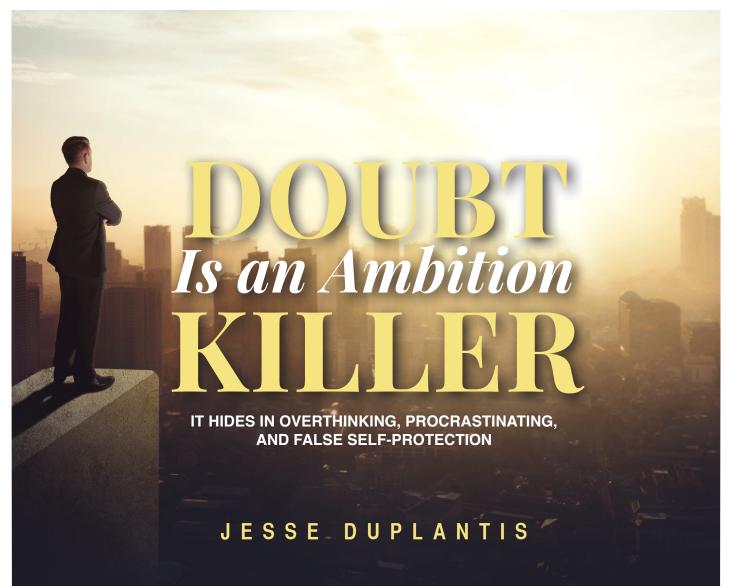
# VOICE OF THE COORDINATE STRIES

## DOUBI Is an Ambition KILLER



Some people secretly believe that if they doubt God's Word—if they lower their expectations—it will somehow protect them from future disappointment. They are scared to put their faith in God "in case it doesn't work." So, they choose doubt and don't do anything in faith.

Nobody can avoid pain or disappointment in life, and fear of failure is still just fear—and fear is something you can overcome and something which you should shun. If you never do something with the faith God gave you (and He's given all of us a measure of faith), you'll never know what God can do for you. You'll never prove to yourself what's possible with God. You won't get to experience what He really has in store for you. Personally, I don't want to live fearing anything that God says is possible for His children, so I don't.

## Faith Gives You the Courage to Take Off the Limits

I've come to see doubt in all sorts of things that hinder the believer's progress—and, I have to tell you, it's hiding everywhere. Doubt is an ambition-killer. It hides in overthinking. It camouflages itself as concern or practicality. Doubt masquerades as self-protection, too—but, really, it's just fear.

Faith is childlike. Doubt is the opposite. Doubt muddies the believer's mind and is a killer of focus. The overthinking version of doubt is like a pinball machine that robs you of energy to move forward in your life. It keeps you turning in circles, making sure you don't go anywhere of value in your own mind. If you let it continually spin you in circles, it'll also rob you of the passion you need to exercise great expectation in God's

Word, and great faith in His plan for your life. It'll steal your future blessings, too, if you let it. Don't let it.

I don't want my faith hindered by fear. I don't want my ambition wiped out by overthinking. And I don't want to sit around doing nothing when God has given me so much to do! This is the life I've been given, and I want to live it well. I can think of no better way than to live in faith and enter Heaven knowing I aimed for God's best in my life—that I did what was set before me. When I cross over to Heaven one day, I want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" and not, "Well . . . what have you done?"

Doubt doesn't get much done. Doubt plays it safe and "tries." Trying doesn't get much done! Think about it. If you ask somebody to come to an event you're planning and they say, "I'll try," do you think they are coming? Everybody knows that chances are they aren't coming. The "I'll try" mindset is another one of those things that is just a cover for doubt.

Human nature likes a way out, and doubt gives people that way out. But if you want to do what God has put on your heart, or if you want to have what God has said you can have in His Word—whether it's spiritual, physical, financial, or in your relationships—you will have to have guts. You'll have to choose courage over comfort and push aside the natural mind's desire to overthink God's Word, lower expectations, and hide out in procrastination.

Don't lower your expectations thinking you are protecting yourself. That's a lie; it's a false and imaginary thing. Just see it for what it is: *Fear*. God is with you, He's behind you, and you have what it takes to believe for His best in your life. You really *can* do all things through Christ who gives you strength—and He will give you strength. He'll never leave you or forsake you. You'll never be alone in your faith.

The Holy Spirit will always be with you, nudging you to take the limits off. Be willing to be brave—because bravery is worth it. Anybody can live a boring, faithless, low-expectation life—but God has called you to be braver than that. Always remember that as a believer, you will *do* more and *have* more from God if you first *believe* more. If you believe less, then you'll do and have less, too.

#### A Child Has to Be *Taught* to Doubt— We All Start Out with Childlike Faith

A child has to be taught to doubt—because when they are young, they simply believe they "can," and they get highly upset if you tell them they "can't." A child

never wants to hear "no." They want to climb to the top of the slide and go down as fast as they can because they do not fear the ride down. They know that if they fall it might hurt, but they'll get back up—and give the slide another shot, and another shot, and another! They don't quit as easily as some adults do. Why? Because they haven't yet learned to doubt so much.

When we come to God, we are usually older and have had a lifetime of being told what we *can't* do. Sometimes Christians are the worst when it comes to downplaying or flat-out denying God's ability or will to perform His Word—many are just stuck in the habit of trying to protect themselves from some future disappointment.

Others just keep replaying their own past in their mind, just telling themselves it's evidence of what they can't have or can't do in the future. They not only have learned to doubt, but they've become such masters at it that they think it's their responsibility to spread the doubt-disease around!

Old patterns can be broken—and doubt is a pattern that needs to be broken to succeed with God. Faith is the currency of God and it's what He requires if you want to live and do things His way. It's built through hearing the Word of God, and that means that anybody can do it. Deciding to never learn to doubt is joyful because living by childlike faith is a much more hopeful and open way to live. We aren't God's adults, you know. We are God's *children*. Putting our faith in Him is how we were created to live.

Have you ever noticed that children usually don't walk around confused and miserable all the time, unless someone is not treating or training them right? Well, doubt is a bad trainer, and it sure doesn't treat you right! Doubting leads to confusion, and that can end up being debilitating. Believing, on the other hand, has an energy to it that is so much more hopeful—it's freeing and childlike. Believing laughs in the face of what doubt fears, and it is a much easier way to live in my opinion.

## We Are Limited without God and Stifled without Faith

I like hearing the word "can." "Can't" is just doubt's way of trying to take me for a ride and rob me of my position as God's child—because childlike faith is supposed to be my default position!

I figure, what's the point of telling yourself you "can't"

if God said that with Him, you "can"? Too many believers walk around constantly reinforcing the lie that they "can't." If you do this, I have a question for you. Do you think if you say "I can't" long enough that you'll somehow convince God you are right? God will always believe that with Him, you can—He's not changing!

What God says about you in His Word is the truth. If you say something different about yourself, then the bottom line is that you aren't telling the truth—you are just lying to yourself. God says you can do *all* things through Christ Who gives you strength, and childlike faith believes that and then goes out and ends up proving it true.

You see, we are limited without God and stifled without faith. Once we find God and start living the believing life, we have access to God and access to strength we never had before. It's an inner strength that only He can give—peace that is hard to understand, joy even in trouble, and guidance that no man or woman on this earth, no matter how talented or wise, can provide. We can start living by faith and not just by sight, in His strength and not just our own, and we can use His divine principles in His Word to do things a different way—a believing way.

Childlike faith is so much the opposite of doubt. Doubt feels like we are hammering at our dreams or goals alone, but childlike faith knows we are never alone or forsaken. God is with us. We don't have to come up with all the strategies. We have a whole Bible full of life-strategies and a power source called the Holy Spirit inside us to comfort and guide us. We can move forward each day with hope instead of fear . . . unless, of course, you choose doubt.

