

A DVENTURES IN FAITH



REFUSING TO YIELD TO COMPLACENCY

by Jerry Savelle

NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT

by Jerry Savelle

I'LL DO IT LATER

by Jerriann Savelle

CHANGE YOUR ROUTINE CHANGE YOUR LIFE

by Terri Savelle Foy

COMPLACENCY CAN STOP YOUR VISION IN ITS TRACKS

by Joe McCroskey

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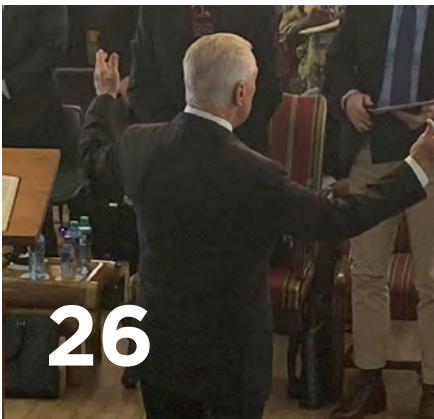


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STAFF:

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/PRESIDENT
JERRY SAVELLE

MANAGING EDITOR/
MEDIA DIRECTOR
LUKE SHOOK

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
DAVID CALTON

JSMI HEADQUARTERS
P.O. Box 748
Crowley, TX, USA 76036
817.297.3155
www.JerrySavelle.org
www.ChariotsofLight.co

JSMI AUSTRALIA/ASIA
63 Township Drive
West Burleigh, QLD
+617.5576.5534
JSMI@JSMIAustralia.org

JSMI CANADA
P.O. Box 700
Lambeth Station
London, Ontario
N6P1W4
+519.652.1611
Canada@JSMI.org

JSMI AFRICA
P.O. Box 13899
Leraatsfontein 1038
South Africa
+27 13 697 2476

JSMI EUROPE
4 Hanley House
Tidenham, Chesham
NP16 7NA, UK
+(44)01291 628074
JSMIEurope@aol.com

J S M I WORLDWIDE

PRAY THIS PRAYER

For those of you who don't know Jesus, would you like to know Him? All you need to do is pray the prayer below with a sincere and trusting heart, and you will be born again!

Dear God in Heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus to receive salvation and eternal life. I believe that Jesus is your Son. I believe that He died on the cross for my sins and that you raised Him from the dead. I receive Jesus now into my heart and make Him the Lord of my life. Jesus, come into my heart. I welcome you as my Lord and Savior. Father, I believe your word says that I am now saved. I confess with my mouth that I am saved and born again. I am now a child of God.

If you prayed this prayer, please tell us about it. We want to send you a free book. "You're Somebody Special To God," to get you started winning in life.

Refusing To Yield

I heard the Holy Spirit say this and I wrote it down as quickly as I could, and it certainly goes along with what He laid on my heart to share with you—

“*There’s so much more that I’ve planned for you, there’s so much more that I want to do. What you’ve experienced thus far is just the start, bigger and better, that’s what’s in my heart—so stay close to me and I’ll reveal it to you. I’ll even work with you and make it come true. Don’t allow yourself to become satisfied—I want to take you higher. I want to take you farther, so rise up in faith, says your loving Father.*”

God has some good things in-store. The best is yet to come. I woke up with this thought, refuse to yield to complacency.



Id To Complacency

Jerry Savelle

The apostle Paul's letter to believers in Philippi was in essence a call to persevere in their commitment to live fully for Christ. To that end he encouraged them with these words: Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13).

It's been said that the greatest tragedy in life is not our failures; rather, the greatest tragedy is our yielding to complacency.

When we become satisfied with where we are and all that we've already experienced and accomplished, we are essentially living in a state of complacency—a dangerous place to be for a child of God. Complacency is inappropriate for people of faith according to Romans 1:17: For the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Faith always reaches forward as it goes to another level. Complacency refuses to reach for the higher and better.

Paul was one of the greatest men of faith who ever lived, and he experienced some amazing things—both good and bad—in his walk of faith. Though he went through unimaginable adversity, he refused to

quit. He was in prison, facing the worst of circumstances, when he wrote his letter to the church in Philippi, yet he talked to them about moving forward. Paul was a tremendous mentor to those early believers.

I've been blessed with wonderful mentors throughout my life and ministry, including Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth E. Hagin, Oral Roberts, and T.L. Osborn. I consider these men my heroes in faith, and because the Word of God says we are to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises (see Hebrews 6:12), I used them as my examples. I was privileged to personally watch each of them inherit God's promises through their faith and patience. There were times when my faith heroes came under attack and had the opportunity to throw in the proverbial towel, but I watched how they responded in those circumstances and learned from them.

For instance, one afternoon when I was in my hotel room in El Paso, Texas, preparing to preach at a televised meeting that evening, I received a call from Oral Roberts. He and his wife, Evelyn, were in the area and asked if they could attend the service with me. I said, "Yes, sir, I would be honored for you and Evelyn to come."

I didn't tell anyone Brother

Roberts and Evelyn would be coming with me, but the moment we walked into the auditorium that evening, members of the media spotted us. One of them immediately stuck a mic right in Brother Roberts's face and in a rude tone of voice asked, "What are you going to say, Oral Roberts, the next time you lay hands on someone and then they die right there in your crusade?"

Brother Roberts looked at me with an expression that implied, "Can you believe the stupidity of some people?" and then he answered the question with these words: "I'll say 'next!'"

The reporter was clearly puzzled. "What do you mean you'll say 'next?'"

Brother Roberts said, "Well, everybody I pray for is going to die at some point, right? I'm going to keep going forward and continuing to believe for greater miracles."

I wasn't surprised at how he handled the situation that evening, for I knew his life story. After being miraculously healed of tuberculosis at age seventeen, he'd surrendered his life to God and His call to take healing to his generation. Though Brother Roberts and Evelyn served God faithfully, they were not without tragedy. Not only did they lose a son, but their daughter and son-in-law were killed in an airplane crash. Despite these tragedies

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Oral Roberts's attitude was to press forward, to keep going.

That's the attitude each of us should have as we move from faith to faith. We should always be grateful for where we are in our faith walk and for all God has done for us; however, we must never allow ourselves to be satisfied with where we are and what we've accomplished.

A Pandemic of Complacency

With the COVID pandemic of 2020 came what could be referred to as a pandemic of complacency in the body of Christ. I first noticed it when we were once again able to hold in-person church services. As I looked around at those who'd gathered that first open Sunday at our church, Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, Texas, I wondered, Who are all these new people, and where did the others go? It appeared we had a whole new crop of people.

