



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

JOYCE MEYER

BLESSED

IN THE

MESS

HOW TO EXPERIENCE
GOD'S GOODNESS
IN THE MIDST OF LIFE'S PAIN

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How to Experience God's Goodness
in the Midst of Life's Pain

JOYCE MEYER



NEW YORK • NASHVILLE

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INTRODUCTION

Life is often messy. We hear people say, “My life is a mess,” or “This situation is a mess.” What they mean is that life has become difficult, painful, or confusing. God never promises us a trouble-free existence. In fact, His Word teaches us to expect the opposite. Jesus says, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 NKJV). In addition, the Bible is filled with instructions on how to handle ourselves when difficulty comes our way. Remaining patient, continuing to trust God when we don’t understand what is going on, and staying positive are just three ways we are to respond when we feel life is a mess (Romans 12:12; Proverbs 3:5), and they are all for our benefit. No matter what unpleasant circumstances we may face, if we remain patient, trust God, and stay positive, we can enjoy life while He works on our problems.

Thankfully, trouble is not continuous in our lives. We also go through seasons that are peaceful and pleasant. But life does not *always* go as we would like, and we need to be prepared and strong spiritually for the times when it gets messy. It is important that we learn not to behave one way when we like our circumstances and another when we find them challenging. We need to be stable in every situation, and our ability to do so is based on our thinking and believing. If we think positively, expecting something good to come from our trouble, and if we trust God and remind ourselves that He is good, we can make it through difficulties more easily than if we are negative and don’t trust Him.

Jesus has given us His peace, but He also tells us not to let ourselves be fearful, intimidated, worried, and unsettled (John 14:27 AMPC). The fact that God has given us something doesn't mean we make good use of it. Peace is available, but Jesus says, "Do not *let* your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1, emphasis mine).

You can be blessed in the midst of trouble and pain.

The message of this book is simple: We will all face trouble and pain in life, but if we handle it the way God wants us to, we can be blessed in the midst of it. In the Old Testament, Job endured great trouble, but in the end, he was given twice as much as he had lost (Job 42:10). This principle appears throughout God's Word. The question is, do we want our troubles to make us better or worse? Do we want our pain to make us pitiful or to make us powerful? Since we will encounter trouble either way, why not let our difficulties make us better and stronger? Why not live in such a way that we will end up better off than we were before the trouble began? We should never waste our pain. We can learn something from it, use it to stay out of trouble in the future, and let it inspire and equip us to help other people.

There is a way to be blessed in the midst of your mess and to receive God's reward at the end of it. In this book, I hope to show you how to do it. We all have trouble, but not all of us handle it well. If we don't, we can change, and thank God, we can always change in positive ways. If you have not handled your problems and pain well in the past, then with God's help, you can begin to handle them better, starting now.

I have been in a serious relationship with God for more than forty-five years. Like everyone, I began as a baby Christian, behaving like a baby and reacting emotionally every time life became difficult or situations didn't go my way. However, over the years, I have learned how to behave, and God's Word and His Spirit

have changed me. I can testify that the things that once upset me greatly do not disturb me at all now. Why? Because I know how they will end if I do what God asks me to do.

I am far from perfect. Just a few days ago, a situation threatened to ruin my plans for the day, and I became impatient and frustrated. My family started preaching my sermons back to me, which only added to my frustration. The good news is that within ten minutes, I felt peaceful and the day turned out as I had planned after all. There are times I don't behave properly, and I am still growing. But thankfully I have improved a lot, and I am determined not to let the devil steal the joy of my progress by causing me to focus on my remaining weaknesses. I know I will be strengthened in all my troubles as time goes by. God doesn't change us all at once; He does it little by little. Start thanking God for the little you have, and you will be given more.

*God changes you
little by little.*

I believe that learning to be stable in problematic situations is one of life's most important lessons. Unless we become stable, we will always be subject to upset and distress when our circumstances are unpleasant or painful, as they will be at times. Learn how to be blessed in your mess and come out better than you were when your difficulty began. Learn to use troubles to your advantage instead of letting the devil use them to weaken and perhaps defeat you. God has taught me how to do this, and I know He can teach you too.

PART 1

God Can Bless Your Mess

CHAPTER 1

The Double Blessing

*Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places
where other people see nothing.*

Camille Pissarro¹

I want to begin this book by telling you a story. It is my story, but it could be your story or the story of someone you know. We all have a story, and even if yours is different from mine, it is important to you and to God, and you can help someone else by telling it at the right time.

