

Connecting Point Magazine

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Connecting Point Communications

In Him:

**Seeing Ourselves And Others In The
Light of Our Redemption**

IN THIS EDITION:

- **In Him/ Page 5**
- **Schadenfreude/Page 9**
- **When Feelings Undermine
Faith/Pg 11**
- **Get Ready to Receive/Pg 14**
- **West to East: The Evolving
Ministry of Connecting Point
Communications/Pg 15**
- **Last Word: The Lateness of the
Hour/Pg 19**



Contents & Contributors

First Word: Identity Issues/Pg 3 • In Him/Pg 5 • Schadenfreude/Pg 9 • When Feelings Undermine Faith/Pg 11 • Get Ready To Receive/Pg 14 • From West to East: The Evolving Ministry of Connecting Point Communications/Pg 15 • Last Word: The Lateness of the Hour/Page 19



Debra Gaskill

Debra was taught that tragic accidents and terminal illness were God's way of teaching people a lesson. Not until she received a few life-changing miracles did she begin to study God's Word and learn the truth that healing is a redemptive benefit for every believer, but too many don't know how to receive it. Today, one of her primary assignments is to teach healing and how to live in divine health.

Her podcast, blog, and healing videos can be found on her website debragaskill.com. Her podcast is also available on iTunes, Google Podcast, Spotify, and Stitcher. She is a writer for We Connect Online Magazine and has a channel on Life Network For Women TV.



Dr. Lauren Patterson

Lauren is the founder and network director of Delighted Coaching, Inc., a global nexus of top coaches, consultants and counselors from around the world. With over 20 years business experience, she has a broad knowledge base in business practices, strategic planning, operations, sales and marketing, process improvement, accounting practices, and human resource management. Dr. Lauren Patterson offers private services in Coaching coaches in their practice, individual coaching and occasional counseling for those in need.

She holds two Doctoral Degrees: in Theology with an emphasis in Leadership and Coaching. You can learn more about her at her site, delightedcoaching.com.



Randy Lane Bunch

Randy has served as church planter, pastor, author, professor, traveling minister, and now as founder of Connecting Point Communications, a digital media ministry that reaches around the world. The television outreach is now broadcasting into 182 nations, and people from around the world log onto the site, randylanebunch.org, to download the ministry resources, many of which are available free of charge.

In addition to the television broadcast, there is also a podcast, blog, online healing school, and the ministry magazine, which are all available on the site. The various episodes of *Connecting Point*, which air around the world, can be found on their YouTube channel. See more at randylanebunch.org.

FirstWord:

Identity Issues

If you know who you are in Christ, what anyone else says about you doesn't matter. If you don't know who you are, you are in danger of spending the rest of your life allowing others to define you, your worth, your place, and your purpose. No one, and I mean NO ONE, has a right to define any of that but God alone. And He has.



We all want to find our place in this world. The common existential questions, “Who am I?” or “What is the purpose of my existence?” or even, “Is there any meaning to life?” are a cliché for a reason. Everyone asks them in one way or another. The real issue, however, is “To whom are we asking these questions?”

If we leave the answers to the materialist, our worst fears will be realized as we hear that we are nothing more than a random collocation of atoms that happened to coalesce into a human animal by way of blind natural processes over millions of years. We're just the accidental product of matter plus chance plus time. The logical outworking of this particular view is that life has no inherent meaning. Anything we do can be of no ultimate value since we are but a small incidental part of an enormous but indifferent universe heading toward its inevitable death at the merciless hands of the law of entropy. Bleak as this sounds to many of us, no doubt, this is what many

desire to believe since it frees them of any moral responsibility since there is no God to acknowledge. It follows that if this is all true, that we can be of no inherent value either. There is no essential difference between us and the cattle that graze in the field or the bug one squishes under foot. We live, we die.

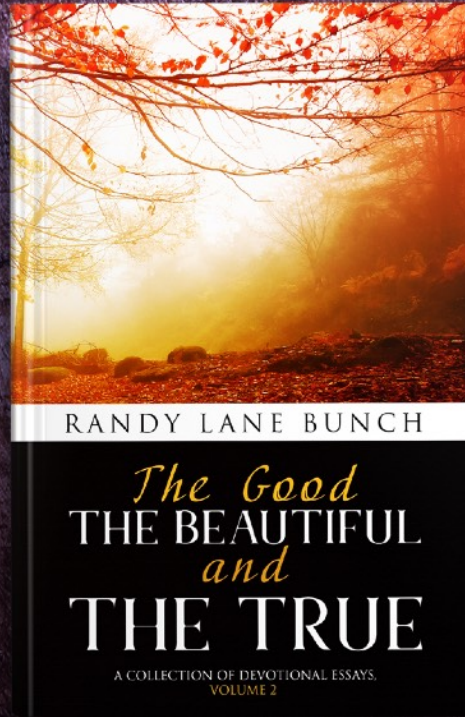
Of course, none of this is true. We *are* special. Every last one of us, whether rich or poor, black, brown, or white, male or female. We are all precious in His sight. Indeed, we are made in God's image and in His likeness. But what does that mean exactly, and how do we *live that out* in our lives? How are we to see ourselves and others in the light of this reality? How do we understand our place in this world in the light of the fact that God created us as unique and distinct as any one snowflake is from another?

