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BELIEVE

Hope has Your Name on It

JOEL
OSTEEN

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NASHVILLE • NEW YORK

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FaithWords
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104
faithwords.com
twitter.com/faithwords

First Edition: June 2023

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Literary development: Lance Wubbels Literary Services, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

ISBN: 9781546005377 (paper over board), 9781546005612 (ebook)

Printed in the United States of America

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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1

The Power of Believing

One of the greatest abilities God has given each of us is our ability to believe. If you believe, you can be successful. If you believe, you can overcome mistakes of the past. If you believe, you can fulfill your God-given destiny. There is incredible power in what we believe.

What you believe is greater than what the medical report says. We respect medical science, but God has the final say. When you get in agreement with God and believe what He says about you, what you believe can supersede any natural law.

What you believe is greater than what is in your bank account. I have a friend who came to the United States with nothing but the clothes on his back. Today, he runs a Fortune 500 company. Against all odds, he believed he could do what God put in his heart.

Activate the Greatness of His Power

The apostle Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:19 that those who believe would understand the incredible greatness of God's power. Notice the power is activated only when we believe. That means right now the Creator of the universe is just waiting to release healing, restoration, favor, promotion, and abundance. The only catch is that we have to believe.

Sometimes God will put a promise in your heart that seems impossible, a promise that says, "You will be healthy. You will start a business.

You will meet the right person and get married.”
It’s easy to think, *It’s never going to happen to me. I’ve been this way too long. I’ve made too many mistakes. The medical report is too bad. Nobody in my family has been successful.*

We can always come up with excuses. But instead of talking yourself out of it, just respond with three simple words: “Lord, I believe.”

God says your children will be mighty in the land. “Lord, I believe.”

God says He will restore the years that were stolen. He will bring you to a flourishing finish. “Lord, I believe.”

God says whatever you touch will prosper and succeed. You will lend and not borrow, be the head and never the tail. Now, don’t come up with five reasons why that will not happen. Your response should be: “Lord, I believe.”

When you get in agreement with God, the incredible greatness of His power is activated.

Only Believe

In the Scripture, a man came to Jesus and said, “My little daughter is very sick. She is close to death. Will You come to my home and pray for her?” Jesus agreed, but along the way, He kept getting stopped, one interruption after another. Finally, word came back to Him saying, “No need to come. You’ve waited too long. The little girl has died.”

The people were very distraught, but Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. If you will only believe, the little girl will be well.”

Notice the phrase *only believe*. Jesus went to the home and prayed for the little girl, and she came back to life. You, too, may be facing situations that seem impossible. In the natural, you can’t see how you could ever be healthy, how you could overcome the addiction, or how your family could ever be restored. But God is saying to you

what He said to them: “If you will only believe, I will turn the situation around. If you only believe, breakthroughs are headed your way.”

It’s not complicated. God didn’t say, “If you pray three hours a day” or “If you quote twelve chapters in the Scripture, I’ll do it for you.” No, He said, “If you will only believe.” In other words, you just have to get your mind going in the right direction and believe you can rise higher. Believe you can overcome the obstacle. Believe your family can be restored. Believe you can do something great and make your mark in this generation.

When you believe, the surpassing greatness of God’s power is released. You may have to develop new habits. If you’ve been negative for a long time, you will have to retrain your thinking from “I can’t” to “I can.” From “It won’t happen” to “It will happen.” From “I’ll never get well” to “God is restoring health to me.”

Don't Be Intimidated

First Chronicles 28:20 says you shouldn't be discouraged by the size of the task, for the Lord your God is with you. He will see to it that it is finished completely. When you believe, God will see to it that it's taken care of. When you believe, you have the Creator of the universe fighting your battles, arranging things in your favor, going before you, moving the wrong people out of the way. You couldn't have made it happen in your own strength, but because you are a believer, the surpassing greatness of God's power is at work in your life.

Now don't be intimidated by the size of the problem or the size of your dream. "Well, Joel, I was laid off, and you just don't know my financial situation." But I do know Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our provider. He is still on the throne. One touch of God's favor and you'll go from barely making it to having more than enough.

“Well, you just don’t know my medical situation. It doesn’t look good.” But I do know Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our healer, has not lost His power. He has done it in the past. He can do it in the future.

“Well, Joel, I have big dreams, but I don’t know the right people. I don’t have the connections.” That’s okay. God does. You have friends in high places. When you believe, God will bring the right people across your path. Don’t be intimidated by the size of what you are facing.

Here’s what I’ve learned: The bigger the problem, the bigger your destiny. The enemy would not be fighting you this hard unless he knew God had something amazing in your future. On the other side of that challenge is a new level of your destiny.

No disappointment, no setback, no injustice, no person, no hater, and no jealousy can stand against our God. When you believe, all the forces of darkness cannot stop God from taking you where He wants you to go. Be a believer and not a doubter.

Discover Who He Is

It says in the book of Hebrews, “When we come to God we must believe that He is.” It doesn’t really finish the Scripture. Believe that He is *what*? The passage leaves it open-ended. This is saying that when you believe, God becomes whatever you need Him to be. He is strength when you’re weak. He is healing when you’re sick. He is favor when you need a good break. He is a way maker when you don’t see a way. He is restoration when something has been stolen. He is vindication when you’ve been falsely accused. He is whatever you need Him to be.

You may know God by one name. You know Him as the Savior, and that’s great. That’s the most important way. But you need to find out what else He is. Do you know Him as a resurrection God, a God who can bring back to life what you thought was dead? Do you know Him as an Ephesians 3:20 God, a God “who is able to do

exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”? Do you know Him as a healer, a restorer, a God who gives beauty for ashes?

You may have endured hurts and disappointments, and people may have done you wrong, but you don't have to live defeated, depressed, in self-pity. God wants to heal the hurts, give you a new beginning, and bring you out better off than you were before. But you have to know Him as a God who gives beauty for ashes. There is so much more to our God. Don't keep Him in a box. Discover what else He is.

It Shall Be Well with You

A young couple who belong to Lakewood Church dreamed of buying their first home. For about a year and a half, they heard me talking about believing for Ephesians 3:20 and how God wants to show us His unprecedented favor. And they dared to believe. They let that seed take root. For

the past ten years, they'd been working very hard and saving their funds so they could hopefully purchase a home.

At one point, everything came together. They found the house they liked. It was a good price. They had the money for the down payment, and they were so excited. But when they went to close on the home, there was a problem. The young lady was finalizing details at the real estate agent's office when her husband called. He said he had just been let go from his job. He had worked for that company for over six years. He always worked hard and had a good attitude, but his supervisor never particularly liked him. Over the years, his wife just kept encouraging him, "You're not working unto people. You're working unto God." He did his best to stay on the high road, but it seemed like at the worst possible time he was let go. To make matters worse, this all happened on his birthday. He lost his job and the house of their dreams on the same day.

They were very disappointed. But the good