When I asked, "Where are all the people who used to be here?" I learned that many of them had become so comfortable in watching church online that they chose to continue doing just that. This phenomenon occurred not only in Crowley, Texas, but virtually everywhere. What's more, the pandemic of complacency wasn't limited to church members; it also impacted those in ministry. I know of pastors and preachers who don't want to do what it takes to move themselves and their congregations or partners forward in faith. They

don't want to rock the boat, so to speak, because they enjoy the satisfaction of being embedded in their comfort zones.

I can't find anywhere in the Bible where God says He's thrilled about His people getting settled in a comfort zone!

Many years ago, my ministry came under a financial attack. To say times were hard would be an understatement. I was under financial pressure 24/7, and I was worn out. It got to the point that I wanted to remove my armor, throw it in a corner, and tell God to leave me alone (though I knew better than doing so). That's when the Holy Spirit got all over me, warning me against complacency. He said, "You're in a dangerous place right now, so you need to get a grip on this situation."

Instead of allowing complacency to drive us to a comfort zone, Carolyn and I joined hands and took authority over the spirit of complacency. We determined we were going to stand firm in faith, and not allow Satan to rob us or to stop us from moving forward, and God did miracles on our behalf.

Let's pay particular attention to Paul's choice of words in his letter to the Philippians. He said, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13). To press implies a continual application of forward motion, to never give up, and to never become satisfied. Instead of using the word press, The Message says, I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. Paul goes on to

say in verse 15, So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. In other words, if we want all God has for us, then we need to maintain our focus as we get off and running toward the goal.

No matter how far we've come in our individual walks of faith, God still has so much more for us to experience. For this reason, it's important that we not allow the effects of COVID-19 and the temporary shutting down of churches, businesses, schools, restaurants, and the economy to cause us to open ourselves up to a spirit of complacency. As the saying goes, this too shall turn! And while we wait for the situation to turn, we are to move forward in our faith.

Consider, for example, athletes in training for the Olympics. Though the Olympics are held every four years, those athletes don't sit around for three and a half years and then start training in earnest six months before the event. Not if they are going for the gold, not if they want all that's available for them.

Even in the midst of a pandemic of complacency in the body of Christ, we can still achieve all God has for us, and Paul tells us exactly how to do it, saying, *I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13). In other words, Paul said, "I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this." Who would want to settle for anything less if, through Christ, we can accomplish anything?

Though I'm extremely grateful for all God has done for me, I'm

not satisfied with where I am. Why would He give me vision if He didn't want me to actively pursue it? The Bible says, *Where there is no vision, the people perish* (Proverbs 29:18 KJ21). The more time I spend with the Holy Spirit, the more He enlarges the vision. He speaks about it, expands it, and talks to me about doing things I've never done before. Why would He talk to me about moving forward if God wants me to be satisfied with where I am right now?

Complacency Precedes Destruction

The Bible speaks of the nature of complacency, saying, *The complacency of fools will destroy them* (Proverbs 1:32 NIV). One of the definitions of the word *destroy* in this verse is "to soundly defeat." Those who are foolish where complacency is concerned will inevitably experience defeat. I certainly don't want this to happen, and I know you don't either.

The Passion Translation of Proverbs 1:32 translates complacency as self-satisfied. To be satisfied is to become subdued, restrained, and brought under control. No wonder Satan loves it when believers yield to complacency—it allows him to bring them under control.

The most dangerous thing to Satan is the Word of God in you, actively producing faith. Satan hopes you'll become complacent so that you won't exercise the powerful force of faith, because the Bible says, *And this is the victory that has overcome the*

world—our faith (1 John 5:4). When believers become complacent, faith becomes idle; it becomes stagnant. For this reason, Bible teacher A.W. Tozier once said, "Complacency is a deadly foe."

The prophet Amos issued this warning in his day: *Woe to you who are at ease in Zion* (Amos 6:1). The same warning is applicable today for the Church, the body of Christ (symbolic of Zion). We are admonished not to be at ease, having become comfortable with where we are. A lot of Christians seek a comfort zone, a place to be relaxed in their faith and not have to believe for anything anymore. To believe is to exercise faith, to stretch. But getting to a comfort zone is not what the life of faith is about, for God's direction is always forward. Nowhere in the Bible is this more clearly illustrated than in the story of Moses and the children of Israel trapped between their Egyptian pursuers and the Red Sea.

So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea...

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

And the LORD said to

Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."

(Exodus 14: 9, 13–15)

The children of Israel faced an impossible situation. They didn't have a Bible in which they could read about God's people crossing a sea on dry ground because the book of Exodus hadn't yet been written. I find it interesting that God expressed surprise, saying, "Why do you cry to Me?" when Moses went to Him and asked what to do. God simply replied, "Tell the children of Israel to go forward."

The Red Sea was before them saying, "You can't go forward," yet God's direction was, and is always, go forward! God's people could have complacently clung to their camp by the sea and been destroyed. However, when they chose to obey God and move forward, they saw the hand of the Lord destroy the entire Egyptian army that pursued them. Their faith did not fail.

I was probably about three months old in the Lord when I read this portion of a conversation between Jesus and Simon Peter: And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail" (Luke 22:31). I was shocked to learn that my faith could fail! But then I found that the Greek word translated as fail in that verse literally means "reduced to inactivity."

Faith cannot fail in the sense of

continued on next page

Some of the reasons why people allow themselves to come complacent:

1. *Weariness. Paul warned against weariness in Galatians 6:9, “let us not be weary in well doing.”*

2. *The fear of failure.*

3. *Being moved by past experiences that didn’t work out.*

being unsuccessful or falling short of achieving the expected result; however, when we choose to quit moving forward and instead embrace the comfort of complacency, our faith can most certainly be reduced to inactivity. Active faith is the substance that produces the things we hope for; inactive faith produces

nothing.

There are many reasons why believers allow themselves to become complacent, but I believe the three most common are weariness, fear of failure, and being moved by past experiences that didn’t work out. Regardless an individual’s reason for embracing it, complacency always brings advancement to a screeching halt. Those who’ve embraced complacency are unwilling to fight the good fight of faith. And without fighting the good fight of faith, it’s unlikely they will ever enjoy all the wonderful things God has prepared for them.

The Bible says, *Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are Thy ways, who passing through the Valley of Baca makes it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.* (Psalm 84:5–7 KJ21). The Valley of Baca in the literal Hebrew means “the valley of

tears, sorrow, pain.” But notice that even though we’ve all been to Baca—we’ve had our moments of oppression, sorrow, and tears—we nonetheless passed through.

God never intended Baca to be a place of complacent comfort, where His people camped out or spent the

rest of their lives. Baca is a place to pass through as we move forward in faith to all God has prepared for us.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read these words: *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.* Why would we settle for anything less than experiencing all that God has prepared for us? Though our hearts have yet to conceive them, they have nonetheless been prearranged by God, who says, “They belong to you because you love Me—so go for it!”