## Doubt Is a Blindfold—It Keeps You from Seeing What's Possible

A lot of people call themselves a believer, but they don't believe much of anything that Jesus said. If you listen to them long enough, you'll be able to tell. A "play it safe" or "zero expectation" mindset isn't hard to spot. It's marked by a habit of fixating on problems instead of what God said, and a tendency to dismiss or water down whatever concept of faith Jesus taught. In other words, it holds on to a form of godliness but denies the power of godliness. It's a bunch of nice sounding words, but underneath those words is doubt in God's power.

You get what you consistently believe for, and you see what you consistently want to see. It's always our choice how we view things. I like to see through the eyes of faith in God because I know that doubt is a blindfold—it doesn't want you to see what is possible with God.

People have always tried to get me to lower my expectations. I can't tell you how many times I've heard, "Now, don't get crazy with this thing . . ." But I just believe that if "getting crazy with this thing" means having faith in the principles of God, call me crazy! If it means believing what Jesus said, then, again, call me crazy. I don't want to be blindfolded by doubt. I know with God that all things are possible.

Many of the people I ministered alongside in my early years, who tried to get me to lower my expectations or called me crazy, are long out of the ministry. Now they come and look at what God has done in my ministry and don't call me crazy anymore. They sit on my "crazy" every time they put their butts on my "debt-free/owe-no-mananything-but-to-love-him" pew! Hallelujah! They got the results of their faith, and I got the results of mine. I'm not better than them, and they aren't better than me, but we believe differently.

I came up with a saying in those early years when I'd end up in a discussion with somebody who was trying to debate and convince me to doubt. When they'd try to "reason with me" and get me to water down my faith, I'd remind them of what God already said in His Word. If they pushed and still tried to teach me to doubt, I'd just say, "Well! *Somebody* is lying . . . I pick you!" I still say that joke today because it works!

You see, I don't care how distinguished or how "good" an argument somebody is making if it's in opposition to Jesus. If they are going against what Jesus said, well, they can keep their opinion—but I'm not taking it. I don't want to learn their doubt. I don't want to be blinded by their unbelief. I want the life God has told me I can have, and I want to live it in childlike faith. So, if someone doesn't feel the same, that's fine—we all choose what we want to do. We can agree to disagree and still enjoy each other's company. But if they want to keep arguing, I can't do that. I just shake the dust off my feet, so to speak, and keep on walking by faith.

God can handle people, and some, I believe, He will have to train in Heaven! To me, there just is no good in arguing with someone who simply does not want to believe.

## People Always Ask Me, "Brother Jesse, How'd You Get So Confident?"

People ask me all the time, "How'd you get so confident in yourself?" The truth is that what they think

they see is just a side effect of never learning to doubt. You see, I *can't* do any of this on my own. I know it. I'm not that good! So, I'm not confident in myself—but I am very confident in God! I'm confident in *His* ability to use me, teach me, and give me favor wherever I go. I'm *super*-confident in His ability to perform His Word. That is faith. That's all that is!

Think of it like this: When you *know* that the God inside of you is bigger than any challenge, it's easy to look confident. When you know that all things are possible with God, and He called you to do something you *know* you can't do on your own, you just start relying on Him. You have to! If you want to do what He said, you just have to start thinking that with God, you can handle *whatever* challenge comes up. So, you take a step forward. Then, you take another.

One step at a time, you move forward. And you don't spin in your head about it because you know that if you could do it on your own, you would. You can't, so you know "I've gotta trust God in this," and you do. Entertaining doubt just multiplies doubt—it adds to confusion and subtracts results. If you want results, you have to move. You have to take a step forward. You choose to believe that God is with you because even that's the truth. The truth is, *He* can—and because He's *in* you, He can help you more than you could ever do on your own.

## The Dead and the Avoiders Have One Thing in Common: Neither Move

Sometimes doubt hides under procrastination. Avoiding doing something gives some people a false sense of peace. The avoidance becomes a temporary relief of the stress of thinking about actually *doing* something. But let's face it, nobody ever got anywhere by *avoiding* going there!

If you have something God has put on your heart, or something you are believing Him for and you actually want to do it, don't let the stress of overthinking it pile up. Just realize you are avoiding out of doubt and fear. Sometimes just knowing that will help you to see how silly it is to keep avoiding what you actually want to accomplish.

You can't move forward by avoiding. You move forward by taking action. That action may be as simple as praying, it may be confessing the Word, or putting a message on that inspires you. It may be actually taking action in the direction of your dream, or a project, or whatever it is you need to do. Doubt that comes

disguised as procrastination is a form of fear for most—it's usually self-doubt. As believers, we conquer self-doubt by realizing we do everything with God.

Some procrastinate because they are waiting to feel like they "are ready"—but if you already know you can't do it on your own, why wait? God is with you; don't doubt that. Nobody who waits until they "feel like it" usually feels like it. Nobody who waits until everything is perfect and they "feel ready" usually feels ready.

God is ready. He's always ready. His Word says that He's called me to be instant in season and out—that means whatever time it is, in season or not, God has called me to live by faith, give of myself, and move forward in my ministry. Whatever I have to do, He's ready to help me do. Step by step, I know that I know that I know He will help me finish my course, if I keep the faith.

You see, living by faith isn't *just* about praying and reading the Word; it's about taking action in your own life according to your faith. To live by faith is to take action. Faith without works is dead, and the dead have one thing in common with avoiders: Neither MOVE.

Well, God has called me to move. I'm alive and breathing, so I might as well take action and enjoy this life and the work God has called me to do. Remember that action itself—whatever it is—will help you to break the habit of overthinking. Even if you are not motivated, you can create momentum one step at a time. Every step in faith you take shows you that you "can" because God is with you. Again, this is plain old faith and confidence in God, and it works. It's called never learning to doubt!

## People Always Ask Me, "Brother Jesse, How'd You Get So Bold?

People also always ask me, "Brother Jesse, how'd you get so bold? You'll just say anything, and it looks like you don't fear at all." The answer to that is, well, boldness is just a side effect of the Holy Spirit within me. Go and read about the disciples in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came down, and you'll see how boldness came into their lives, too.

Those disciples and followers of Jesus were in hiding—they were timid because Jesus had been killed for His beliefs, and they were worried about what might happen to them. They were people like you and me, but many were fearful of the future. They were uncertain about everything because they'd just lost Jesus to the cross

and the grave. And even though He had appeared to them after His death and told them to go to the Upper Room and wait, they were still uncertain about their lives. Where would they go? What would they do next?

What happened to them after the Holy Spirit came down in the Upper Room? Boldness! They went from hiding to being seen everywhere. They went from being quiet about Jesus for fear of persecution to going straight out into the streets of Jerusalem to preach the message of Christ. When the Holy Spirit came down and entered them, fear left and boldness took its place. They were in the streets witnessing, telling the stories of Jesus, and getting people saved.

Boldness gave them the guts to preach—and they began Christianity right there on the streets of Jerusalem. They weren't doing all that on their own. They weren't all naturally bold people. They were in fear for their lives just the day before. No, the Holy Spirit within them had infused them with boldness, and they knew they had to speak the truth. In the face of persecution, ridicule, and knowing talking about Jesus could possibly bring them death, they spoke the truth. They lived with boldness. They had confidence in God.