As a child, I was sexually abused by my father on a regular basis. This went on for many, many years. It was a horrible experience, to say the least. I'll spare you the terrible details, but it was a nightmare I would not want to live through again.

The house in which I grew up was filled with fear. I cannot remember ever being without fear during my childhood years. My father was controlling and just plain mean. He was physically abusive to my mother, and he basically ignored my brother except to curse at him when he was angry.

My mother knew my father abused me sexually, but she too lived and breathed fear. When I was in my fifties, she told me she was sorry for what she let my father do to me and went on to say, "I just couldn't face the scandal." In those days, incest was unheard of. It happened regularly, but no one talked about it—ever. I recall my father continually warning me never to tell anyone, which made no sense to me because he also said that what he was doing was good and that he did it because he loved me.

I reached out to some relatives to help me, but they didn't want to get involved. So, I eventually decided that, since no one would help me, I would survive and then leave home as soon as I finished high school. But before I share more of my story, I want to mention a life-changing experience that happened when I was quite young.

God Comes on the Scene

When I was nine years old, we were visiting my aunt and uncle, and I wanted to go to church with them. I also wanted to be saved. I don't know how I even knew what "being saved" meant, because I had received no spiritual training at home. But somehow, I knew I was a sinner and needed salvation. While my father was out getting drunk one Saturday night, I went to church with my aunt and uncle and walked to the altar at the close of the service. The pastor prayed with me, and I experienced an unmistakable cleansing of my soul. I knew that God had touched me. I was born again!

However, after that night, I received no subsequent teaching or training to help me grow spiritually. For that reason, as soon as I did something wrong, I thought I had lost my salvation. I remained in that condition for many years. I prayed hard for God to get me out of the situation I was in, but He didn't. He did, however, get me through it, and although my soul was damaged and needed healing as a result, I was also strong and determined to survive and thrive in life. I believe my determination was a gift from God.

We don't always understand why God doesn't deliver us from hard situations, but He always has a reason for His decisions, even when we can't see it. In my case, I believe He chose not to remove the difficulties so I could gain the experience I would need to do what I am doing now. I truly understand what people mean when they say they are hurting, and I am able to have compassion for them because of the pain I have suffered. I also know that God will heal their wounded souls and broken hearts because He has healed mine.

God always has a reason for His decisions, even when we can't see it.

The Bible says that Jesus gained obedience through the things He suffered, and this equipped Him to become the Author and

Source of our salvation (Hebrews 5:8–9 AMPC). I believe the same process often happens in the lives of those whom God intends to use to help others. As G. V. Wigram wrote, “Sorrows and trials are . . . like the sand and grit that polish a stone.”²

To say I was a mess when I left home at the age of eighteen is an understatement. To the natural eye, I appeared to be fine. I was reasonably intelligent and could hold a good job. But I was terrible at relationships. I didn’t know how to think properly, feel appropriately, or do what was right. I felt guilty about what had been done to me, and I was rooted in shame. I didn’t like my personality, my looks, or anything else about myself. I operated in protection mode constantly and trusted no one, especially men. I had promised myself that once I got away from home, I would never allow myself to need anyone. I had a few casual friendships, but I kept those relationships at a safe distance and never allowed anyone to get very close to me.

Deciding not to need other people doesn’t work, because God has created us to function together as a unit, not individually as loners. Not one of us has everything that is needed to live a good life by ourselves. We need other people who have gifts, abilities, and talents we do not have. People were not created to be alone.

If you have relationships that are a mess, let me assure you that God can change them and turn them into a blessing. Here is a story by a woman named Hannah that proves my point.

God Changes People’s Hearts

I’ve always been a bit overprotective. So, when my brother’s new girlfriend made a horrible first (and second, and third) impression, I jumped to the conclusion that he was settling for less than God’s best for him.

When he was unwilling to listen to my critical observation, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I spouted off a few fiery words I'd never be able to take back in an attempt to push her far, far away. But she didn't run. In fact, she stood by his side stronger than ever. It was in that moment that I realized maybe I'd misjudged her.