I invite you today to make a fresh commitment to moving forward in all God has prepared for you and called you to accomplish. Quitting is not an option, and neither is yielding to complacency. In the Romans 8:31 words of the apostle Paul, *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*



JERRY SAVELLE

Since 1969, Dr. Savelle has been traveling the world teaching people how to win in life. He is the author of more than seventy books. He and his wife, Carolyn, also serve as founding pastors of Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, TX.

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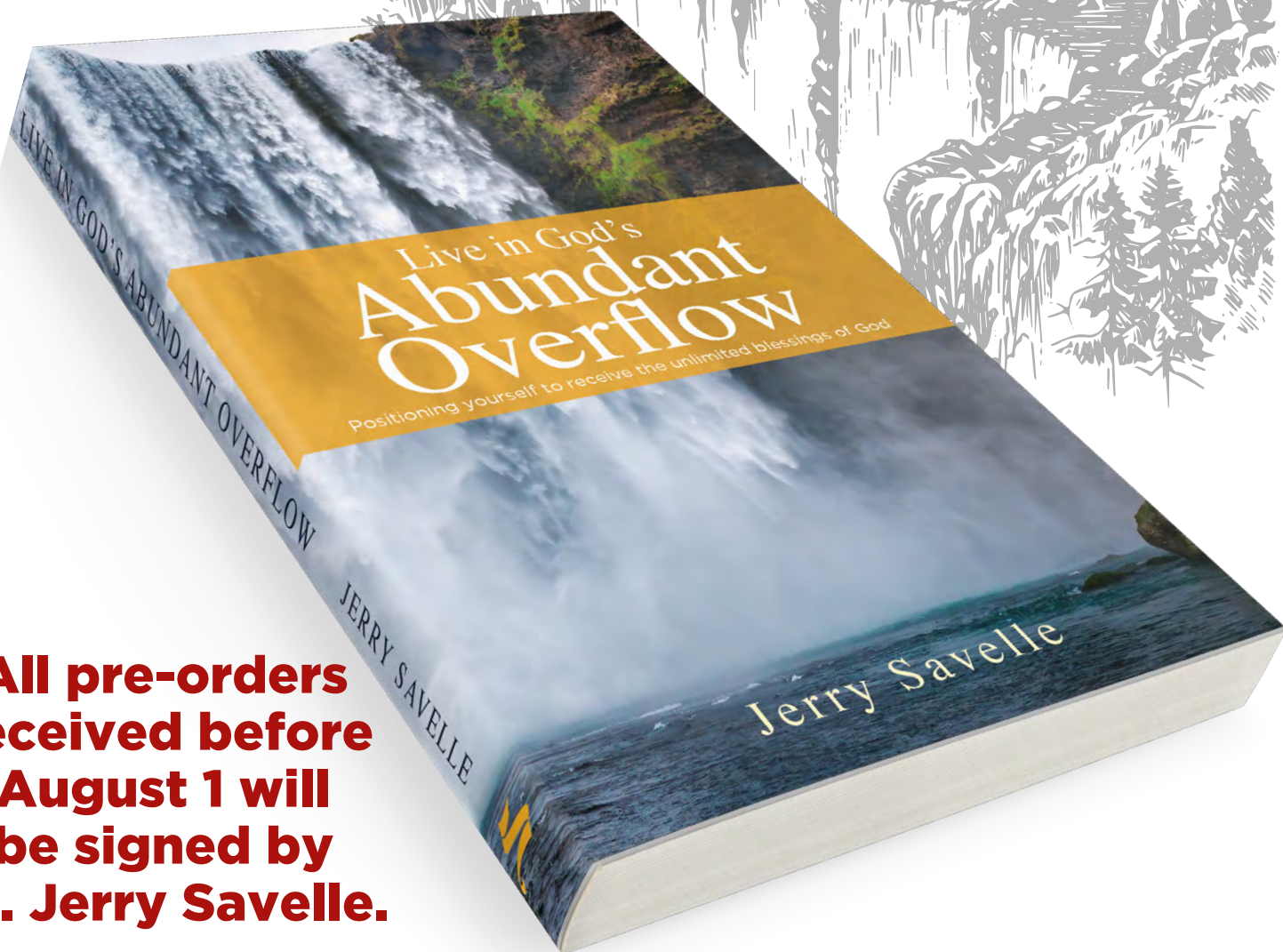


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Never Accept Defeat

Jerry Savelle

Have you ever been fully engaged in a spiritual battle, utilizing all the weapons of warfare available to you as you fight the good fight of faith, yet based on natural circumstances defeat appears inevitable? I know I have. But one thing I've learned in more than fifty years of ministry is to never accept defeat. God always reveals a path to victory—if I'm willing to seek His counsel and obey His instructions.

In the book of 2 Chronicles, we find the account of God's people facing the approach of an army described as "a great multitude from beyond the sea." Let's see how King Jehoshaphat handled the situation.

And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, and said: "Oh LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do

You not rule over the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

(2 Chronicles 20:3–7, 12)

King Jehoshaphat's example of leadership reveals this simple but powerful truth: When defeat seems inevitable and you don't know what to do, keep your eyes on God! Let's see what happened next.

Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.



Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel ... And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them ... You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."

"Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe

in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper”
(2 Chronicles 20:13–17, 20)

When God’s people didn’t know what to do in the face of insurmountable circumstances, they didn’t give up and say, “Well, victory must not be God’s will for us.” No! As they sought God and kept their eyes on Him, the Spirit of God came upon one of them with a rhema word of specific instruction as to what to do. As it turned out, the enemy armies that had come against God’s people ended up destroying each other, leaving behind a tremendous spoil described as “an abundance of valuables and precious jewelry.” In a single day their battlefield became their place of victory and blessing.

The two significant words of instruction the Lord gave His people that day are just as applicable for us today: (1) believe in the Lord your God, and (2) believe His prophets and you shall prosper.

The Bible says that when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil, it took them three days to do so because there was so much. I’ve learned that when I refuse to give up, to accept defeat in even the direst of circumstances, the God who is more than enough will always show up. When He does, He doesn’t merely bless me, He blesses me abundantly. And He will do the same for you, provided you refuse to accept defeat.

Get Rid of a Defeat Mentality

Jesus revealed this powerful truth to His disciples: “*In the world you will*

have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, says, *For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]*

So, if Jesus has deprived the world of the power to harm us, why then do some believers still experience defeat? According to Proverbs 23:7, For as [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he. In other words, they experience defeat because they have a defeat mentality. But the good news is they don’t have to stay that way. Paul revealed the way to get rid of a defeat mentality—or any other mentality that does not line up with the Word of God—in his letter to the believers in Rome. He said, *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind* (Romans 12:2).

Why is it so important that believers renew their minds? Because most people in the world, in today’s culture, think defeat. I particularly like The Message paraphrase of Romans 12:2: *Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.* If we spend our time watching what the world watches and listening to what the world listens to, allowing the world to instill in us a defeat mentality, then defeat is exactly what we will experience.