Now, if the early disciples could do *that*, surely we can stop trying to "protect ourselves" from "being disappointed" if we put our faith out there! Surely we can stop avoiding or procrastinating over what God's put on our heart. I rely on the Holy Spirit every day. I stir up the gift of God every day—that means I fellowship with Him every day. I check in with Him in the morning before I check in with anybody or anything. Why? I need to stir up my gift—for that day, for whatever step I will be taking.

I never learned to doubt. I decided to take a simple approach to doing the things I can't do—and that means just accepting that it's God's job to help me do my job. We're in this together, and that is that. It's this kind of mindset that looks at the day in front of me and says, "God will give the strength I need to be 'more than a conqueror' today, to take whatever step I need to take to do His will. I'll overcome whatever may arise and come out better in the end because I have favor and God is with me. If a problem comes, I can change it with my faith, and if I make a mistake, God will correct me and guide me. No devil in hell will stop me. I will accomplish what God has put in front of me today!"

That's what it sounds like in your own head when you choose not to doubt, and I've got to tell you...it sounds good to me. Let words like that come out of

your mouth in the morning. Make it a habit and you'll see. It's hard to doubt when the Word is going in and coming out of you every day.

Your confidence in God will grow the more you fill up your mind with the Word. You'll become bolder than you once were, too. You'll see more of what you want happen, and you'll see that courage and faith go hand in hand with manifesting God's promises.

Without the blindfold of doubt, life becomes more of an adventure. The days go by quicker because the energy of faith brings you focus and excitement about what comes next. The more you live by faith, the more memories of goals being met, victories being won, and God-touched experiences start stacking up. You start seeing that your life is about using faith to prove to yourself what's possible for you with God—in whatever area you choose to focus on.

The believer's life should be full of experiences worth remembering. Even the hard things, the experiences you wish hadn't come, can end up being something you look at with pride—as in, "Look how God brought me through this! Look what He did with me in this! What the devil meant for harm, God actually turned around for good—because I always believed He would!" What goes well and what doesn't are experiences worth remembering when you see them through the lens of faith.

The believer's life is not supposed to be boring. It can be peaceful and exhilarating at the same time—because peace of mind comes along with the wonder of childlike faith and the experiences that faith creates. Life is better with wonder! It's a key factor to living for the Lord. He enjoys amazing us if we'll have the faith to believe that He can.

I believe that, over and over, as you cast doubt out of your mind, you're going to see God show up and show out in your life. You're going to see His Word come to pass in ways you never thought of as you live by faith. One day, who knows? You just might look back at a great life of faith and have people ask you what they always ask me: "How'd you get so bold and blessed?" Maybe you'll end up saying some version of what I say, too: "It all started when I decided to never learn to doubt God!"

This article is an excerpt from Jesse's newest book, *I Never Learned To Doubt* 

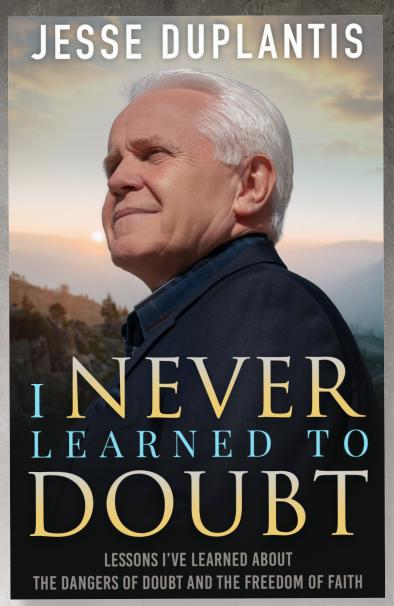
#### I Never Learned To Doubt

Doubt is a habit. You aren't born a doubter. You learn to doubt over time, after being hit with the injustices and instability of this world. In this book, Jesse is going to try to help you go back in time... and regain what you lost.



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#### **VIRGINIA:**

I am a college student at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. I am one of God's soldiers and I want to do His work, so then the end can come. Please pray for college campuses and young people's minds in general. I was a sinner too, so I am showing grace to others; but having that prayer of agreement from you would be great! I'm reading your book, I Never Learned to Doubt, and oh boy! The Holy Spirit was present in my dorm room, and it touched my boyfriend as well. Please pray in agreement with me that young believers will have the strength like David; that we aren't alone because of God—that it's okay to stand out, to let our testimony reign. Thank you for writing that book. Your realness and your truths have helped me realize a lot. Thank you for helping me come to my Christ Savior; that He will now lead and direct my path, and that I will carefully continue to ponder my feet so He can continue to use me and bless my paths.



# ON THE ROAD with JESSE

#### **FORT WORTH, TX**

**AUG 1-5** 

2022 Southwest Believers' Convention **Kenneth Copeland Ministries** Venue: Fort Worth Convention Center 1201 Houston St • 800.600.7395 kcm.org

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

#### **MONT BELVIEU, TX**

AUG 7 • 10:45am

Hillside Church 12319 Hwy 146 • 281.576.2259 myhillsidefamily.com

**Pastors Mark & Dena Trice** 

#### ODESSA, TX

AUG 10 • 7pm

**Odessa Christian Faith Center** 9000 Andrews Hwy • 432.368.7714 ocfc.ora

**Pastor Don Caywood** 

#### **NASHVILLE, TN**

AUG 12 • 11am & 7pm Special Friday Event Faith Is The Victory Church 3344 Walton Ln • 615.226.2145 victoriousliving.org

Pastors Charles & Sue Cowan

#### ANNISTON, AL

AUG 17 · 6:30pm

**Cornerstone Church** 

2885 Choccolocco Rd • 256.236.1603 mvcornerstone.tv

**Pastors Mike & Sharon Cox** 

#### **MUNCIE, IN**

**AUG 18 • 7pm** 

Full Gospel Temple Worship Center 212 W 7th St • 765,282,3312 fullgospeltemple.com **Pastor Denny Helton** 

#### **BROOKLYN PARK, MN**

AUG 20 • 5pm & AUG 21 • 9am & 11am **Living Word Christian Center** 9201 75th Ave N • 763.315.7000 lwcc.org

Pastors Mac & Lynne Hammond

#### **MESA, AZ**

**AUG 22 • 7pm** 

Word of Life Church 319 N 64th St • 480.835.5600 wordoflifemesa.org

**Pastors John & Dallas Amato** 

#### **GOODYEAR, AZ**

**AUG 23 • 7pm** 

The River Church 13735 W Auto Dr, Ste 112 623.262.4969 • theriverchurchaz.com Pastors Ron & Laura Villar

#### **GRAND JUNCTION. CO**

SEP 11 • 10am

**Faith Heights Church** 600 28 1/4 Rd • 970.245.3755 faithheights.org

Pastors John & Carla Cappetto

#### **FOREST PARK, IL**

SEP 13 • 7pm 2022 International Faith Conference **Living Word Christian Center** 7600 W Roosevelt Rd • 866.816.4653 ifc.billwinston.org

**Drs. Bill & Veronica Winston** 

#### MEETINGS WITH CATHY—

#### **NASHVILLE, TN**

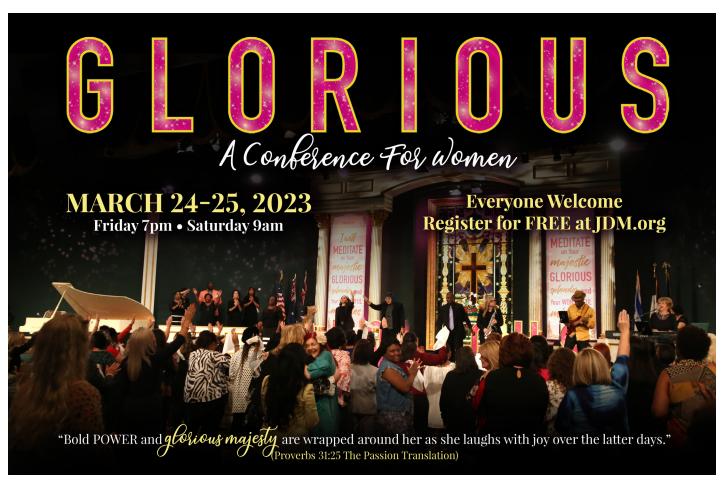
AUG 12 • 10am

Special Friday Event Faith Is The Victory Church 3344 Walton Ln • 615.226.2145 victoriousliving.org

**Pastors Charles & Sue Cowan** 

Before traveling to any meeting, please go to jdm.org for updates (click on Meetings).