I believe the answers to this are found as we do what the Bible calls “working out our salvation” (Philippians 2:12). It's also what we intend, on some level, to address in this edition of Connecting Point Magazine.

TRUTH

FOR OUR
TURBULENT TIMES

NEVER BEFORE HAS
IT BEEN MORE
IMPORTANT TO
KNOW WHAT YOU
BELIEVE AND WHY.



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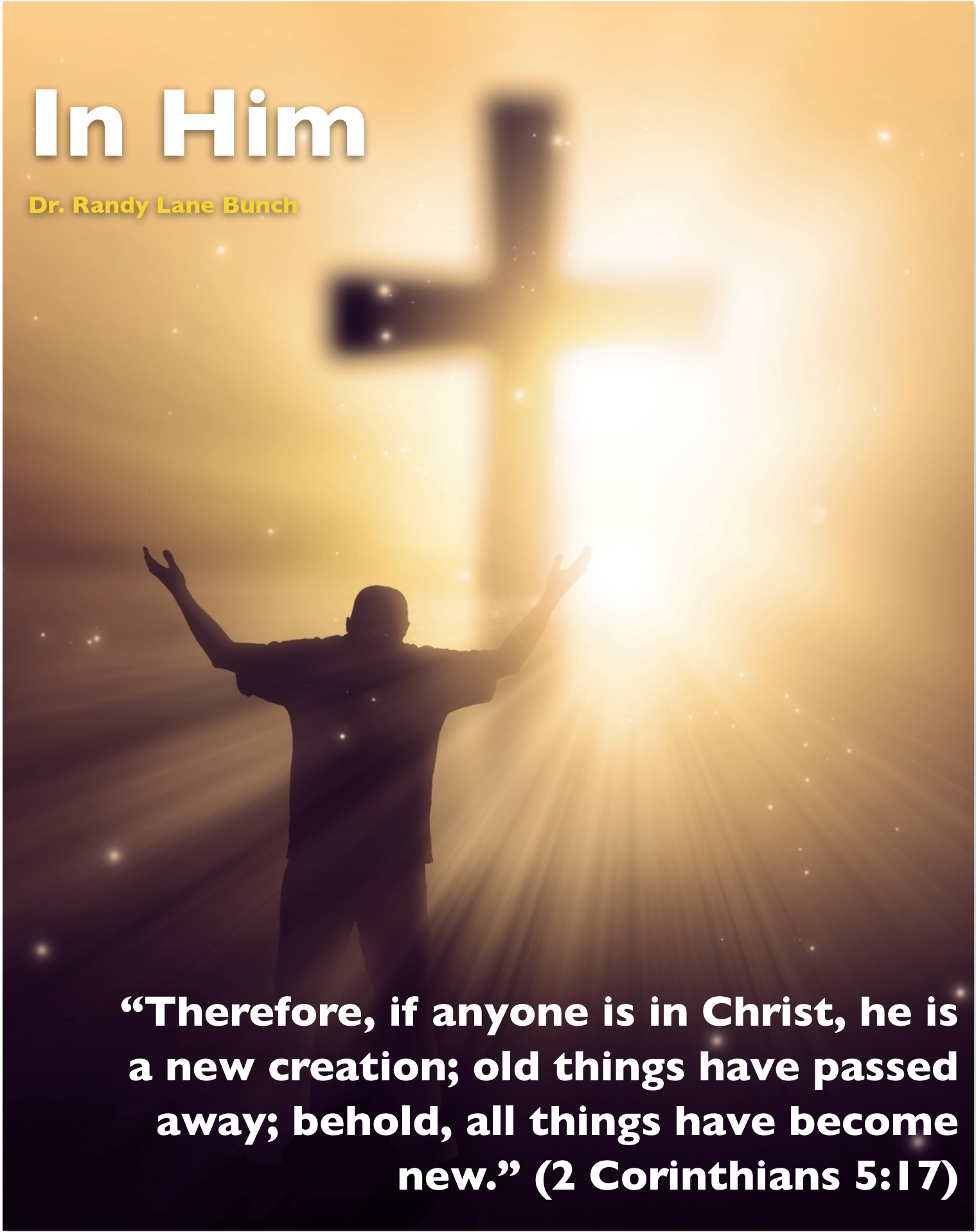
FELLOWSHIP • SUPPORT • EMPOWERMENT

World Ministry Fellowship is a cooperative fellowship of Christian ministers and churches that provides its members community and fellowship, credentials and oversight, as well as professional development and empowerment.