Paul also tells us to be selective in our minds, in our thought life, saying, *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ* (2 Corinthians 10:4–5). The Message

describes strongholds as “barriers erected against the truth of God.”

Paul declared the truth of God when he said, *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:57). The truth is, God has given us victory! When thoughts of defeat, which are contrary to God’s truth, attempt to enter your thought life, don’t allow them in. They are lies of the devil, who wants you to cast away your confidence and accept defeat. Instead, bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ by getting in the Word and renewing your mind.

I learned the powerful connection between my mind and the Word of God as a new believer, when I read Jesus’ words in John 8:31–32 (KJ21): “*If ye continue in My Word, then ye are My disciples indeed.*” The keyword for me in that verse was “continue.” When I got saved, I was one of those people described in Romans 2:2: I was so well adjusted to the culture of the world that I fit into it without thinking. I was accustomed to a lifestyle of quitting and accepting defeat; I didn’t know what it was to continue in anything. I knew that if I was going to renew my mind to the Word of God, I’d have to find a way to continue in the Word.

In those early days of my walk with the Lord, I would oftentimes get up in the middle of the night, my Bible in hand, and I’d walk the floors quoting scripture verses, praying in the spirit, and forbidding the devil to steal the Word from my heart. He’d say, “You erected against the truth of God.”

In those early days of my walk with the Lord, I would oftentimes get up in the middle of the night, my Bible in

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hand, and I'd walk the floors quoting scripture verses, praying in the spirit, and forbidding the devil to steal the Word from my heart. He'd say, "You don't really think the Word of God is going to work for you, do you? Just look at your circumstances. Why don't you just give up and quit?" I figured if one of us was going to give up, it wasn't going to be me—it was going to be the devil! And God was faithful to both me and His Word. He brought to pass everything I stood on according to His Word, and He's been doing it ever since.

The Bible says the Word of God serves as the sword of the Spirit in the mouths of believers (see Ephesians 6:17). I learned to envision that Word coming out of my mouth like a rapid-fire machine gun, causing the devil to flee.

There was once a time when I couldn't see a way out of my lifestyle of being a quitter, which usually led to defeat. But once I learned to renew my mind to the Word of God by continuing in His Word, that old "defeat mentality" had to go.

A Different Spirit

As far as God is concerned, quitting has never been an option for His people—especially when it comes to believing and standing on His promises. God promised to bring His people out of slavery in Egypt, and He did. He promised to bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey, and He did. The problem was, they almost failed to take possession of The Promised Land because of those who had a defeat mentality.

God instructed Moses to send ten men to spy out the land of Canaan to see if it was exactly as God said it would be, flowing with milk and honey. When the men, including Joshua and Caleb,

went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anek there" (Numbers 13:27–28). Then Caleb added, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are all well able to overcome it" (verse 30).

But not all the men had the same report. The Bible says, *But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report* (Numbers 14:31–32). Of the ten men who spied out The Promised Land, only Caleb and Joshua had a good report; therefore, God said, "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it" (Numbers 14:24).

Though the majority said they couldn't do what God had clearly told them to do—go possess the land—Joshua and Caleb said, "We are all well able to overcome it." And that's just what the people who sided with Joshua and Caleb did. It didn't happen overnight, but the children of Israel who chose to follow the man with a different spirit indeed inherited The Promised Land.

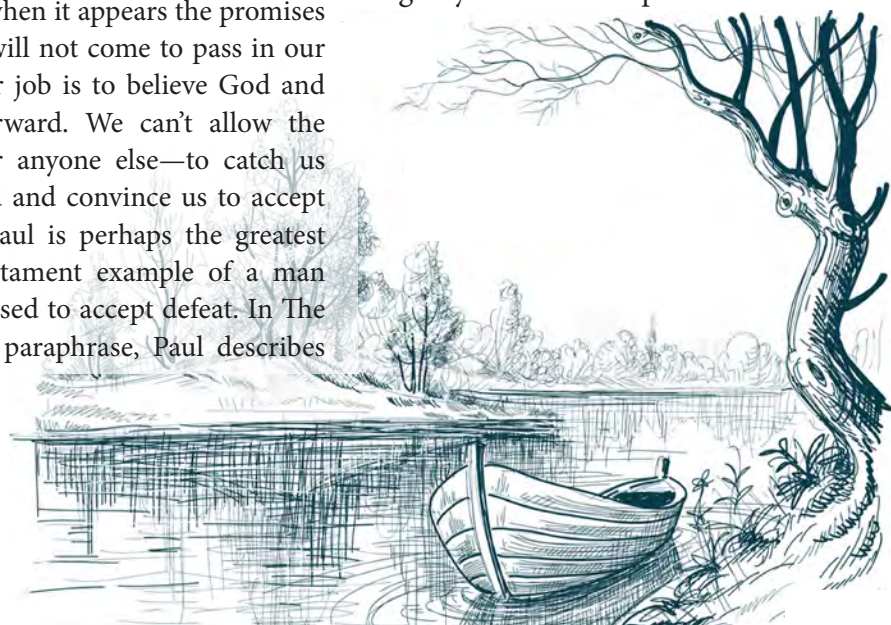
Even when it appears the promises of God will not come to pass in our lives, our job is to believe God and press forward. We can't allow the devil—or anyone else—to catch us off guard and convince us to accept defeat. Paul is perhaps the greatest New Testament example of a man who refused to accept defeat. In The Message paraphrase, Paul describes

the difficulties he faced, and God's faithfulness to deliver him.

We don't want you in the dark, friends, about how hard it was when all this came down on us in Asia province. It was so bad we didn't think we were going to make it. We felt like we'd been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally—not a bad idea since he's the God who raises the dead! And he did it, rescued us from certain doom. And he'll do it again, rescuing us as many times as we need rescuing.

(2 Corinthians 1:8–10 MSG).

Take a minute to look back on your own life and the difficult situations you've faced. Remember the times when standing on God's Word and His promises didn't seem to bring results and it appeared defeat was inevitable. Yet you didn't give up and God brought you through. If He did it before, He will do it again—as long as you never accept defeat!



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COL Outreach

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Loveland, CO
Thunder in the Rockies
Sept 3 - Sept 6, 2021

Fayetteville, AR
Bikes, Blues, BBQ
Sept 23 - Sept 25, 2021

Las Vegas, NV / Vegas Bikefest
Sept 30 - Oct 2, 2021

COL Tour

Montana Tour
August 25 - August 29, 2021
(check the website for more details)

COL PAL Rally

Sept 16 - Sept 19, 2021
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"I just want to sit here and watch my favorite TV show; I'll get in the Word tomorrow." "I'm going to sleep a little longer. I'll have prayer time later."