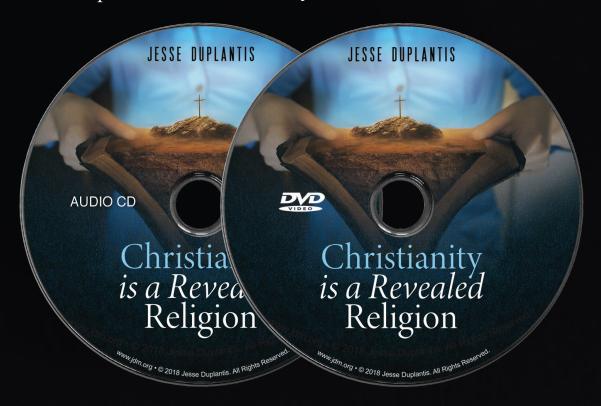




## August Partner Offer

For your Partnership of \$50 or more this month, you can request Jesse's message, *Christianity is a Revealed Religion*, on DVD, CD, or both formats. Use code PO2208.

• Text JDMDVD and the dollar amount to 28950, USA only. (Example for a donation of \$50: JDMDVD 50)



For your Partnership of any amount this month, you can request Jesse's message, *Christianity is a Revealed Religion*, on CD. Use code PO2208.

• Text JDMCD and the dollar amount to 28950, USA only. (Example for a donation of \$40: JDMCD 40)

Monthly Partner Offers are also available with Automatic Partnership. Use the enclosed envelope/order form or go to jdm.org.

# Christianity is a Revealed Religion

Are you ready for the burden-removing, yoke-destroying, and life-transforming resurrection power of Christ to be revealed in *every* area of your life?

In this eye-opening message, Jesse uncovers revelatory truths that will supernaturally infuse your spirit and transform your faith-walk greatly. You'll gain fresh insight about who you are in Christ, and how His death and resurrection provided *all* you need to live the *divine life* here and now. Jesse is on fire as he shares how:

- · Being raised from the dead is different from being resurrected
- · The Holy Spirit is the agent of Jesus Who lives within you
- · Death has no grip on you and life is now your destiny
- · Resurrection power causes you to live on earth as a righteous person in a mortal body
- · And much more!

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have more than just a religion—you have life, and that more abundantly, flowing inside of you right now. Learn how to apprehend God's resurrection power and *reveal Christ alive in you*, the hope of glory, in every way!

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## GLORIOUS MOMENTS with Cathy

God is doing so many glorious miracles in the lives of people through JDM! I can never praise Him enough for the wonderful ways that He has touched lives for the past 46 years. Psalm 106:2 (NLT) says, "Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD? Who can ever praise Him enough?" Since 1976, Jesse and I have been joyously bringing the Gospel to the world and seeing results, like the wonderful testimonies featured here in this issue. As you read each one, I pray that you will be encouraged to stand firm in faith for your glorious moment.

Georgia: I am a Partner with JDM. Jesse always says the anointing of increase is on him, and I am a testament to that fact. Today, my boss randomly gave me a \$20,000 raise. I know it was the Blessing making me rich without sorrow. I heard the Holy Spirit say, "And I'm just getting started." Jesse and Cathy, I love you, and I thank you for years of sound doctrine concerning finance.

Maryland: It has been approximately 6 months since I heard about your ministry. Towards the end of December 2021, I heard Jesse's message on "Why Isn't My Giving Working?" That was when I became a Partner with your ministry. Ever since I heard that message, I started tithing, planting my seeds, gave my firstfruits, and gave alms. I was not sure in the beginning if I could afford it. I told myself that I would at least give it 3 months. But I believed in the word you delivered from God. Wouldn't you know that in April 2022, my boss came to me and told me to come into his office. He wanted to give me a raise. Now, keep in mind that he gave me an annual 3% raise towards the end of 2021, and now he decided to give me another raise of \$20,900 a year. I knew as soon as he told me this, that this was of God. I have never known a boss to offer me a raise without first requesting it myself. So, thank you for sending me that word. I have the utmost respect, and I look forward to seeing you one day in person and listening to your sermon in person. Needless to say, I will continue on my path of obedience to God.

Louisiana: I wanted to tell y'all thank you for praying with us! I have followed your ministry all my life. My mama would take me and my cousins to hear Brother Jesse in different states in the US. In August 2021, we were trying to come up with the rest of the down payment on our first home. The devil fought it, but the Lord prevailed! We messaged your office, and the staff reached out and called us and prayed with us. This helped encourage us, and I believe helped finish the work. We have now been in our new home for 9 months! Thank you, Jesus, and thank you Jesse, Cathy, and the JDM Staff/family for taking time to pray with us and encourage us. We love y'all and are so grateful to have your ministry in our life!

**Instagram:** Glory to Jesus! Many years ago, Brother Jesse was ministering when I experienced the fruit of Joy. I never laughed before that time. Joy became my strength in life! Thank you, Brother Jesse.

**Facebook:** TotalJDM is wonderful! I have learned so much from these teachings. I love the Boardroom Chats, Glorious Moments, and Faith the Facts too.

**Armenia:** When I listen to Jesse preaching, I grow in my soul and receive revelation.

Email: I went to my grandparents' house a couple of weeks ago, and my grandma's brother had to go to the hospital because he was dying. I don't know exactly what was wrong with him, but he was a sinner (drinking and drugs) and his family has that problem too. My grandma was believing hard for him and talking to him over the phone, telling him not to die but to hang in there, that God was going to heal him. My grandpa had no hope that he was going to pull through because it looked like he was going to die, and I was uncertain about the outcome myself. I wanted to believe, but I just listened to my grandpa say, "Well, he probably won't make it through this." But when I got home, I got on your channel on YouTube, went to Faith the Facts, and found one of your messages called "Overcome, 'Suppose It Don't Work' Syndrome!" And when I tell you I had a faith boosting, I mean I really had a faith boosting! You said, "That's for somebody out there right now." That was for me! Period. I felt it all through my spirit. I got up and I prayed for my uncle, that in the name of Jesus he will be healed, saved, and filled with the Holy Ghost—him and his whole family. I prayed and believed that what I prayed would come to pass. Then I got so excited and worshipped and praised the Lord for healing and saving him and his whole house, and filling them ALL with the Holy Ghost! When I went back to my grandparents' house again, the first thing I heard from my grandma was, "Hey, did you know God healed your uncle? He even got saved and said that he'll never drink again! He even told the doctor not to give him any morphine, but to give him something light for pain if he needed itsomething he wouldn't get addicted to." When you believe the unbelievable, Jesus always comes through! I love you guys. Thank you, Jesus!

Facebook: You all are so encouraging. I must confess that I have learned to doubt my doubts and to begin to believe God for the impossible. Thank you for always believing in me. I pray that God will use me to do the same as He has used you guys to encourage us. It is an honor to be part of this ministry because not once have you guys ever doubted us—instead, you believed in us. So, thank you, covenant family, and may you continue to bring glory to His holy name.