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In Him

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

There is no doubt about the fact that we live within the framework of our perceptions. Whatever we truly believe in our heart determines the boundaries in which we live. A man might be bright, intelligent, and creative, but if he has *believed* the lie that he is dull, unimaginative, and useless, it is likely that he will go through life *behaving* as though he had nothing to contribute to the lives of others. Though in reality he could have many friends and be surrounded by a loving community of people, he will likely live as a loner, fearing rejection and assuming that others see him as he sees himself.

There is a principle I have shared many times to church congregations and students and which I now pass on to you: *If Satan can control what we think, he can control what we believe. If he can control what we believe, he can control how we behave. If he controls what we believe and how we behave, he controls us.* This is why there is such a battle for the mind. If Satan can control how we think about reality, about ourselves, or about God, he can cause us to live within the narrow restrictions of our distorted perceptions.

Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), and he wants to build up strongholds of deception in our minds to keep us from living out the abundant life

Christ purchased for us. However, Satan does not have the last word on what we think, what we believe, or how we behave! The Bible tells us that **WE** are responsible to steward our thought life, think on God's thoughts, and build strongholds of truth in our minds that will enable us to walk in the freedom of our redemption (see 2 Corinthians 10:4-6).

In other words, if we think and meditate upon God's Word, then our convictions will begin to be shaped by God's Word and our behavior will change accordingly! If God's Word is determining what we believe and how we behave, we will become mature disciples of Christ and express the life and liberty He came to bring us!

Again, how we behave is determined by what we believe. If we believe what God says about us, that faith will give expression to the life and character of God within us. Too much of the time we're merely trying to "reform" our actions, rather than changing the underlying belief systems that inform our behavior in the first place. Notice how the apostle Paul puts it in his epistle to the Romans. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Notice that we will be *transformed* and *prove* the will of God as our minds are renewed. The word translated "transformed" in this verse is from the Greek word, *metamorphoo*, which is where we get our word

metamorphosis, the word most commonly associated with the transformation of the caterpillar into the butterfly. This verse is not talking about the lost – those who don't know Christ – but about believers who still need to be transformed *outwardly*.

Everything in that butterfly is already in the caterpillar, but it still has to go through this amazing transformation in order for what is locked inside it to be put on display!

Likewise, when we are born again, the life and nature of

God is imparted into our spirits, but we must "work out" that salvation so that what is *in* us can be expressed *through* us so others can see the transformation! As Paul says, this transformation is accomplished through the "renewing of our mind." This is not referring to a superficial acquisition of the knowledge of God's Word, but a complete overhaul of our thought patterns and belief systems. "For as (a man) thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7, *author's paraphrase*). It's only as our convictions are changed, and we truly believe what God's Word says about us, that our minds are renewed to a new way of thinking and living.

There is no doubt about the fact that we live within the framework of our perceptions. Whatever we truly believe in our heart determines the boundaries in which we live.

Before we were born again, we were fallen creatures with a sin nature. This we inherited from our father, Adam (see Romans 5:12). We were all “in him” as it were. His fallen nature was passed down to us and our thought patterns and lives were an extension and expression of that sin nature, being programed by the appetites of the flesh and the environment of the worldly influences around us. We were dominated by Satan, the “prince of the power of the air,” who controls the world through the lusts of the flesh (see Ephesians 2:1-3).

However, when we were born again through faith in Christ, we were given a new identity and a new nature. As Paul explains it, we were “regenerated” (literally “born again”) with the nature of our new Father (Titus 3:5). We are no longer sinners with a fallen nature but a new creation with the life and nature of God. We are not just “sinners saved by grace,” but *saints* (holy ones) who have a new heart that delights to do the will of God! We are no longer “in Adam,” but now we are “in Christ!”

What Satan seeks to do, however, is to keep us identifying with our old self. We still have the flesh to contend with, and we will still feel the pull of this world. He will endeavor to keep us living by “sight” rather than by faith in who we are in Christ. If he can keep us identifying with the old man rather than who we are in the light of our redemption, he can keep us from living in the reality of the abundant life and victory that Christ secured for us.

Throughout the New Testament, particularly in the epistles, we see phrases like “in Christ,” “through Christ,” “in Him,” and “through Him.” These phrases are clues to our new identity in Christ. If we will meditate in these verses and renew our minds to who we are “in Him,” we will begin to live out the reality of our redemption in our daily lives. This is how we are *transformed*!

We must begin to declare these redemptive realities over our lives every day. Words of faith have great power (see Mark 11:23), and as we confess the truth of God’s Word over our lives, we’ll begin to rise into the reality of that victorious new life Christ purchased for us. There are approximately 140 of these verses by which we can renew our minds to the reality of who God has made us *in Christ*. While we cannot cover

these verses here, I recommend that you search the scriptures and find all the “in Him” verses you can and begin to daily declare these truths over your life!

Here are just a few with a recommended confession to declare over yourself to begin renewing your mind to your identity in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Confession: I am a new creature in Christ. My past has been washed away by the blood of Jesus! God has given me a new identity in Christ, and his life and nature are in me! I’m a brand new man!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created IN CHRIST Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Confession: “God has uniquely made me in Christ to serve His purpose. I am not an afterthought with God. He has called and equipped me to live a life of significance!”