These are just two examples of spiritual complacency. The word complacency is defined as "a feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities; a situation that prevents you from trying harder; self-satisfaction, especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies." Adjectives



JERRIANN SAVELLE

Jerriann is an author, speaker and mother to six beautiful children in Granbury, Texas. Jerriann is called to help others by sharing her story of hope, healing and freedom from low self esteem and insecurity. Find out more about her at WWW.JERRIANN.ORG

that describe being complacent are indifferent, unconcerned, nonchalant, and uninterested.

Sadly, many Christians are currently at a place of complacency in their walk with Christ. It's not that they've turned their backs on Christ; rather, they are no longer passionate in their walk with Him. They've become satisfied with their present state.

The book of Revelation discloses the complacent attitude developed in the Christians at Laodicea. It was a church that was content, where believers thought they were fine as they were. Revelation 3:16 clearly and vividly describes how God feels about complacency: He does not like it! So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." The *Message*

says, "You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit." Those are some powerful words.

Lukewarmness is a spiritual condition. In my own life there have been times when I allowed myself to become stale and stagnant in my relationship with Christ. Sure, I would go to church, pay my tithes, and read a verse in my Bible. But the passion was no longer there, the hunger was gone. I had become complacent.

Maybe you too have experienced a lack of energy or have felt lethargic in your relationship with Christ. Perhaps you were once passionate and full of zeal for the things of God, but you've recently gotten lax in your prayer time and in reading the Word. When complacency creeps in, you stop being amazed, awed, and expectant of the miraculous, wonder-working power of God that can be present in your life.

Complacency leads to apathy, the lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. You now find yourself lacking motivation to bring about change in your life. You're stuck in a rut that prevents you from walking out the fullness of your purpose and destiny. Spiritual complacency is one of the many tactics of the enemy to keep you right where you are—never changing and never growing. The Bible says, *The appetite of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the appetite of the diligent is abundantly supplied* (Proverbs 13:4 AMPC).

Oftentimes people get comfortable in the culture in which they live, accepting what's going on in the world and taking on the attitude that says, "This is just the way it is." As believers, we are warned against this mindset and behavior: *Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking* (Romans 12:2 MSG).

Complacency causes you to no

longer have intimacy with Christ. Ask yourself these questions: Have I replaced Christ at the center of my life with all the busyness around me? Have I begun to accept what the world says is normal?" If you answered yes to either of these questions, The *Message* paraphrase of Romans 12:2 provides the solution: Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Fixing your attention on God is the answer for eliminating spiritual complacency. That's how you make more of Jesus—more of Him in your everyday life, more of Him when you wake up in the morning, more of Him by acknowledging Him throughout your day, more of Him by setting aside time to pray and then listen, and more of Him by including Him in your decision making. Make more time for Jesus!

Get rid of the attitude that says, "I'll do it later." Complacency can be broken off your life only by doing something you don't feel like doing, such as motivating yourself even when you don't feel like it. You break complacency when you restrict the actions of our flesh, and no longer allow it to be in control. When your body says, "Stay in bed a little longer; we can do devotion time later," get up anyway. Doing so is an act of obedience.

You also destroy complacency when you take every thought captive (see 2 Corinthians 10:5), making them submit to the Word of God. This means filtering every thought through the Word, renewing your mind, and transforming your thoughts and actions to His way of

thinking and doing.

Start with small steps of change. For example, set your alarm fifteen minutes earlier than usual each morning. Instead of listening to the radio on the way to work, listen to a faith-building message. Turn off the TV earlier before bedtime and then read a verse in the Bible. Make that verse the last thing you have in your heart and mind at the end of your day.

The more you include Jesus in your every day, the more you will crave fellowship with Him. Complacency will be a thing of the past as you experience excitement for the things of God. You'll look forward to digging in His Word just as you would in digging for precious treasure, for that's where you'll find life-changing truths and promises from God of His favor, abundance, and blessing for you.

I'll do it

Later

Jerriann Savelle



“A Year of Firsts, that’s what you will see, I’ll make it happen, you can count on Me.”

The Bible shows examples of many “firsts,” or instances of things happening that had never before happened. Whether it was Abraham and Sarah having a child at an old age, David slaying Goliath, or Mary conceiving Jesus without knowing a man, God’s “firsts” are woven throughout the Bible. Not only that, but did you know God Wants you to experience firsts like this in your life? In this powerful message, Dr. Jerry Savelle takes you through a prophetic word given to him about the days to come, about all the new “firsts” in your life that God longs to manifest, and how to come into agreement with God and His plan in order to see them manifest. Get ready for all the new things the Lord is going to do!

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CHANGE YOUR ROUTINE

“Successful people are simply those with successful habits. To change your life, change your habits. How do you develop a new habit? By repetition.”

CHANGE YOUR LIFE

TERRI SAVELLE FOY

I never realized until 2002 that any time I lost the morning “battle of the bed,” that loss took me further from success. Each morning that I slept an extra thirty minutes compounded to an extra ten hours each month that could change my life or keep me stuck.

I found out that the most successful people in the world have something in common: they practice mind over mattress. They conquer the covers! From political leaders and ministers to famous athletes, CEOs and celebrities, they cherish the morning hours as a time to get up and invest in themselves while the rest of the world chooses to snooze.

I discovered that what you do every day is far more important than what you do every decade. What you commit to each hour is building your future. Your repetition is your reputation.

Did you know that waking up just one hour earlier each day will give you an extra fifteen days each year? What could you accomplish with an extra two weeks added to your life? Take an inventory of your current routine. You already have one, but the question is, does it support your goals? Is it helping you get closer to where you want to be? Or are you in that place I was in for eleven years: a deep rut with no significant progress in my life and dreams unfulfilled? I found out that by just adding a handful of new habits to my life, I could go from merely existing to living my dreams.

Join the 5AM Club

Bestselling author Jon Acuff tells how the only way he could learn to get out of complacency and be consistent in his personal growth (in addition to working a full-time job and raising a family with his wife)

was to start “being selfish at 5:00am.” He began the discipline of getting up at the crack of dawn to read, to work out, to journal, and to pray. He reported that since he began this early morning ritual, “Not one time has my wife complained that I wasn't spending time with her at 5am. Not one time has my daughter asked me to ride bikes with her at 5am.” He declares, “That's your time to focus on you, your personal development. Own your mornings!”

Jon Acuff admits, “If your dream isn't worth thirty minutes, you've either got the wrong dream or you're just pretending you have one.” And that's the realization I had to come to if I was ever going to change my life. In fact, I heard someone define the word P.O.O.R. as Passing Over Opportunities Repeatedly. You might say, “But, Terri, that's just it. I haven't had any opportunities.” My argument is this: Yes, you have, and do. Every morning at 5:00am. (or 6:00 or 7:00), you have another opportunity to get up and invest in your future.