I was embarrassed by my actions and began seeking God's mercy and forgiveness. And while I thought it was best if they broke up, I realized I never want my will to be done, but His. I began to pray that His plans would ultimately prevail. If my brother and his girlfriend were meant to be a couple, I asked God to change my heart.

And change my heart, He did. It wasn't noticeable at first, but little by little, the tainted lens through which I viewed her got a little less blurry. And she was no longer my enemy. In fact, I even began to see her beautiful heart.

Her love for Jesus became more and more apparent over time, and because of that, I was able to see that she actually loves my brother so beautifully. She's since forgiven me and I'm now gaining a sister-in-law, who is also my sister in Christ. What more could I ask for?

While I initially created quite a mess, God helped me realize I am so very blessed. He changed my heart and allowed me to see her through His eyes instead of my own.

If you're going through a sticky situation, I invite you to pray and ask God to lead the way. You never know; He may change your heart as well.

Jumping to conclusions about people before giving yourself time to truly get to know them is a mistake. Give people a chance before deciding to eliminate them from your life. Sometimes you

will find they are worth including, as Hannah did. And sometimes you will find, as I did in the story below, that you need to end your relationship with them in order to enjoy the blessed life God wants you to live.

A Bad Relationship That Never Improved

When I was eighteen years old, I met a boy on a blind date. He had as many problems as I did—or more. After a short time of dating, we married, and I had another five years of misery and a ridiculous lifestyle. He frequently disappeared for months at a time, eventually returning and telling me how sorry he was. I always took him back. Neither of us knew what love was. He was a con man and petty thief who ended up in prison.

I married him because I was desperate, thinking no one would ever want me since I had been sexually abused. Desperate people do not make good decisions. I knew deep in my heart that the marriage probably would not work out, but I did it anyway. If I could go back and do it over again, would I marry him? Probably not, but I cannot say I regret it, because God brought a blessing out of the mess I had made.

Desperate people do not make good decisions.

During the five years we were married, we were apart more than we were together, but I had one miscarriage and gave birth to one son during that time. While I was pregnant with my son, my husband left me, went to live with another woman, and told everyone the baby wasn't his. I was alone, living on the third floor of an apartment building during an extremely hot summer. I don't even think I had a fan, let alone air-conditioning. I was so miserable during that time that instead of gaining weight while pregnant, I lost thirty-five pounds. It was one of the darkest times in

my life. However, God promises to give us treasures from the dark places, and He did give me my son.

I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.

Isaiah 45:3 NKJV

While I was pregnant, when I could no longer work, my hairdresser and her mother let me live with them until the baby was born. Although I didn't live on the street, I was homeless in a way and totally dependent on people who were little more than strangers to help me.

When my son was born, my husband did show up at the hospital. The baby boy looked just like him, so there was no denying that the child was his. We left the hospital and literally had no place to live, so my husband called a Christian woman who had previously been married to one of his brothers, and she took us in.

Eventually, my son David grew up and became CEO of our world missions program, called Hand of Hope, at Joyce Meyer Ministries. He has personally helped to start feeding centers, hospitals, and medical mission programs. He has provided help for victims of sex trafficking, for building churches, and for the digging of water wells in more than forty countries in villages that have no clean water. As part of these programs, we always share the gospel. In addition, we are on television throughout the world in more than one hundred languages, and David has helped with this. When I was pregnant with him, I was in a very dark season in my life, but he has turned out to be a treasure that came out of that dark time.

During the time David and I lived with my husband's ex-sister-in-law, my husband left. As soon as I could, I got a job, an apartment,

and a babysitter for David, and I tried to start life again. My husband came back once but soon left yet again. After that, I couldn't take it anymore and filed for divorce.

Out of desperation, I moved back home with my parents because I had no other option. I knew I would spend most of my time trying to avoid my father's sexual advances, but God had mercy on me. Soon after I moved into my parents' home, Dave Meyer pulled up in front of the house. He was there to pick up a young man he worked with who lived in the upstairs apartment.

In October 1966, I was outside washing my mother's car, and Dave started flirting with me. He asked me if I wanted to wash his car when I finished with mine. I replied, "Buddy, if you want your car washed, wash it yourself!" That was our beginning, but Dave still says he immediately knew I was the woman he wanted to marry. We married in January 1967, and thankfully, we are still married today. Even this is a miracle from God, because I was very difficult to get along with the first several years of our marriage. Today, we have four wonderful children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, and the number will continue to grow.