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God IN HIM.

Confession: God does not hold me at a distance. He has drawn me close through Christ. I am accepted, loved, and declared righteous because of what Christ has done for me!

Throughout the New Testament, particularly in the epistles, we see phrases like “in Christ,” “through Christ,” “in Him,” and “through Him.” These phrases are clues to our new identity in Christ.

Many years ago, I knew a man who attended a church I pastored who seemed to really struggle in his Christian walk. When he was in fellowship, there was no one who worked harder to serve in the church. When he was “out” we wouldn’t see him for months. One Sunday in church, he testified about an experience he had that I believe illustrates the power of perception as much as anything I have ever heard.

He said that he had a dream in which he was looking through prison bars at a horrible being he knew to be Satan. The Devil was laughing and mocking him as he looked at him through those prison bars. As he was feeling the horror and oppression of his apparent situation, he heard behind him a voice that called his name. When he turned and looked around, he saw that he was not behind bars at all, but rather standing in a wide and beautiful green field. Jesus was standing there with His arms opened to him. It had been He who had called his name. Suddenly, this man looked back to see that it was, in fact, the devil behind those bars, while he stood free and in the presence of Jesus Himself. The difference between freedom and bondage for the child of God is determined by whether or not we truly believe in what Christ has done for us. Are we looking to the lies of the devil, or the liberating truths of God’s Word?

“If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). You and I have been made free, righteous, and holy by the sanctifying work of Christ. God has invested a measure of His grace into each of us to equip us for our calling. He has deputized us to be His ambassadors that through our witness the nations might come to know the truth and find salvation in His name.

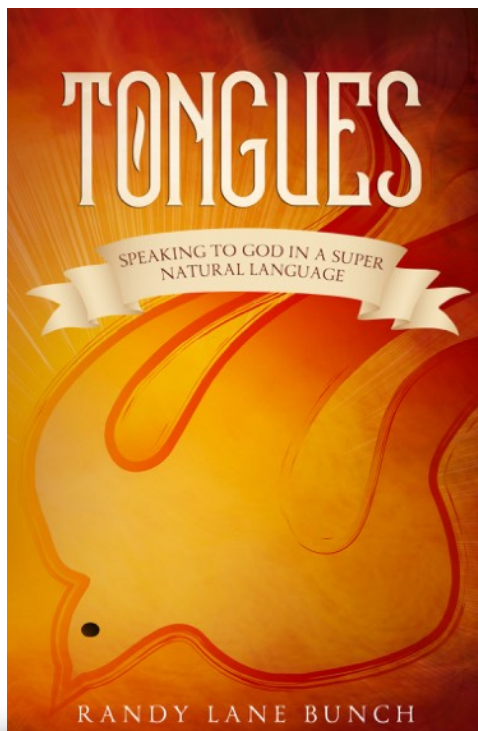
Satan does not want us walking in those realities. He wants us to experience limitation and repeated failure. God, however, has provided all we need to live abundant lives that will bring glory to Him and enable His purpose to be fulfilled in the earth. As our minds are renewed to the reality of who we are in Him, and what He has provided for us, we will begin to rise to new heights in our walk and relationship with the Lord and enjoy a fruitful and fulfilling life.

If you have not yet accepted Christ, His hand is stretched out still. The price has already been paid and the table set. There is a place for you there if you will but accept His gracious invitation.

For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)



Clear Teaching On A Controversial Subject

There is perhaps no subject that has suffered more abuse than speaking with other tongues, and yet it holds the promise of great spiritual blessing, both to the individual believer as well as to the body of Christ in general. Sharing from both the Word of God and his own experience, Dr. Randy Lane Bunch helps to shed scriptural light on what has been for many a confusing issue.

If you have had questions on this important Bible subject, this book will help to answer those questions and give much needed insight as to how to have God’s power in your life.

To purchase your copy of *Tongues: Speaking To God In A Supernatural Language*, simply go online to Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Apple iBooks. (Paperback available only through Amazon). You can also find links on the website, at randylanebunch.org.

Schadenfreude

By Debra Gaskill



Schadenfreude. It's a German word that means "damage joy" or experiencing joy when you hear about the troubles of others. It's not just the kind of joy that you experience within yourself either. It is the kind of joy that shows on a person's face. Yeah, like big-time joy...possibly with a laugh attached to it.

I will never forget one night I was sitting in church lamenting. I had forged ahead with something, thinking it would make others happy, only to penalize myself. I knew I had made a wrong decision. Then I heard the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit whisper this, "You've made many more good decisions in life, than poor ones." Wow, that settled the issue. The sorrow, the self-pity, the sadness...GAME OVER.

But one of my "friends" didn't quit the game that easily. Plagued with a poor self-esteem, whenever she heard someone was facing a challenge in life, I had personally watched as the news exhilarated her. One night I was at her house when we received word about a minister who stepped down from his pulpit to receive restoration in an area. I watched her talk about it endlessly with a gleeful look she could not conceal. I tried to change the subject several times to no avail. Schadenfreude.