My dad, Jerry Savelle, felt called into the ministry back in 1969. He knew he needed to prepare as much as possible to deliver sermons that could impact lives. His preparation would include learning God's Word, reading the Bible, and studying it intensely.

One day, he came across a familiar scripture in John 8:31-32 that reads, “If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples (disciplined ones), you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” Although he had read that verse many times before, this time, the word continue stood out as the biggest word on the page. He thought, “That's my problem! I quit everything. I quit college. I quit working at the Chevrolet dealership. I quit working at the Ford dealership.

I quit the Mercury dealership. When things don't go my way, I quit. I've never continued anything.”

In that moment, he began the journey of continuing by disciplining himself. He was so undisciplined about getting up early, but he knew he had to start investing in himself if he was ever going to pursue his big dream. So, he set the alarm for 6 o'clock the next morning. When the alarm sounded, he got up immediately, full of determination. He walked into his guest bedroom, laid across the bed with his Bible open, and began reading. An hour later, he woke up.

This routine repeated itself day

“ Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out. ”

ROBERT COLLIER

after day until he got so frustrated that he realized the bed was too tempting, he needed to sit up in a chair. Unfortunately, the chair was equally as cozy and rocked him right to sleep. Desperate for change in his life and his habits, he was so determined to continue that he walked into his bathroom, stood on the edge of the bathtub (literally, balancing himself), held his Bible in the palm of his hands and said, “Jerry Savelle, you'd better not fall asleep or you're gonna bust your head! You'd better continue!”

That was the beginning of a lifetime of discipline. This comical but life-changing story of desperation

continued on next page

worked. My dad is now one of the most disciplined people I know.

I want to share with you the five habits that changed my life, and you'll notice they don't demand a major life overhaul. Instead, it's about making small tweaks and adjustments to your daily agenda that lead to stellar results. The five things successful people do each morning are:

#1. Successful people pray/meditate

No matter what religion they are affiliated with, successful people make prayer/meditation a top priority in their day. People from all religions, backgrounds, and careers have discovered this "success habit" as a form of helping them relax, unwind, and improve their personal lives.

I am not endorsing or condoning all types of meditation as a habit you should incorporate. I am simply pointing out that prayer and meditation of God's Word is a solution for success prescribed by God Himself: "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8 NIV).

So, according to God, you have to meditate on His Word if you want to be successful. Prayer is simply talking to God. Meditation is listening for God; it is where we sit quietly and direct our thinking on Him and His Word.

This single habit of prayer and meditation is the forerunner for all others. It is the one habit you need more than any other. If you just incorporate this one, primary change in your routine, it will dramatically affect everything in your life.

#2. Successful people read (a lot!)

Leaders are readers. Success is tied to your personal development. You can't grow any more if you don't learn anymore. This is something I had to force myself to do because in my mind reading was always an obligation, not an opportunity. I hated reading. But since I wasn't growing, my life wasn't either.

You have to change your mindset from viewing growth as a period of life to a way of life, for the Bible says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (see Proverbs 23:7).

Opportunities will open as your mind opens. Ideas will flourish as you turn the pages of a book. Earl Shoaf said, "Learn to work harder on yourself than you do on your job. If you work hard on your job, you'll make a living. If you work hard on yourself, you can make a fortune." And it begins by building your personal library.

#3. Successful people listen to audio teaching

This is the easiest of all the habits to adapt in your life. It only requires two words and very little physical effort: push play! As we discovered in habit #2, successful people read each morning, but they also take advantage of every available means to increase their knowledge by listening to audio teaching. They grow as they go.

When I first began this habit in 2002, I found a gigantic unused CD player in a closet. I went to my parent's house and stole [consider borrowed, took, gathered, chose, stockpiled] a bunch of their audios and placed my new treasures on my bathroom vanity. My goal was to listen each morning as part of my ritual while getting ready for the day. I figured I've got to get

ready anyway, I might as well learn something.

Next, I found a pink sticky note and scribbled the words: push play and stuck it to my mirror. Because I wasn't disciplined yet and my previous routine was to listen to music to get my blood flowing in the morning, I had to have this pink reminder staring me in the face when I looked up from brushing my teeth.

I'll never forget that first morning when I glanced at the command and thought, Oh yeah, push play. And the routine began. I did it again the next day and the next and the next until I could remove the message on the mirror and listening to an audiotape became a habit. That was in 2002, and I've never stopped.

This morning habit changed my entire mindset. The Bible says, So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). Every time you hear God's Word through a faith-building, motivational message, your faith grows stronger and stronger.

#4. Successful people write (and review) their dreams and goals

Writing your dreams and goals is a clear key to success. Everyone seems to agree it is important that goals should be written down; however, only three out of every one-hundred adults write their goals down on paper. The act of penning your aspirations on paper is a very powerful motivator. It forces you to get specific about your ambitions.



Habakkuk 2:2 says clearly to “Write the vision and make it plain.” This isn’t difficult; however, anything that is easy to do is also easy not to do. Writing the vision is as simple as picking up the closest pen to you right now, grabbing a notebook and start writing. Be very specific about what you see. Don’t be vague.

#5. Successful people exercise

It’s no surprise that physical fitness and success go hand in hand. The most successful people know that working out consistently is the key to mental and physical health. It is one of the most important habits you should develop to transform your life and live your dreams.

In addition to losing weight and improving your overall physical appearance, this ritual alone can build your self-esteem, reduce stress, improve sleep, boost your memory and concentration, and simply make you happier.

Rather than get overwhelmed by this habit, I had to stop looking at the one hour I didn’t have and look at the twenty minutes I did have, and then get moving. And hey, twenty minutes multiplied by thirty days in a month is ten hours of physical exercise! Exercise is not necessarily about having the perfect body; it’s about getting in shape, inside and out, to be fit for your life assignment. It’s about creating routines that bring about the best you imaginable.

So, the early bird does, in fact, catch the worm. When I joined the ranks of early-risers and established those five simple habits in 2002, I never dreamed doing something so unspectacular would enable me to achieve spectacular dreams. Today, when people ask me, “How did your life change so drastically?” I simply say, “I changed my routine.”

Change your routine and it will change your whole life. And that simple change begins at the crack of dawn.