Blessed after a Mess

My first marriage was a mess that never changed. I had to get out of it, and God blessed me with a relationship with Dave. When we married, I had no idea what love was. I didn't know how to give it or receive it. Dave was a strong, committed Christian, and he asked me to go to church with him, which I was glad to do. I had loved God for as long as I could remember; I simply didn't know anything about the Bible or how to go about having relationship with God. I prayed when I was desperate, and my prayers consisted mostly of "God, help me." I struggled trying to

be a Christian. I took confirmation classes and joined a church, hoping those experiences would change me, but they didn't. I learned basic Christian doctrine, but I did not learn how to live my daily life as a follower of Christ. Several years later, when Dave and I had three children, we moved to another area of town and went to another church for several years. We did make friends in that church and enjoyed going there, but once again, although I learned about God, I did not learn lessons to help me with my specific problems.

In 1976, I cried out to God to touch my life, and He did. I became hungry to study His Word. Shortly after that, I sensed Him calling me to teach the Bible and showing me that I would spread His Word, helping people around the world. Naturally speaking, this would have been impossible, but God chooses and uses the foolish things of the world—people who would be thrown away as trash—to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).

In those days, many people considered it unacceptable for women to teach the Bible, but I wasn't aware of that, so I started a Bible study at my workplace. I look back and wonder how I had the courage to do it because I had no idea what I was doing. But when God calls us, He also gives us a gift of faith to do what He asks us to do. I stepped out and He met me. As He taught me, I shared with others what He was teaching me.

I taught that Bible study for five years, eventually moving it into my home. Every Tuesday evening, twenty-five or thirty people would sit on the living room floor and sing a few songs, and I would teach God's Word. We would pray for one another, and it was wonderful. All the while, I was studying and learning. I took every opportunity I could find to study God's Word and read books that would help me understand the Bible. Dave and I also took a twelve-week Bible study course at our church that was designed to help develop leaders.

Those were wonderful years, yet they were some of the most painful of my life. I wanted to quit many times because it seemed that I had such a big dream, yet everything that was happening was so very small. But those experiences served a great purpose in my life. Saint Augustine said, “Trials come to prove and improve us,”³ and this is so true.

Lack gives us all an appreciation of abundance.

During those years, our family had financial needs. God made sure we had enough to survive, but we didn’t have anything extra. This too was a test. We were giving more than ever, yet we seemed to have less than ever. But eventually, God began to bring increase to our finances. To this day, I am thankful for the lean years we experienced because I deeply appreciate everything God gives us now. I think lack gives us all an appreciation of abundance.

Eventually I got a job at a new local church in our city, and I worked there for five years. I became one of the associate pastors and had opportunities to do a lot of Bible teaching. Those were also years of testing because I was learning how to relate to authority and behave in a godly way when I didn’t agree with those in authority over me. God taught me more than I can express during those years. Like the first five years of my teaching ministry, they were wonderful and extremely difficult at the same time. They were also vitally necessary, because I had to learn how to come under authority before I would be ready to be in authority. I eventually did step out and start Joyce Meyer Ministries, and the ministry has grown gradually to what it is now. There have been many wonderful times and hard times, but they all have worked together for good (Romans 8:28).

You must learn how to live under authority before you can be in authority.

The Promise That Changed My Life

While reading Isaiah 61:7 one day, I saw that God promises to give us a double portion to replace the shame from the past: “Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.

God promises a double portion to replace shame from the past.

And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.”

Many scriptures have been life-changing for me, and Isaiah 61:7 is certainly one of them. It gave me hope, and hope is a vital quality to have. Without hope, the heart becomes sick (Proverbs 13:12).

When we have hope, we live with the expectation that God will do something good for us. Hope is a powerful motivator. Anyone can have hope if they want to. All you need to do is expect (believe) that something good may happen to you at any time. There were many years when I expected and waited for the next bad thing to happen in my life. I was actually afraid to believe for good things, because I didn't want to be disappointed. I have changed, by God's grace. Now I expect good things all the time, and I encourage you to do the same.

If you have trouble being hopeful, start by saying aloud several times a day “Something good is going to happen to me, because God is good.” You will find that the more you speak this and meditate on it in your thinking, the more you will believe it. By doing this, you are renewing your mind (Romans 12:2).