Hawaii: My 16-year-old son has been so touched by your ministry. Although he isn't old enough to have a regular job yet, he goes door-to-door washing cars to make extra spending money. And every time he gets paid, he makes sure to give me his tithes and seed money to invest in your ministry. Thank you both for the work that you do—it has impacted my family so greatly and in so many countless ways!

Missouri: I was first introduced to a video of Jesse in 1997—it was his "Close Encounters of the God Kind." I was captivated by the way Brother Jesse brought his messages to life in me. I realize now that it was the Spirit of God reaching out to me through him. I was around 15 years old then. Life and many poor life-choices led me into addiction of all kinds—drugs, alcohol, and women. But I always tried to follow Brother Jesse. Even in my darkest days, his messages always held sway in my thoughts. Ten years ago, I met my wife and I quit almost every addiction when we had our firstborn son. Alcohol was the thing that I wouldn't let go, which almost destroyed my family, my health, and my sanity, until April 17 of last year. I was drinking that day and blacked out. My wife took our, now 3, kids and left me alone in the middle of the night. I woke up crying, shamed, and hungover. That same day I finally did something I thought I would never do. I researched and found an Inpatient treatment center to help me find my freedom again. April 20, 2021 was my first day sober in over 20 years. I praise God because today I am still sober, living in recovery, and grateful for everything and every second that I have. God has delivered me, and Brother Jesse has always been like a Spiritual Father to me, even though we have never met. Praise God for all He has done and continues to do! I give it to the Lord. In Him ALL things are possible.

**Texas:** Thank you for allowing God to use you to not only touch my life, but the people of Impact Family Church and the millions of others around the world. I listen to your messages during the day and have a YouTube playlist of your sermons I play each night, so that my spirit grows while I sleep. Your sermons have changed my life. Your messages are without a doubt expanding me and teaching me how to believe the unbelievable and receive the impossible, because it's doable. Meeting you in person was truly like meeting Jesus in terms of the sweet, gentle, and loving spirit that Jesus has. Jesus used you to touch and change my life and take me into another dimension of relationship with Him. Thank you for constantly growing my vision. I am excited to keep growing my vision, growing my relationship with God, and watching Him do the impossible for me. Praise the Lord that I don't have to pay for it; only believe for it! You and Cathy mean more to me than you may ever know, so thank you for your dedication to God and His kingdom!

YouTube: Greetings from Italy! I love you both! You encouraged me and taught me how to manage my downs. I'm very happy that I can learn more about Jesus from you. God bless you!



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CANADA

Mon 9:00PM CT

**EUROPE** 

Sun 5:00PM CEDT Tue 8:00AM CEDT

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#### WATCH ON THESE TELEVISION STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES:

Anniston/Tuscaloosa/Birmingham WSFG/38.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM WBUN/28.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM WSSF/15.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM W16CM/16.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Huntsville/Decatur

WHVD/67.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM WZDX/54 - FOX: Sun 9:30AM

WDPM/18.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Montgomery/Selma

WETU/39.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

#### ARIZONA

Phoenix/Prescott

KDPH/48.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM KDTP/11.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM Tucson/Sierra Vista

KPCE/29.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

#### **ARKANSAS**

FI Dorado

KMCT/39.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Fort Smith/Fayetteville/Springdale/Rogers KWOG/57.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Hot Springs

KVTH/26 - IND: Mon 7:00PM. Fri 6:00PM Jonesboro

KVTJ/48 - IND: Mon 7:00PM. Fri 6:00PM Little Rock

KKAP/36.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM KVTN/25 - IND: Mon 7:00PM. Fri 6:00PM Pine Bluff

KKAP/36.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

#### CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield

KCBT/34.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM Fresno/Visalia

KFVD/15.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM KGMC/43.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM Los Angeles

KOCE/50.3: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM Modesto/Stockton/Sacramento

KCBT/34.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM KRJR/44.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM Monterey/Salinas

KMBY/19.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM Oakland/San Francisco/San Jose KDAS/48.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM KDTS/52.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM

#### COLORADO

KRMT/41.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM KDNF/44.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

#### FINRINA

Gainesville

WOCD/27.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Jacksonville/Brunswick

WUJF/33.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Leesburg/Orlando/Daytona Beach WACX/55.1 – IND: Sun 8:30AM

Miami/Ft. Lauderdale

W16CC/16.5: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM Orlando/Daytona Beach/Melbourne

WPXB/50.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WOCD/27.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WDTO/50.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Panama City WBIF/51.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WWEO/24.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Pensacola/Fort Walton

WDPM/18.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota

WCLF/22 - CTN: Wed 7:00PM WSVT/18.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM West Palm Beach/Ft. Pierce

#### WSLF/35.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### GEORGIA

Atlanta

WDTA/35.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WGGD/23.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

WDMA/31.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Honolulu KWBN/44.1: Sun 2:00AM. Mon 5:00PM

KZAK/49.4: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM KBTI/41.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM Idaho Falls/Pocatello/Jackson KPIF/15.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

#### **ILLINOIS**

Chicago WDCI/57.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Moline/Rock Island

KLJB/18 - FOX: Sun 6:00AM

#### INDIANA

WDTI/69.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM South Bend/Elkhart

WEID/18.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Bettendorf/Davenport

KLJB/18 - FOX: Sun 6:00AM

KSXC/5: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Hutchinson/Wichita

KWKD/28.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Louisville

WDYL/28.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM

#### **LOUISIANA**

Baton Rouge W31EU/48.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

KAGN/31.1 - IND: Tue 5:30AM, Tue 7:00PM, Fri 9:00AM, Sat 4:00PM, Sun 11:00PM Lafavette

KADN/15 - FOX: Sun 9:00AM

KAJN/19.1 – IND: Tue 5:30AM, Tue 7:00PM, Fri 9:00AM, Sat 4:00PM, Sun 11:00PM NADN/13 - MY Network: Wed: 6:30AM Lake Charles

KFAM/24.1 - IND: Tue 5:30AM, Tue 7:00PM, Fri 9:00AM, Sat 4:00PM, Sun 11:00PM **New Orleans** 

KNLD/28.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM WGNO/26 - ABC: Sun 9:00AM WNOL/38 - CW: Wed 6:00AM

Shreveport

KTAL/06 - NBC: Sun 7:30AM

Auburn/Portland

WLLB/15.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### MARYLAND

**Baltimore** 

WWDD/40.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Hagerstown

WDWA/23.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WDDN/23.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston

WYDN/48.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM W26EU/40: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM New Bedford

WMPX/33.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### MICHIGAN

Battle Creek/Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo WUHQ/29.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

WADL/38 - IND: Sun 8:30AM WUDT/23.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Minneapolis/St. Paul

WDMI/62.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

#### **MISSOURI**

Kansas City KCDN/35.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

KWBM/31.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

WPXS/13.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM KUMO/51.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

#### MONTANA

KINV/14.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

#### **NEBRASKA**

Omaha

KOHA/48.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

#### NEVADA

I as Vegas

KLVD/23.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

WYDN/48.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM W26EU/40: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM

Albuquerque/Santa Fe

KAZQ/32.5: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

WDTB/39.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM WBBZ/7.2: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM New York

WPXU/12.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM WKOB/42.2: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Syracuse

WNYI/52.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WDSS/38.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Charlotte

WDMC/25.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Durham/Fayetteville/Raleigh

WDRN/45.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WWIW/66.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem WHWD/21.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Cincinnati

WDYC/36.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Cleveland/Akron/Canton

