationship with God in which you think His love is earned by your performance.

But God doesn’t accept us based on what we do! He accepts us and loves us because of who we are — His children.

You won’t attain perfection this side of Heaven, so stop trying. Relax, and just enjoy being yourself. Once and for all, put an end to the conflict between who you are and what you do! Begin to live before God without a sense of guilt or condemnation because He has made you righteous in Christ and has accepted you as His beloved child.

When your value is determined by your performance, your love must be earned. As a result, your life becomes subject to the approval of the person from whom you seek love. When others approve of you, you feel valued and happy; when they disapprove, you feel depressed and worthless. The ever-changing approval of others drives you to live a charade — masquerading to gain the approval of one person, then changing your mask to please yet another person. Your personality changes appearance like a chameleon, depending on whom you are trying to please. Before long you have worn so many different masks and played such a variety of charades that you no longer have a clue who you really are.

In reality, you have exchanged the freedom to be yourself for a life enslaved to performance. Your value is now determined by your ability to earn the fickle acceptance of others. However, true value isn’t determined by human approval but by the price that is paid — and God paid an immeasurable price to set you free from guilt, shame, and blame. That price was the life of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

continued on back

## Upcoming Meetings

### May 3-4

Living Word Family Church | Raleigh, NC | (919) 570-2007

### May 5-9

ICFM Convention, Dallas, Tx

### May 14-26

Rick Renner Ministries | Russia | (918) 496-3213

### May 15-16

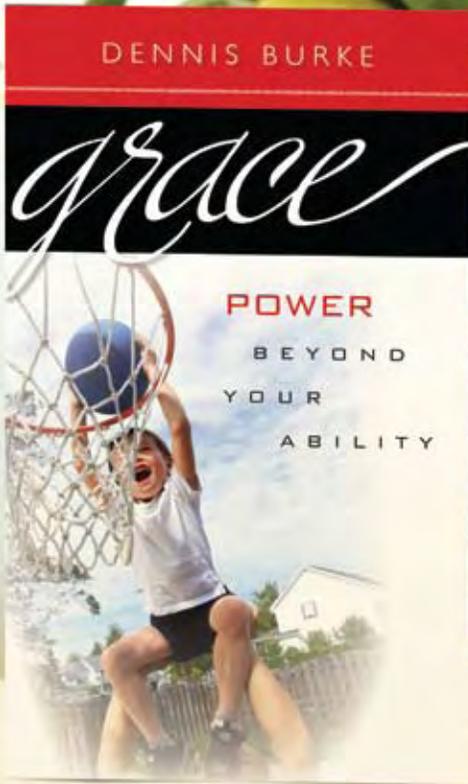
(Mrs. Burke)

Word of Life Christian Center | Birmingham, AL | (205) 833-8500

### May 31-June 1

Echos of Faith Christian Center | Chino, CA | (909) 627-0927





**I**f ever man had a need, it is for grace from God. From the most talented person to the one who feels least qualified, grace from God is desperately needed.

Grace is God's empowering within your heart to do what you cannot do alone. When problems or insufficiency seem to stand in your way like a mountain, His grace keeps you strong and moving ahead into His perfect plan.

Grace grows as you come before the throne of grace and enter His presence. There you must absorb His love and attitude. You take on His character and compassion. He will impart to you His very heart to share with others.

Jesus has given you an entrance to the throne of grace to obtain all the strength and resources you need. Enter by faith and receive from Him.

If you will embrace the grace in which you are to walk, and if you will be a wise steward over it, you will flourish in the direction He takes you. It will be accompanied by a peaceful and satisfied soul.

His callings are callings of grace. You can grow in the grace of God and complete all He has desired for you.

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You don't have to perform to be acceptable to God. Not even failures or weaknesses can make you unacceptable in His sight! Ephesians 1:6 says you are "...accepted in the beloved..." There is nothing you can do that will make you more acceptable to God than you are right now. He loves you and accepts you for who you are.

Like everyone else, you won't always do everything exactly right. You'll make mistakes; you'll even make a few wrong decisions. But when you do, God has set up a failsafe method of getting reconnected to His blessing. It's called forgiveness! John, the Apostle of Love, explained: "If we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 *NKJV*).

So make a fresh, new decision today to believe that you are who God says you are; that you can do what God says you can do; and that you can have what God says you can have. You are His child, completely and unconditionally accepted and loved by Him. As you learn to live each moment in the reality of that truth, you will experience a new realm of freedom beyond all you could ever ask or think!

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