Likewise, instead of being happy that I realized my error and was correcting it, she heaped truckloads of guilt and shame on me--much more than the situation warranted--and acted as though she had never made a poor decision in her life. I tried to tell her the truth, instead of the extremely false story she had in her mind, but she wouldn't hear it. What she thought was true brought her too much joy.

At the end of a fruitless two-hour conversation a Scripture popped into my spirit loud and strong: "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." Galatians 6:1

Who helps with the restoration? Who encourages a person to get back on track? Who listens to the truth and judges you based on your character? **YOU WHO ARE SPIRITUAL.** Spiritual in this passage means "one who is filled with and governed by the Spirit of God. People in Christ who walk to please God."

So here is the real litmus test: if someone misses it, falls, errs in some way, and another is happy about it, they just bought an annual pass to miss it too. And, more importantly their spirituality has been located - childlike at best. Read that Scripture again. It's as plain as it gets.

Some people want you to fail. They may hear something about you that isn't even true, but they want it to be true. Just the possibility that it has an element of truth delights them. They don't want to find out the real story because it might negate the damage joy they are experiencing. And I mean, who wants to lose their joy, right?

If you've made a poor decision, and someone is delighting in it, let me encourage you with the same words the Holy Spirit encouraged me with, "You've made a lot more good decisions than bad ones." After He spoke that to me, I actually started thinking of the poor decisions I had made throughout my life, and thankfully my list was not that long.

Don't allow anyone to label you. Labels belong on clothing, not people. Instead, let me encourage you with Micah 7:8: "Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The Lord will be a light to me."

Stand strong in Him. Stand firm on His Word. Grow in the knowledge of His grace and glory. And wear spiritual maturity like a sweet fragrance.

CAITLIN HASHIM
DYING TO LIVE



Dying To Live

Caitlin Hashim

We are so happy for our good friend, Caitlin Hashim, who has just released her new album, *Dying To Live*, available now on iTunes, Spotify, Google Music, and Amazon Music.

Get your copy today!

We Are Available For You!

Dr. Randy is available to speak at your church or ministry event! Simply contact him at info@connectingpc.org to arrange an online meeting to discuss the details of your upcoming event or church service.

Please allow up to seven days for us to respond to your request!



WHEN FEELINGS UNDERMINE FAITH

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch



Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (Romans 2:1)

You know you've become your parents when you look around and find yourself incredulously shaking your head at what the world has become. I'm sure that soon my kids will begin to hear me waxing nostalgic about "the way things used to be" or even using the term, "back in my day." Each aging generation has always looked at the changes in society, particularly those brought about in popular culture by the younger generation and felt a certain disconnect with the emerging trends. I will never understand the fascination with the Kardashians, for example, nor can I appreciate the violence the English language has suffered at the hands of social media. Hashtags are evil: plain and simple.

However, while we might rib our kids about what we find mildly ridiculous concerning their generation, as our parents did to us, there are some trends that are genuinely alarming and signal a real danger to the foundations of our society. In our increasingly postmodern society, for example, objective truth and moral absolutes have been subverted by subjective

feelings. This leads to genuine absurdities masquerading as reality. One area where this is perhaps most clearly seen is in the area of gender identity. Subjective feelings about one's gender have trumped objective biological fact to the degree that it is socially acceptable in many quarters to identify oneself by the gender of one's choice rather than the gender of one's birth. If someone suffers from gender dysphoria, we in the Church should offer understanding and compassion. Indeed, regardless of the reason, we need to demonstrate the love of Christ toward those dealing with any form of gender confusion. However, when our society decides to endorse such disorders by altering public policy to accommodate them, it threatens to unravel our civilization's grip on reality. Objective realities cannot be altered by simply wishing them to be no matter how many parents, public officials, or even Supreme Court justices say they can. The universe simply does not work that way and enabling or encouraging someone's delusion in the name of tolerance is not demonstrating love toward the sufferer.

For believers, all of this is obvious enough. We see sociological phenomena like these, shake our heads in disbelief, and wonder where it will all lead. However, we can do so blind to the fact that we are often guilty of doing the same kind of thing in our own context. We may not do it regarding gender identity or other current social issues, but there are other ways in which we are often guilty of allowing our subjective feelings to shape our reality rather than the objective truths of God's Word. After all, for the believer, there is no higher authority than the Truth (capital "T") of God's Word. Thus, it should have the final say in the way we view reality as well as in the way in which we make our decisions and conduct our lives. However, the truth is that this is not always the case.

Let me give you a simple example from which you can then extrapolate the principle into other areas of Christian life and conduct. Let's just use the issue of forgiven sin and the new birth.