TERRI SAVELLE FOY

Terri is an author, a conference speaker, and a success coach to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world. Find out more about Terri at

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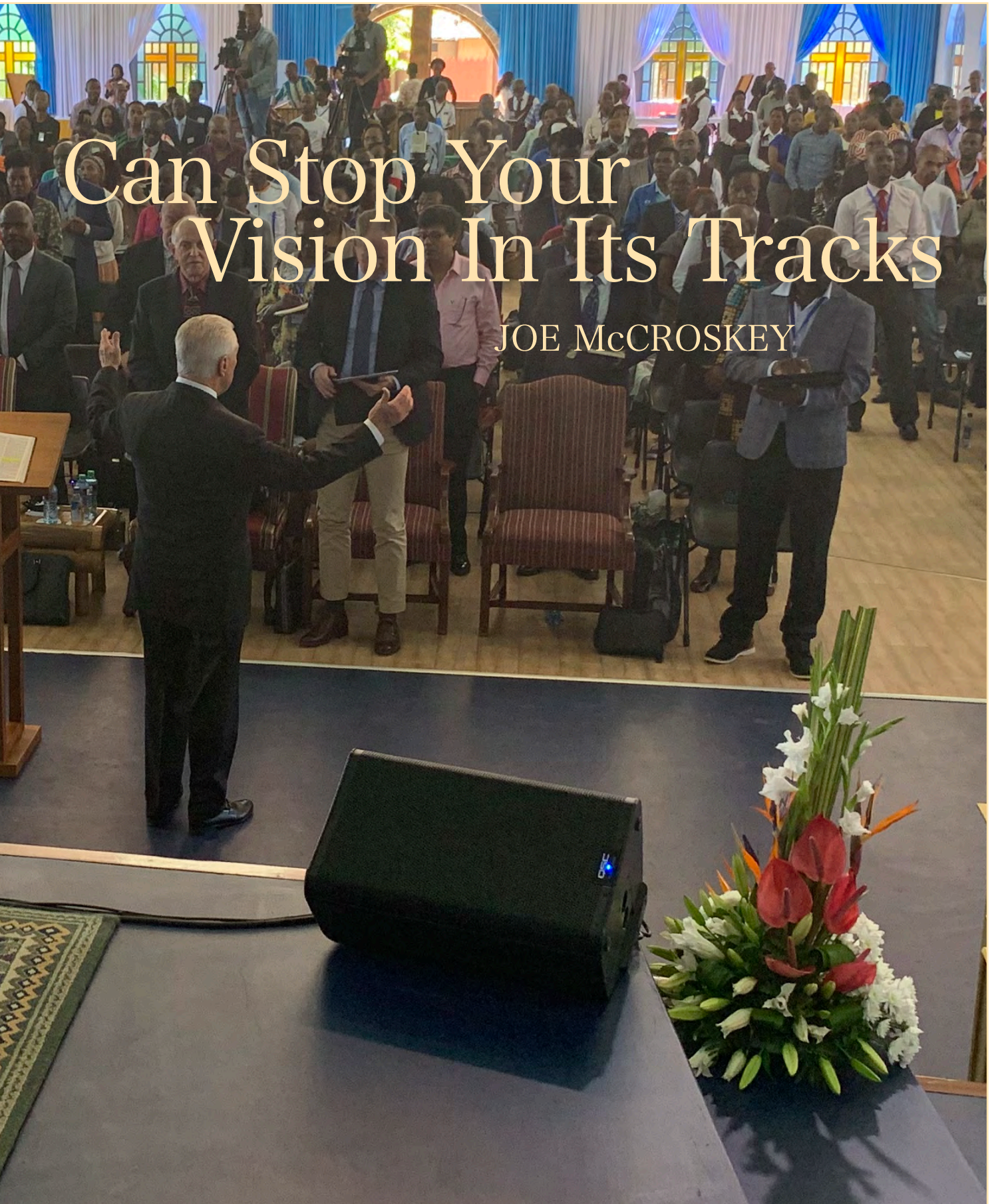
Complacency

One thing that has been on the heart of Jerry Savelle Ministries International from the beginning, and has stayed a part of the ministry's vision, is discipleship training. Throughout the years we have accomplished discipleship training through ministers' conferences, church meetings, the Jerry Savelle Bible School, and distributing our books and CDs. As Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,"* JSMI has done just that.

Another verse that has stayed in the forefront of our discipleship training efforts is John 8:31–32: *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* We have taken the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ around the United States and to the nations—preaching, teaching, discipling, and setting people free.

continued on next page





Can Stop Your Vision In Its Tracks

JOE McCROSKEY

When Brother Jerry and I started traveling to Africa to take the gospel to the nations, we learned rather quickly that the majority of people did not know what to do after they experienced salvation. In fact, many people who responded to the salvation call in our meetings would respond again in other missionaries' meetings! They would return to get saved again and again. That's when Brother Jerry was led to stop doing open-air meetings and start working one-on-one with the pastors.

As we conducted smaller meetings with the pastors, we were able to pour the Word of God into them. Though

years, we have worked diligently to provide the Word of God to all peoples. We have distributed resources in both English and other languages. We have supported Christian ministries and orphanages around the world with finances, food, and supplies. We have done food distribution outreaches in poverty-stricken areas in far-away nations, always letting the people know that our God has supplied the food because He loves them.

Although we have encountered attacks and experienced slow progress, we have not allowed these issues to negate the God-given mandate to make

Hebrews 11:16 declares, *But without faith it is impossible to please Him*. To stop reaching and pressing for more in God is to stop using faith and failing to please Him. The Bible says, *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward* (Hebrews 10:35) and "Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him" (verse 38). The just are to be living by faith and not drawing back. According to Brother Jerry, this means the just shall pursue life with an active faith, for faith must be active.

To me, complacency means not proceeding with what God told me



these meetings didn't seem awe-inspiring to many, they were crucial to the nation. We may have met with only eighty pastors, but those eighty pastors represented hundreds and thousands of others who they would train and teach the same Word of Faith message they'd learned from us. We followed the discipleship concept shown by Jesus: from twelve to seventy to, eventually, an immeasurable number.

When we began the one-on-one effort, our desire was to disciple people with the Word of God and make them winners in life. We wanted to include everyone, especially pastors who could turn around and train others. Over the

disciples. There were times when we had to fight the good fight of faith, but we always remained in faith and kept moving forward with the methods given us by God. We never allowed complacency to set in to deter us from moving forward in discipleship training.

Brother Jerry defines complacency as "becoming satisfied with where you are and refusing to reach for higher and better." Complacency can stop vision in its tracks. If allowed, complacency can even kill vision. I can say with certainty that JSMI has never been complacent about discipleship training. We've never become satisfied; rather, we continue to reach the nations to make disciples.

to do because of attacks, or because it looks as if it may fail, or even because it seems to fail at first. Attacks may slow down our vision, but they don't kill it. When attacks come, we can get with the Holy Ghost and find out how to get through them. Sometimes it just requires endurance; other times it may require a new method of doing things. Regardless, our God-given vision cannot be stopped—unless we stop.

Furthermore, if God gives a vision, He will also make provision for it. The vision doesn't start because of money or numbers; rather, we move forward because God said so. Eventually we'll have the money and numbers both to

start the vision, and as results of the vision. The fact that a vision doesn't make sense from a numbers or money perspective should not be the determining factor in proceeding with what God said to do.