In the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition translation of Isaiah 61:7, the phrase “double portion” is rendered “twofold recompense.” We don't hear the word *recompense* often, but it simply means “reward.” Once I realized what this verse is saying, I was

filled with hope that somehow God would pay me back for all the misery I went through during my early years. He is a God of justice, which means that He makes wrong things right. I knew that what my father had done to me was wrong, but I came to believe that God would make it up to me.

When I looked for promises similar to Isaiah 61:7, I found Job 42:10: “After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.” It seems that nobody in the world ever had it as bad as poor ol’ Job, who experienced calamity after calamity (Job 1:13–19; 2:7–9), but God gave him double for his former trouble. This happened after he prayed for his friends who had treated him badly. He needed them to comfort him, but instead they blamed him for his problems. We can see from this that anyone who wants the double blessing cannot have it with unforgiveness in their heart. I had to forgive my dad and mom, and you also will have to forgive anyone you have anything against if you want to be blessed.

Another passage that speaks of a double blessing is 2 Kings 2:1–12. There, we read that Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s anointing because he asked for it and was faithful to Elijah to the end of his life.

Proverbs 6:30–31 teaches us that there is even a sevenfold blessing. If someone steals from us, this passage teaches that when they are caught, they will have to pay back seven times more than they stole. This also comforts me, because people have taken things from me at times, and I always pray for them and claim the sevenfold return.

In the early days of our television ministry, our program aired once a week on a big station that was doing well. Suddenly one day, they took us off the air, offering no explanation except that they were making changes in their programming. I felt like my heart was breaking because that station reached more people

than any other station we were on, and we were not on many at that time.

I was angry and hurt, but God told us to release the situation to Him, let Him handle it, and to forgive them. We did, and about a year later, they approached us and asked us to go on their station daily—exactly a sevenfold return.

I have turned to Isaiah 61:7 many times over the years when I have become discouraged. Each time, this verse and others similar to it encourage me to keep believing that God will do great things in my life.

I Am Amazed

I am amazed at what God has done for me. When I look at where I started and where I am now, it is almost too good to be true. I share this story so you will believe that the same kinds of things can happen to you. God's Word has been true in my life. I have favor, open doors of opportunity, and a television program that airs in more than one hundred languages in two-thirds of the world. I've written 146 books, tens of millions of which have been sold or given free of charge to people in need around the world. I get to help hurting people and make their lives better through teaching them the Word of God.

My story, which was so painful for me to live through, now gives people hope, and I'm glad God took me through it instead of delivering me

from it. You may also find that a situation you now think is your worst enemy will one day be your best friend.

My mess has become my message and my ministry, and this happens to many people if they let it. It happened to me, it happened to Sawyer, and it can happen to you. Here is Sawyer's story:

Something you now think is your worst enemy may one day be your best friend.

My Mess Became My Ministry

Sometimes, it takes a little time to see how God will work something out in our lives. For me, it took nearly two decades.

It all started for me at just four years old. I remember sitting in my dad's new apartment, doing my best to listen as he explained a new reality to me: He didn't want to live with us anymore, so instead I'd visit him every so often.

Things were all right at first, but over the years, they got worse and worse. One day, my dad told me he didn't believe in God anymore and that I shouldn't either. Another time, he told me my mother was crazy and shouldn't be raising me. He lied, made up stories, and told me I was selfish for not believing what he told me to believe. Sometimes he shouted.

Most of my childhood was filled with doubt—doubt about myself, my life, and my faith. As the verbal and emotional abuse got worse over time, I questioned why God would let me stay in that situation—month after month and year after year. I wanted to know what the plan was.

I remember the day I got my answer. It was my senior year of high school. As I left school to go home that day, I saw one of my classmates sitting at a table, crying. It turns out her father verbally abused her, shouting and screaming at her constantly and telling her she was worthless. Her parents were divorced, and because she wasn't yet eighteen, she still had to participate in visitation. She felt trapped.

That was the first time I was able to comfort someone with my story, to let them know they weren't alone, and to tell them that God could take something terrible and redeem it in a way that brings comfort and healing to someone else.

As the years have gone by, God has put me in the right places at the right times to help so many people in need with my story. I thank Him every day that when I nearly lost faith in Him, He never lost faith in me.

God has allowed Sawyer and me to help people facing situations like those we've gone through. As great as this is, more important is the relationship we have with God through Jesus.