WCDN/53.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Columbus

WOCB/39.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WXCB/45.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WCLL/19.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Dayton

WLWD/20.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Toledo WDTJ/68.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City KOCM/46.1: Sun 6:00AM. Mon 9:00PM KOKH/25 - FOX: Sun 8:00AM

KTZT/29.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Portland

KPXG/42.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Philadelphia

WELL/45.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM W29FF/45.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

WPDN/65.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Scranton/Wilkes-Barre W43CO/43.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### RHODE ISLAND

Providence

WMPX/33.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Anderson/Asheville/Spartanburg WSQY/51.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

WKDC/50.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Greenville WGGS/16 - IND: Mon 11:30AM WSQY/51.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **TENNESSEE**

WCTD/22.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WDDA/6.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Jackson

WJTD/42: Sun 6:00AM. Mon 9:00PM Knoxville

WTNZ/43 - Fox: Sun 10:30AM

WDTT/24.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

WDNM/59 1: Sun 7:00AM Mon 10:00PM Nashville

WNTU/26.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WNPX/20.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM WRTN/7.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **TEXAS**

Amarillo

KXAD/51.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM KVAD/16.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Austin

KADT/16.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Beaumont/Port Arthur

MFDM/4 - FOX: Sun 7:00AM

Brownsville/McAllen KRZG-CD/35.8: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Corpus Christi

KCCX/24.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Dallas/Ft. Worth KDTN/2.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

KPTD/51.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM El Paso/Las Cruces

KSCE/38.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Harlingen/Weslaco

KRZG-CD/35.8: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Houston KDHU/50.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM KLTJ/22.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Lubbock KFIQ/4: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

San Antonio GOAI/35 - CW: Sun 9:30AM KQVE/46.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM

Salt Lake City KSUD/45.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM KUTF/12.1: Sun 5:00AM, Mon 8:00PM

Newport News/Norfolk/Portsmouth WVAD/25.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Petershur WRID/48.2: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM Richmond

#### WRID/48.2: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM

WASHINGTON

Seattle/Tacoma KWDK/56.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM

Spokane KQUP/24.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM KQUP/47.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM KDYS/32.1: Sun 4:00AM, Mon 7:00PM

**WASHINGTON D.C.** WDWA/23.1: Sun 7:00AM. Mon 10:00PM WDDN/23.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

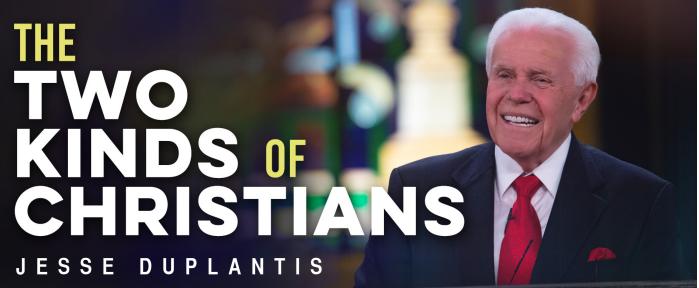
Charleston/Huntington

WTSF/44.1: Sun 7:00AM, Mon 10:00PM

Appleton/Green Bay WGBD/49.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Madison

WMWD/38.1: Sun 6:00AM, Mon 9:00PM Milwaukee WVTV/18 - CW: Sun 7:00AM

WDMW/65.1 - CW: Sun 7:00AM



I was studying 3 John 1 recently and discovered that even as early as the days when Jesus walked the earth, there were two kinds of Christians. I guess you could call them "the true" kind (good ones) and "the not-so-true" kind (bad ones). Now, before you stop reading and start thinking of passing this article on to help somebody you think falls into the "bad" category, I believe this teaching will be helpful to anyone who desires to grow deeper in the Lord. After all, God designed all of us to continually progress in spiritual things so that we can be who He's purposed us to be, right?

So first, before we begin reading the apostle John's letter to his friend Gaius in 3 John 1, I want you to remember something about the New Testament. It actually can be defined in one word: correspondence. But as you know, God has established these letters as Holy canon, which means that while in John's mind he's writing to Gaius, in God's mind this is a personal letter from Jesus to you and to me. So, go ahead and put your name where Gaius' is, and let's start reading in verses 1-5:

The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers.

The apostle John was very special. Jesus loved him deeply, and wherever Jesus went, John made it his mission to stay very close to Him. John understood what God had done for him through the person of Jesus

Christ. This gave him great moral courage, and it was evident throughout his ministry of spreading the Gospel.

In John's letter to Gaius, he makes it no secret how much he cares for and esteems his friend in the first verse when he begins by saying, "The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth." He continues in verse 2 with a blessing: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." This means that all of those things work together—prosperity of finances as well as prosperity of health in our body, mind, will, and emotions. This is God's will for us and a truth He wants us to walk in every day. Gaius was a Christian who faithfully walked in spirit, truth, and love. He was a blessed man and a giver—not only of his finances, but also of his time and of his love.

John clearly identified with Gaius. He saw something in him that he knew was vital for all "true" Christians and commends him for it in verse 3: "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth." In other words, John is saying that everywhere Gaius went, people saw Christ in him, the hope of glory. And as Christians, that's what you and I are supposed to dowe're to be a light and a blessing to everyone we meet.

There's something else about Gaius that really stood out to me. In verse 5 it says, "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." Gaius received everyone in the church with open arms—but not only other believers, it says he treated "strangers" the same way. Think about that. A true Christian is not only a helper in the church, but also a lover of the brethren—even if they're strangers!

I remember a time before I was saved and traveling as a rock musician, I would play at some of the big clubs all over the United States. I can't tell you how many times I saw Christian events taking place at those big hotels. Now if *anybody* needed Jesus, it was me, and I know those people could tell. I had long brown hair, I would wear those embroidered jeans, and I always had a big glass of whiskey in my hand. I would see these people walking around with their Christian nametags on, and you know what? Not one person ever witnessed to me. Other than Cathy and my mother, no one ever cared that I was headed straight to hell. Where was the light? Where was the truth?

Even though I was a sinner and a stranger to those Christians, I would've been polite and at least listened to them. That's why it's so important to take every opportunity to let your light shine and let the love of God come out of you as a witness to others everywhere you go. As true Christians, we must make our practical lives be in harmony with our professed creed. In other words, our daily lives should be in line with the Gospel we profess to such a degree that a razorblade couldn't separate the two.

So, if you see someone new at your church or someone new in your neighborhood, reach out to them. Say, "Hey! I want to welcome you. I'm so happy that you're here." Show them hospitality. Be led by the Spirit and reflect the light and love of Jesus. That's how to be a true Christian who walks in truth.

Now let's move on to the "bad" ones. There's always going to be a thorn in the bush. There's always someone in the church who started out as a rose and wound up a thorn. Let's read verses 9-11 so I can show you what I mean. John says:

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Evidently, in the beginning, Diotrephes had great qualities. They made him a church leader; maybe he was even the pastor. But sometimes you lift people up and it goes to their head. Eventually, it'll blow their head off. Like we say in South Louisiana about prideful people, "They think themself."

That was Diotrephes for sure! John says in verse 9 that Diotrephes "loveth to have the preeminence." That means he wanted everybody to recognize who he was. A "proud look" began to take him over. He had a passion for notoriety and a desire to dominate everyone in this church. Those are two elements that were at work in him, and that's how he went from being a true Christian to one who was far from it.

John continues on to say that Diotrephes not only

refused to welcome him to his church, but he was also gossiping and speaking ugly words about the apostle. Additionally, he was also refusing other ministers of the Gospel to preach and rest at his church. John's words about Diotrephes illustrate to us the danger of pride and arrogance for a believer and how we should avoid following Diotrephes' evil ways.