In the beginning, our live Jerry Savelle Bible School was small. But the Word of God says, *Do not despise these small beginnings* (Zechariah 4:10 NLT). From those early classes, we've seen churches, ministries, orphanages, schools, and Bible schools pop up all around the world. Some of our early students went out and formed ministries in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and throughout the United States. Many of these former students

Today our discipleship training program can easily be set up anywhere, in a very short time span. We refer to this program as "our school without walls." We have made it available online, in a classroom setting, and on tablets. In fact, we offer the opportunity to sponsor an overseas pastor to participate in this one-year program for only \$100. (Go to www.jerrysavelle.org/giving)

From our earliest beginnings to now, we have trained pastors and others around the world through our disciple-ship training program. These disciples minister in the US, Canada, Europe, Africa, Australia—

discipleship training. Brother Kenneth Copeland and Brother Jerry both held virtual conferences, and at JSMI we increased our online presence. Brother Jerry recently conducted a Sunday service by live streaming with one of our churches in South Africa. The Word of God cannot be stopped so long as we refuse to become complacent. Jerry Savelle Ministries International will continue in these last days to reach out, evangelize, motivate, and disciple believers here in Texas and around the world!



still minister today. Our disciples went out and taught other disciples, who have taught other disciples, and so on. We have no idea how many people have entered the kingdom of God and have been discipled as a result of attending this Bible school.

Years after beginning the Bible school, we started schools in Kenya and the United Kingdom. Some of our early graduates took the Word of God back to their churches and denominations, some travelled and began outreaches and ministries in their nations, and some began ministries in other nations. Praise God—the Word of God has spread!



there are no geo-graphic limits. We continue to gradu-ate disciples all over the world, who then go out and make more disciples.

I recently returned from a church near Laredo, Texas, that graduated eighteen students in their town of 275,000 people. How many of these people can eighteen graduates affect? We have no idea, but we know there are no limits, so long as the disciples don't stop. We must never let complacency stop us; rather, we must remain active in faith, listen to the Holy Spirit, and break through any challenges that may arise.

The pandemic of 2020 forced many ministries to examine their methods of



REV. JOSEPH D. MCCROSKEY

Has served for the past forty years as International Director for Jerry Savelle Ministries International.

Get more information at

WWW.JERRYSAVELLE.ORG



Being a Partner has many rewards.

Partners, thank you for being a part of sharing God's love, compassion, and hope to those in need. Your faithful support enables me to reach people all around the world through television, church meetings, conferences, and by producing faith-building resources. Together, we are destined to win and hear our Father say, "Well done, My good and faithful servants." Thank you for joining me with your prayers and with your finances. It is the greatest compliment in the world to me to know that you're my partner. Here are three recent testimonies from faithful partners that I know will build up your faith.

1

After taking some time to read your magazine, I went to sow a seed into the ministry. I usually give online but the Lord lead me to write it out and send it by mail. It took me some time to write everything out and prepare my gift but I got it ready and decided to head out for the day to run errands. I went outside to see that a car had hit a deer and there was glass and smoke everywhere! Thankfully the driver was OK but I was reminded that as a partner, you all pray for my protection. Thank you for always keeping me in prayer! - Frances, PA

2

Because of Brother Jerry's teaching, I received a \$2 raise at work... Listening/watching him minister has been a huge blessing in my life.. I believe the seeds I've sown to JSMI and adhering to his teaching led to the increase in my life... It must be the favor of God. - J. , MO

3

I was a backslidden Christian. I was addicted to crack and ended up homeless, sleeping on sidewalks for over 10 years. I got a hold of the Word of Faith you preached and started confessing that I was drug free and that a house and job needed to come to me. Within 6 months, I was completely free from drugs and I just got my own apartment next to a lake with my rent paid for me for 2 years! Favor and faith works. - Markell, FL

To become a partner or get more information about Jerry Savelle Ministries International go to www.jerrysavelle.org/partnership or call 1-866-576-4872.

teaching SCHEDULE

JULY 18

Heritage of Faith
Christian Center
Crowley, TX
Time: 11:00 am
Address: 10350 Old
Cleburne-Crowley Rd.
Phone: 817-297-2243

JULY 23

Faith Life Church
Branson, MO
Time: 6:30pm
Address: 3701 W. 75
Country Blvd.
Phone: 417-334-9233

JULY 11

The River Church
Blythe, CA
Time: 9:00am
Address: 361 N. Lovekin
Phone: 760-922-7210

JULY 11

HD Church
Delano, CA
Time: 6:00pm
Address: 15570 County Line
Phone: 661-725-6034

AUGUST 2 - 7

Southwest Believers
Convention
Fort Worth, TX
Time: For times go to
www.kcm.org/events
Address: 100 Houston St.
Phone: 817-252-2700

AUGUST 15

High Point Church
Rochester, MN
Time: 9:00 & 11:00am
Address: 4545
Frontage Rd.
Phone: 507-289-7575

AUGUST 17 - 18

Living Word
Christian Center
Brooklyn Park, MN
Time: 7:00pm nightly
Address: 9201 75th Ave. N
Phone: 763-315-7000

AUGUST 22 - 23

Family Worship Center
Columbia, MO
Time: 8/22 10:00am & 6:00pm
8/23 7:00pm
Address: 4925 E. Bonne
Femme Church Rd.
Phone: 573-441-1140

AUGUST 25

ZOE Church
Billings, MT
Time: 6:30pm
Address: 3247
Driftwood Ln.
Phone: 406-860-2527

AUGUST 27

Celebration of Life
Church
Belgrade, MT
Time: 7:00pm
Address: 205 W.
Cameron
Phone: 406-239-1800

AUGUST 29

Missoula Bible Church
Missoula, MT
Time: 10:30am
Address: 4455 Hwy 10 W
Phone: 406-543-3441

Times and dates are subject
to change.
Please check our website at
www.jerrysavelle.org
for any up-to-date changes to
Dr. Savelle's schedule.

television SCHEDULE

[loveworld]

UK: SKYCHANNEL 768

Go to jerrysavelle.org
for more channels, times
and updates or see us
on-demand, govictory.com,
and youtube.com.

[daystar]

US: TUESDAY

6:00 PM

UK: WEDNESDAY

4:00 AM

FRIDAY

12:30 AM 5:00 AM

1:00PM 7:30 PM

SATURDAY

10:00 PM

[faith broadcasting
network]

US: SATURDAY

8:00 AM

US: SUNDAY

7:30 AM

UK: SUNDAY

10:00 AM

AFRICA: SUNDAY

8:00 AM

[victory channel]

SUNDAY

1:00 AM 5:30 AM

4:30 PM

MONDAY

8:30 PM

TUESDAY

8:00 AM 3:30 PM

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

12:00 AM 7:00 AM

12:30PM

FRIDAY

12:30 AM 5:00 AM

1:00PM 7:30 PM