I no longer feel guilty all the time. When I sin, I am able to quickly repent, receive forgiveness, and not feel burdened with guilt that Jesus has already taken care of through His sacrifice on the cross. I know for certain that God loves me unconditionally, and I truly believe that no matter what happens, He will work it out for my good.

I want you to be excited as you read this book. It is a book about going through trials and troubles, but it is also a book about how hard times can bring you closer to God than you could ever imagine and how you can be blessed right in the middle of your mess.

To experience blessing in the midst of your mess, you will need to make some decisions and take some actions that won't be easy. This includes keeping a good attitude during trouble; being thankful when there doesn't seem to be anything to be thankful for; forgiving people who don't deserve to be forgiven or who have abused, hurt, or abandoned you; being patient; staying positive; and making other choices you'll read about later in the book. The adjustments you may need to make will come in various forms and in many situations, but the double blessing will be worth them all.

Camille Pissarro's quote at the beginning of this chapter says, "Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where

other people see nothing.” We are blessed when we can face our pain and our problems and know deep in our hearts that God will work something good out of them. Sad indeed are the people who have trouble and nothing but darkness and despair, but God offers us treasures in the darkness—hope, faith, and a double blessing. What an exciting way to live!

God offers us treasures in the darkness.

Return to the stronghold [of security and prosperity],
you prisoners of hope; even today do I declare that I will
restore double your former prosperity to you.

Zechariah 9:12 AMPC

Do you have a real relationship with Jesus?

God loves you! He created you to be a special, unique, one-of-a-kind individual, and He has a specific purpose and plan for your life. And through a personal relationship with your Creator—God—you can discover a way of life that will truly satisfy your soul.

No matter who you are, what you've done, or where you are in your life right now, God's love and grace are greater than your sin—your mistakes. Jesus willingly gave His life so you can receive forgiveness from God and have new life in Him. He's just waiting for you to invite Him to be your Savior and Lord.

If you are ready to commit your life to Jesus and follow Him, all you have to do is ask Him to forgive your sins and give you a fresh start in the life you are meant to live. Begin by praying this prayer . . .

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me and forgiving me of my sins so I can have a personal relationship with You. I am sincerely sorry for the mistakes I've made, and I know I need You to help me live right.

Your Word says in Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (NIV). I believe You are the Son of God and confess You as my Savior and Lord. Take me just as I am, and work in my heart, making me the person You want me to be. I want to live for You, Jesus, and I am so grateful that You are giving me a fresh start in my new life with You today.

I love You, Jesus!

It's so amazing to know that God loves us so much! He wants to have a deep, intimate relationship with us that grows every day as we spend time with Him in prayer and Bible study. And we want to encourage you in your new life in Christ.

Please visit joycemeyer.org/KnowJesus to request Joyce's book *A New Way of Living*, which is our gift to you. We also have other free resources online to help you make progress in pursuing everything God has for you.

Congratulations on your fresh start in your life in Christ! We hope to hear from you soon.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joyce Meyer is one of the world's leading practical Bible teachers and a *New York Times* bestselling author. Joyce's books have helped millions of people find hope and restoration through Jesus Christ. Joyce's program, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, is broadcast on television and radio and online to millions worldwide in over one hundred languages.

Through Joyce Meyer Ministries, Joyce teaches internationally on a number of topics with a particular focus on how the Word of God applies to our everyday lives. Her candid communication style allows her to share openly and practically about her experiences so others can apply what she has learned to their lives.

Joyce has authored more than 140 books, which have been translated into more than 160 languages, and over 39 million of her books have been distributed worldwide. Bestsellers include *Power Thoughts*; *The Confident Woman*; *Look Great, Feel Great*; *Starting Your Day Right*; *Ending Your Day Right*; *Approval Addiction*; *How to Hear from God*; *Beauty for Ashes*; and *Battlefield of the Mind*.

Joyce's passion to help people who are hurting is foundational to the vision of Hand of Hope, the missions arm of Joyce Meyer Ministries. Each year Hand of Hope provides millions of meals for the hungry and malnourished, installs freshwater wells in poor and remote areas, provides critical relief after natural disasters, and offers free medical and dental care to thousands through their hospitals and clinics worldwide. Through Project GRL, women and children are rescued from human trafficking and provided safe places to receive an education, nutritious meals, and the love of God.