Let's face it, it's possible to be in *a* church and not in *the* church. There's a bunch of Diotrepheses out there in churches today, and they're causing trouble. But just like John is doing in this passage by exposing the evil ways of Diotrephes, we need to correct the abusers who are discrediting the Gospel today.

The abusers are easy to spot. They're the ones who don't acknowledge authority. And if they're not stopped, they can corrupt the minds of others. So, you may be asking yourself, "How do I do that?" As true Christians, we are called to hold the truth concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ. It's our *good works* that will be the evidence of godliness in our lives and a testimony of Who Jesus is to others.

Now, let's get back to the other side and talk about another "good one." In verse 12, John says, "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true." Just like Gaius, everyone liked Demetrius. They picked up the Spirit of Christ through the apostle John, and they walked in the truth and love of Jesus.

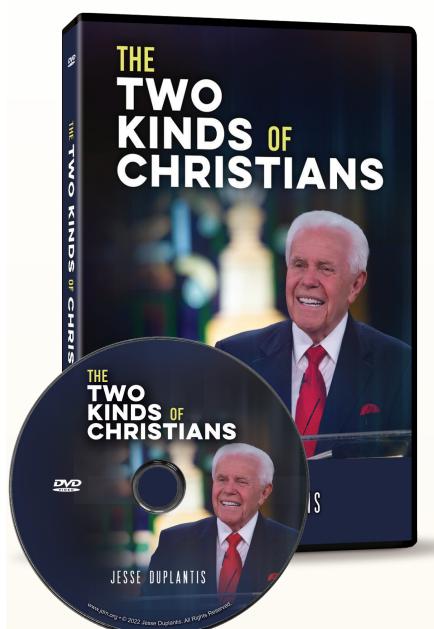
Diotrephes was the same way at first—things went well with him for a while. But, sadly, pride took him over. It makes me want to shake him and yell the old Cotton Patch translation of Galatians 3:1: "You dumb, stupid fish heads! What's your problem?"

Pride and arrogance always lead to terrible extremes. Look what it led Lucifer to do. Lucifer was a magnificent angel. He was the angel of worship and walked amongst stones of fire. When he moved, music came out of him. He was the most dazzling of all the angels. But he wanted "preeminence," and that's when Lucifer became Satan.

Maybe you're thinking, "Brother Jesse, I'm far from being a Diotrephes, but there's some things I can change in my life to stay true to Christ." That's wonderful! Like I said, your life was designed to always progress and grow spiritually. Your faith should be growing daily because it will always be a testimony of Christ's virtue and character in you.

Remember, you don't have to be deceived by the enemy into living a life that is not full of purpose or one that doesn't glorify God. Strive to make the Gospel a reality in your life by the way you live and treat others. If you heard me say it once, you heard me say it 1,000 times: The only Jesus some people may ever see is the Jesus in you, or the Jesus in me. I'm praying for you to stay your course and be the Christian who walks in truth every day.

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- A true Christian is not only a helper in the church, but also a lover of the brethren even if they're strangers
- Faith is always a testimony to Christ's virtue and character in you
- · Humility is the surest path to exaltation
- It is possible to be in a church, yet not be in the church

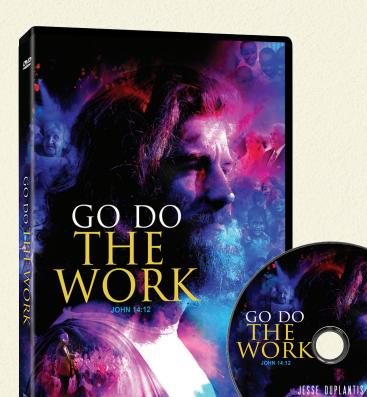
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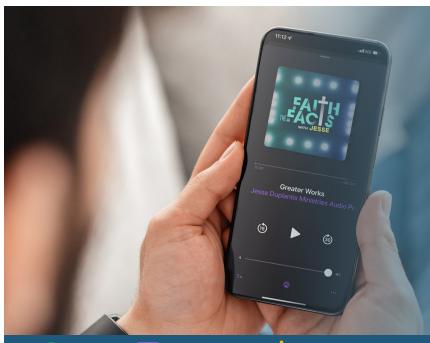
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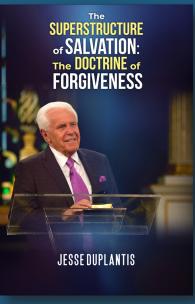
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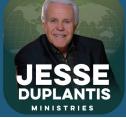
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When I was about ten years old, my family lived within walking distance to the church we sometimes attended. I remember one Sunday in particular that I felt compelled to go to church. I put on my best dress, fixed my hair, and after close examination in the mirror, I was certain that everything was perfect. No one else wanted to go that day, so I walked to church alone.

I was full of expectation as I listened for words that would satisfy my parched soul. All I needed was a spark from one life that was on fire for Jesus. Looking back, I realize that my soul was ripe for harvesting into the kingdom of God. Unfortunately, empty tradition and a form of godliness left me feeling just as dry as I came.

Each day you and I meet people that have put

on their best outfit and fixed their hair. Everything may look "perfect" on the outside, but inside they are searching for something to satisfy their parched souls. Just one spark from a life that is on fire for Jesus can release a spark that will ignite a flame to a dry, parched soul who's ready to receive Jesus as their Savior.

Paul the apostle understood this timeless truth and wrote these powerful words to his spiritual son, Timothy: "I'm writing to encourage you to fan into a flame and rekindle the fire of the spiritual gift God imparted to you when I laid my hands upon you" (2 Timothy 1:6 TPT). Paul wanted Timothy to realize his responsibility to stay on fire for God by staying in the Word and staying full of the Spirit.

As believers, it is also our responsibility to fan into a flame for Jesus. The Lord is calling all of us to rekindle the fire so that we can release sparks that will ignite other hearts for Him.

#### Ablaze with Heaven's Fire

Have you ever ordered a lukewarm cup of tea on a cold winter day? How about a tall lukewarm glass of tea with your dinner? I don't think so. I refuse to drink tea that is lukewarm. If my tea is not piping hot or ice cold, I am likely to spit it out of my mouth. Gross, but true.

Well, God is the same way when it comes to the condition of our heart. He is not satisfied with hearts that have holy smoke where the fire used to be. In Revelation 3:16 we are given a strong warning to stay hot for Him while we are in this world. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth." God is looking for hot hearts that are ablaze with fire from Heaven.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, knew how to fan into a flame. When asked how he got the huge crowds that came to hear him preach, he replied, "I set myself on fire and people come to watch me burn."

John G. Lake told about the anointing that fell on him during his first missionary trip to South Africa in 1908. It was far beyond his wildest imagination, and astounded even Lake himself. He described it as "liquid fire" pumping through his veins.

Samuel Chadwick, an English evangelist who lived from 1860 to 1932, said several interesting things

about this wonderful fire of God. He said, "Fire is the chosen symbol of heaven for moral passion. It is emotion aflame. God is love. God is fire. The two are one. The Holy Spirit baptizes with fire. Spirit-filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows. They believe with a faith that kindles. They serve with a devotion that consumes. They hate sin with a fierceness that burns. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected in the fire of God."

I once heard about a congregation that adopted a great motto for their church: "Wake up, sing up, preach up, pray up, and pay up. But never give up, let up, back up, or shut up until the cause of Christ in the world is built up." I think that church must have taken the advice that Paul gave to Timothy, and wanted to continually remind each other to fan into a flame for Jesus.