When one becomes born again, the scriptures clearly teach us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). In other words, regardless of how criminal or vile our past might have been, when one is born again, the old is gone and the new has come. We receive a clean slate and a new identity in Christ. God no longer sees us as the old sinner we were but as a new creation in Christ. All believers would agree with these statements. They are fundamental Christian doctrines. However, in the Church we can sometimes speak of people we know in the light of who they were before they came to Christ rather than acknowledging who they are now in the light of God's regenerating work in their lives. We may view such people's experience with God with suspicion

simply because of our knowledge of their past. However, if God's Word is true, they are not the same person they were before, and we should not continue to see them in the light of the person they used to be (see 2 Corinthians 5:16). We are letting our subjective feelings undermine our faith in what we profess to believe is the bedrock of all objective reality – the Word of God.

I have often wondered what it was like for the apostle Paul, who was formerly Saul, the ambitious and tireless

persecutor of the Church. By his own testimony, he pursued this career of Christian persecution with all his might. In his testimony before Agrippa, he states:

Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in

every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. (Acts 26:9-11)

After Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, it took some time for a suspicious Church to accept the legitimacy of Saul's conversion. Ultimately, it was through the testimony of Barnabas, the well-respected and trusted disciple, that Paul was finally accepted by the Church. I can't help but wonder what it was like for him when he first joined those saints in worship. Did he have to look into the eyes of children whom he had made orphans or widows whose husbands he had sent to their deaths? I don't know, but I have to believe that the possibility is very real. Yet, so convinced was the Church of the truth of God's Word and the power of the gospel, that Paul was able to rise in the ranks of

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the Church's leadership until he became the man whose name is the one most identified with Christianity outside of Jesus Himself. This is not just the result of a Church that was gracious and forgiving, but one that was willing to set aside their personal, subjective feelings about Saul and believe the objective truths of God's Word regarding His redemptive work in the apostle's life.

The same thing applies to us as believers regarding our own sins and missteps. We all miss the mark – some of us more notably than others. While all sin might be “sin,” there are some things that are harder for society, even Church society, to forgive. We might find it difficult to forgive ourselves for such failures. Many believers never rise from a significant fall but rather live in the shadow of guilt and shame, despite the fact that forgiveness is provided for every sin. As 1 John 1:9 declares, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Sometimes, this inability to recover from our failures is the result of the individual simply not forgiving himself for disappointing those he loved, while other times it might come from the sidelong looks he receives from others in the Church who refuse to see him in the light of God's grace and forgiveness.

This is doing the very same thing for which we criticize the world – allowing our subjective feelings to undermine and subvert the objective truth of God's

Word. If God forgives us when we take responsibility for our sins, who are we to judge ourselves as anything less than forgiven. Or why should we allow ourselves to be moved off the solid ground of truth on which our lives are to be built simply because of the fickle feelings others have about us? The subjective feelings of others do not determine our reality. God's Word does that, for God's Word is truth. Likewise, until we are ready to see others in the light of their identity in Christ, through the lens of His blood which has washed them clean of past sin, we are just as guilty as our culture for abandoning truth for our own feelings.

There are many such areas like this, where faith in objective truth is too often undermined by our subjective feelings, simply because we have not made a commitment to honor the immutable truth of God's Word above all else. The tendency can be subtle sometimes, but it has the effect of making us inconsistent in the way we see ourselves and others. It also causes us to fall short of the victory we have in Christ and the abundant life He died to provide us. Perhaps one reason the world has had a difficult time taking us seriously is that we have not taken God's Word as seriously as we should. Our faith should always govern our feelings and not the other way around. We have inherited a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, and no subjective feeling to the contrary can ever change that.





Delighted Reminders

GET READY TO RECEIVE

Dr. Lauren Patterson



“Here are kingdom revelations, words to live by, and words of wisdom given to empower you to reign in life...” Proverbs 1:1 (TPT)

The nations grow weary over circumstances in the world. The old paradigm is a familiar one of judgment raining down in divine droplets foretold in ancient scrolls where rebellion is man's only response. But God speaks – “I myself have poured out my King on Zion, my holy mountain.” (See Psalm 2)

The manifestation of God in the flesh – Jesus Christ, the son of God, the favored son, crowned King Eternal. He was given unlimited authority and dominion that stretches to the ends of the earth, over every nation – revealing the eternal purpose of God.

God doesn't stop there; he extends this same manifestation into our very flesh. We too can be filled with the Christ. **THERE IS STILL TIME!** Many blessings are waiting for all who turn aside to hide themselves in HIM!

And to hide in Him, **calls for action.** We must advance forward. March to the gate and enter into the light. For we cannot enter through any other way. The same authority, the same reach, it is accessible beyond this gate we must enter through. The abundance, the joy, the pleasure, the wisdom beyond the gate will bring you into eternal purpose **EMPOWERING** you to walk into your destiny – the promised land. True pleasure will enter your soul. “His burden is LIGHT” as is ours.