#### **Sacrifice Accepted with Fire**

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the fire of God falling when a sacrifice was acceptable. In Genesis 15:17 (AMPC) we learn about Abraham offering the sacrifice required by God, and that it was shown to be acceptable by "a flaming torch."

In Exodus, God revealed Himself to Moses from a burning bush. "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I" (Exodus 3:2-4).

We also learn in Exodus that the fire of God came down on Mount Sinai to speak to the children of Israel. "And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him



"I'm writing to encourage you to fan into a flame and rekindle the fire of the spiritual gift God imparted to you when I laid my hands upon you" (2 Timothy 1:6 TPT).

by a voice" (Exodus 19:16-19).

One of my favorite examples of the fire of God is the one about Elijah on Mount Carmel. I just love the way he mocked the false god, Baal, and declared before all the people that his God was the one true God. In 1 Kings 18:24, Elijah challenged them, "And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken." Later in that same chapter, we see how Elijah's sacrifice on behalf of his nation was accepted by God. "Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God" (1 Kings 18:38-39).

When we read the Word of God, it is clear that fire is often used as a symbol of God's presence. In 1 Chronicles 21:26 we learn that David built an altar to God "and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and He answered him from Heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering." There was no mistaking it: God was pleased with David's heart, and his sacrifice was clearly accepted by the God of Heaven.

The Bible also tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:1 (AMPC) that "When Solomon had finished praying, the fire came down from Heaven and consumed the burnt

offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house."

Are you ready for the glory of the Lord to fill your spiritual house and set your heart on fire? All you have to do is offer a sacrifice that is pleasing to God. Now I'm not talking about the Old Testament way of sacrifice, like we just read about. No, Jesus' blood thoroughly satisfied all of Heaven's requirements and forever redeemed all of mankind from sin.

According to Romans 12:1 (AMPC), the sacrifice that is required of us today by God is a life that is totally devoted to Him. "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship." Fire from Heaven will fall on the life that is devoted to God.

#### **Let YOUR Sparks Fly**

While speaking on this subject, the Lord showed me just how parched the world around us really is. They seemed to me like kindling that is dry, cracked, and highly combustible. I knew that once they'd come into contact with a life that is burning for Jesus, they would also ignite with the fire of God. All it takes is one spark to change a dry, empty life into a fulfilled life. So, fan into a flame, let your sparks fly, and ignite the world around you!

That's what Jeremiah did. He compared the Word to a fire that was shut up in his bones and could not be contained (Jeremiah 20:9). Even in the midst of great persecution, the Word of God spilled out like burning lava to his generation. Jeremiah burned with God's Word and left sparks everywhere he went.

John the Baptist was the same way. He preached hell so hot that you could smell the smoke when he came near. Yet, as on fire as he was, he told his followers that one was coming after him (Jesus) that would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11).

In Acts 2:3-4, it says, "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Verses 5 and 6 go on to say, "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under Heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language." They were amazed to hear the disciples speaking the wonderful works of God, and verse 12 tells us that they asked, "What meaneth this?"

The next twenty-four verses record Peter's anointed answer to them on the Day of Pentecost. In verse 36, we can read the conclusion of Peter's anointed sermon: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ."

The Bible goes on to tell us the result: "Now when

they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call." (Acts 2:37-39).

The same fire of God that was released on the Day of Pentecost is available to you today. The Lord is inviting you to come to Him and receive this awesome gift of God that will ignite your heart with holy fire. Once you devote your life to God as a living sacrifice, you too can fan into a flame and spread a few sparks of your own.

## Are You Ready for Jesus to Set *Your* Heart on Fire?

Jesus loves you, and He came to give you a powerful life that is full of His love, joy, and peace. He's inviting you to come to Him and receive the abundant life He paid for you to have. If you don't know Jesus or if you just aren't where you should be and you need the Lord to rekindle the flame of His love and power in your heart, I would like to lead you through a simple prayer that will supernaturally change you from the inside out. All you have to do is open up your heart to Him and all of God's amazing promises are yours.

Romans 10:9-10 says that if you believe with your heart and confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, you will be saved. If you're ready, pray this prayer with me now:

Jesus, come into my life. Forgive me of my sins. I ask You to cleanse my heart and make me a new person in You right now. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died and rose from the dead for me.

Jesus, I want to thank You for loving me enough to die for me. I accept all that Your shed blood bought for me on the cross, and I receive You as my Savior and Lord. In Your name I pray. Amen.

If you just prayed this prayer and received Jesus, would you let Jesse and me know? You can go online

to JDM.org (click on "Do You Know Jesus?") or use the response/order form included in the center of this magazine. We want to rejoice with you and send you a free booklet, *Understanding Salvation*, to help you begin your new life in Christ. Remember, you are deeply loved, and Jesse and I are praying for you to live a victorious life that radiates the love and power of God every day. Seek Him daily, honor His Word, and let your sparks fly. Know that you will never be a day without prayer.

God Bless You, Cathy Duplantis

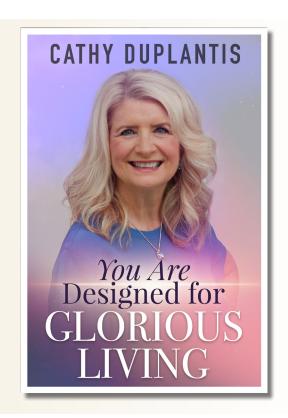


## You Are Designed for Glorious Living

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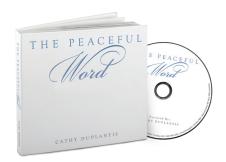


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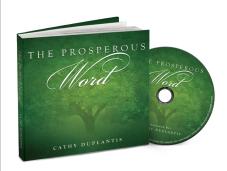
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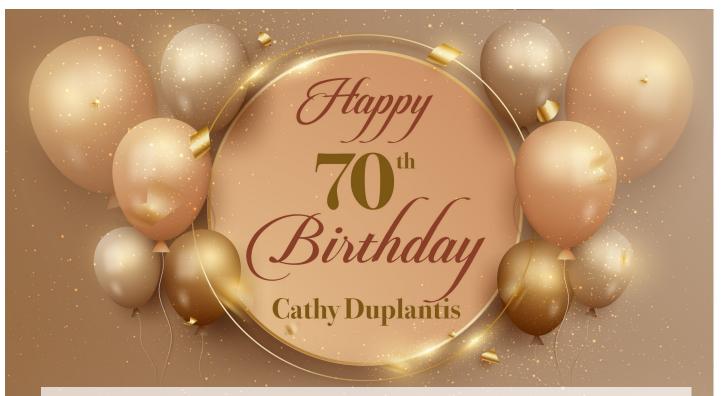
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It is a great honor and privilege to wish our Editor in Chief, Cathy Duplantis, a very Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Throughout Cathy and Jesse's years of ministry, they have made it their mission to bring others to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Their passion for spreading the Gospel and love for people has resonated with millions of television viewers, social media followers, avid readers, conference attendees, church congregants, and countless more believers.

As the years pass, Cathy's fire for sharing the Word of God grows more intense and shines brighter each day! As Chief Operating Officer of Jesse Duplantis Ministries and Senior Pastor of Covenant Church, she works tirelessly so that others can experience spiritual, emotional, and physical success. Cathy's inspiring teachings of faith has transformed lives around the world and has ignited purpose within the hearts of those searching for God's glorious destiny.

Thank you, Cathy, for continuing the call of reaching people and changing lives, one soul at a time! Jesse Duplantis Ministries is grateful for your dedication to the Body of Christ and your loyal leadership. May the Lord continue to bless you with your heart's desires. We know that the BEST is yet to come!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)





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