Do you believe? Oh! But belief is the basis of our faith. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what is visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) But what is faith without works? It is **DEAD!**

A call to action is in order:

It is for such a time as this, that we are called to rise up as the sons and daughters of Zion. To rule in such authority to the ends of the earth, over all nations. To advance the Kingdom of Heaven. So, we say, repent – which is to turn away from the distractions of the

world that keep you from seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Abundance is coming. The harvest is ripe. This is a season of preparation. Are we prepared to reap the harvest? Oh, sons and daughters, let us not take our assignments lightly. It is time to stop striving to produce the fruit of our destiny, for only God can provide the increase. It is time to **be prepared to receive** the fruit of our destiny. So many of us have been too focused on the production of fruit. Rather we must be focused on the seeds and the soil. (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) This letter is a reminder for us to identify seeds and soil **AND PREPARE TO PLANT & WATER.**

Can you identify your seeds and soil?

1. What is your assignment?
2. Where is your territory?
3. Where are you going?
4. How will you get there?
5. Who needs to go with you?
6. Who will you witness to when you are there?

Today's evangelism is modern-day marketplace ministry in the workplace. I help you identify your assignment in any season, and in any position. When you are ready to go deep into the well and draw out your destiny, schedule a call with me. Let's get started on divine assignments, creating strategies in ministry, in business, and life that will lead you beyond the gate into the life of Abundance that Jesus says he came to bring.

“for I come to give life and life abundantly” (John 10:10)

Allow me to share my gift to draw out vision and build and implement advancement strategies, calling us into **ACTION! Will you make this call?**

Dr. Lauren Patterson

Delighted Coaching, Inc.

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West To East:

The Evolving Ministry of Connecting Point Communications

It's been one of those weeks. All day Friday and most of Saturday was taken up with a health coaching conference for the organization through which I received my certification as a Health and Wellness Coach. Soon, I will participate in another online interview — this time a podcast — sharing about the 137 pounds my wife and I lost during 2020. Since then, we've helped dozens of others reach their health goals as well. It's been a blessing, both to help people and to have the income stream that allows me to do what I do, since I take no salary from Connecting Point Communications. The conference was great, but it was immediately followed by the two services I preached on Sunday (always a busy day), and a Monday which never really serves as a day off. Tuesday is always broadcast day when I record, edit, and upload my

broadcast to YouTube. I will then send the link to the various stations from which it will be broadcast into at least 182 nations around the world. Now, as I sit here on a late Wednesday evening banging out this article, I am trying to make sense of the latest numbers sent to us by our friends in Pakistan whose station allow us to reach into all those nations. We also broadcast out of India into the Asian Pacific and from a station in America as well (Kingdom Building TV), all of which boast a viewership of multiple millions of people.

The Pakistan station alone has a reach into 182 nations, which is why we say "at least" 182. The other stations may reach into others not reached by the station in Lahore. I just don't know. The numbers are confusing. They are supposed to be for the month of February. The message said, "619 souls get saved and

over 178,292 prayer requests came in and over 389,000 is viewership.” It’s always a little like that: quick numbers that don’t really tell the personal stories of those who have seen the broadcast. At least they give us an idea that people are watching. A lot of people. The broadcast has opened a door for us into the nations I never anticipated.

What’s confusing me at the moment, however, is that I just got a report a few days ago that said, “We have 528k viewership of your program and 319 souls get saved and over 196,427 prayer requests came in.” I’m not sure if that is for another month or if they got the months flipped. We’ve had reports of the number of salvations for the month before (it usually averages in the 300 to 500 or more range). Of course, not everyone calls in, so it’s safe to assume that we are possibly hearing only a small part of the story of what God is really doing through this medium. It still amazes — the range this avenue of outreach has given us. Even more amazing is how we got here.

Connecting Point

Communications was never intended as an international outreach ministry at all. While pursuing my doctorate at Summit Bible College where I served as a professor for a number of years, the idea for the ministry was birthed from an assignment. My “Test Out,” which every masters and doctoral student does in lieu of a dissertation, serves to build a business model for the ministry you feel God had placed in your heart. Media had for many years been a part of my ministry endeavors, and we already had been publishing the magazine for some time.

The idea then was to have a digital media ministry that would produce content on Christian apologetics, assisting churches and believers to be able to defend

the Biblical Worldview in an increasingly hostile society in which secularism was overtaking Christianity as the primary cultural influence. The Church in the west was under assault, or so it seemed to me, and believers in general, not to mention in America in particular, are not very good at articulating what we believe in a convincing yet winsome way. The need is real, and having both loved and taught apologetics at the college, it seemed a natural direction in which to move. Our magazine already featured many articles on worldview and apologetics, and my devotional books dealt with

these areas very strongly. It was a good idea, as far as ideas go, but God had other ideas.

The broadcast of the television show started in India. I had long-time relationships there with good friends I had ministered with many years ago. We had broadcasted back then over a smaller area in Tamil Nadu with wonderful results, as people were both saved and miraculously healed through our show. I had even been ordained through their organization as a Bishop (a pastor to pastors) by a member of their Parliament in a

wonderful ceremony back in 2007. It had been quite an honor, but I had since lost touch with them for a number of years. Eventually, we would reconnect and the broadcasting would resume, this time to a much larger audience, soon augmented beyond Southern India to the entire Asian Pacific region.

Then there’s Pakistan. We had been helping with an orphanage there for a number of years, supplying food, and occasionally clothes and school fees for the children there. It was small assistance, but we came to think of it as “our” orphanage in time. It wasn’t until much later that we found out our friends there, Pastors John and Rachel, had a television station!



We began broadcasting as soon as we heard, which was in the middle of 2020 — the year of the Pandemic. We had been doing Skype Crusades with Pastors John and Rachel's team for some time. We would preach, our image projected on a makeshift screen, as we led people to Christ and prayed for the sick outside a different village half a world away with each crusade. In about two years somewhere around 2,000 souls had come to Christ and there were once again many dramatic healing testimonies, like when the three men who taught black magic in their village all came to

publication, Connecting Point Magazine. Tentative plan for Connecting Point Academy are also in the works, but it is still a project that will take time to develop. Our desire is that it will supply teaching and discipleship for believers everywhere and anywhere our broadcast reaches. The statistics from our website show us that people from every conceivable nation under heaven are downloading our resources, and it always gives me a special thrill when I see that believers from China are regularly viewing the site, even if it's just one or two here and there.



Christ as they watched a tumor disappear off of a girl's arm as we prayed. We preached while the team on the ground conducted follow up and Bible distribution. However, COVID 19 changed all of this when public gatherings were restricted. However, now, through the broadcast, what once took us two years to accomplish in regard to the number of salvations is happening in a matter of months!

We also broadcast on Kingdom Building TV, an American-based station, which also has an international reach. Besides the broadcast, we also have a podcast, blog, books, an online healing school, and our flagship

The needs we are constantly confronted with are overwhelming and I can tell that I often grow irritable with "compassion fatigue," seeing so many needs and yet having so little by way of resource to help. Nevertheless, we know that what God has begun, He will continue to grow at the pace of His choosing and not ours. We are not interested in trying to build a brand or create a platform other than what He provides. We are content to move at His pace, even if it means He one day redirects our efforts in another direction entirely. We are at his disposal, serving Him by creating content that reaches souls, disciples saints, and equips ministers.

We have been involved in a number of pastors and leaders meetings, and more such conferences are coming. We have at least one scheduled for this month, and a major one with our friends, John and Rachel, is scheduled for April. This is especially gratifying, since we know that ministering to ministers multiplies our effectiveness since they will in turn share with many in their congregations that we will never reach directly.

The future is still unwritten for Connecting Point Communications, but God is using our simple and sometimes quite primitive efforts for His glory. May He continue to do so, and may the results always truly be for His glory! If you would like to partner with us, you can do so by simply going to randylanebunch.org/donate. Through the PayPal link you can give your tax-deductible contribution to assist us in this work. Blessings!



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Last Word:

The Lateness of the Hour



I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. (John 9:4)

As Jesus prepares to heal the man born blind in the fourth chapter of John's gospel, he mentions this statement quoted in the scripture above about the limited time we have in which to labor for God. We're familiar with verses that tell us "...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." And yet, that day will eventually close, and then will come the day of judgment. No wonder God prolongs the coming of the Lord, for that will be an awful day for those unprepared. He constantly tells us that He is long-suffering and has long patience for the harvest, not willing that any should be lost (James 5:7-8, 2 Peter 3:9).

There is a sense of urgency in His words - a warning against complacency - when He says, "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

(John 4:35). The harvest is more than ripe, Jesus warns the disciples, but while the harvest waits in the field, the laborers are scarce. Time is short and the workers are late. Where is our sense of urgency?

I have for many years endeavored to strike the right balance between carrying this sense of urgency while at the same time resting in the Lord. In our ministry, we say "no" to a large majority of the opportunities we have, simply because we can only do so much. There is always an urgency, even a desperation, in the voices asking for help. Often, they don't want to take "no" for an answer. We sympathize. In fact, the stress of it can be overwhelming. So many needs and only so much time, energy, and resource.

I believe the secret is in learning the reality that we are not laboring alone, and while the hour is late, God is neither idle nor anxious. He is the Lord of the harvest, and He does all things well. We can rest in that.

Connecting Point

Media Resources

From the beginning it has been our vision to provide a resource rich website and materials that will minister to the needs of God's people. From the "Media" link in the main menu on our site, randylanebunch.org, you can access our podcast, find links to our YouTube channel, as well as read our blog, access our Healing School materials, and much more. The best part? It's all free!



Connecting Point Communications

Connecting Point Communications is reaching the nations with the good news of Jesus Christ. We would love to include you among those who are helping us to reach the world through our television broadcast, *Connecting Point*, as well as the other resources people are taking advantage of on our website each and every day. Simply go to randylanebunch.org/donate to make your tax-deductible contribution today!

Remember, Dr. Randy is available to speak at your church or ministry event. To contact him, simply email him at info@connectinpc.org. Please allow at least one week for responses on all requests.

