# | IVERSAL | EWS





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It affected your loved ones in the past, and it has been affecting you and your children's lives in the present. Learn what to do to break the cycle.

# GENERATIONAL CURSES

**FINANCIAL CURSES** 



Parents 4 8 1



Children



HEALTH **CURSES** 







**ADDICTION CURSES** 







"I lost my father, an aunt, and two uncles—all because of their involvement with drugs."



**Bishop** Why has evil prevailed?

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### **OPINIONS**

### IN THIS EDITION

### **Are Curses Real or Just a Myth?**

In today's world, many people believe that curses are nothing more than fiction, something found only in fairy tales. But in reality, this couldn't be further from the truth. Take a moment to reflect. Have you ever noticed a recurring problem in your family that seems to pass from generation to generation? Issues like failed relationships, illnesses, financial struggles, addictions, abuse, depression, or mental disorders?

Maybe you've even said to yourself, "I'll never be like my parents," or "I'll never end up in an abusive relationship," or "I'll never be a single parent,"
"I'll never get divorced," or "I'll never struggle with addiction." But years later, you find yourself facing the very same struggles as your parents or ancestors. It feels like you're stuck in the same cycle you swore you would avoid.

If you're experiencing these repeating patterns in your family, you might be dealing with a generational curse. But the good news is, you don't have to accept this as your fate. Through faith, these curses can be broken. The Bible tells us that Jesus took all curses upon Himself and redeemed us so that we could be free. Please read Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."

That's why every Friday at the Universal Church, we hold a special service focused on spiritual deliverance. With strong prayers, we combat the curses that have been wreaking havoc in your life. Don't let generational curses control your future. Join us this Friday at a Universal Church near you and take a step toward freedom.

Depression is a deep sadness that affects the very core of a person. It brings overwhelming hopelessness and creates a void that can drain the motivation to do even the simplest things. In severe cases, it can lead someone to lose the will to live. Depression often feels like a sickness of the soul. But who can heal the soul? Only the Savior, the Lord Jesus, has the power to restore a troubled heart.

through powerful prayers, practical guidance, and personal counseling.

You are not alone in this battle. Thousands of people



Call 1.888.332.4141 Text 1.888.312.4141 For more information SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCATIONS



### **Bishop Edir Macedo** Why has evil prevailed?



hy does evil seem to prevail in the lives of so many who profess faith in God? Why do some sin-cere believers experience a living hell, even though they regularly attend church and may even hold positions of trust and prominence in the congregation?

Jesus said: "...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)The church Jesus refers to is not just a building—it's the people who make up His chosen generation: "...a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter

This royal priesthood is made up of those who express their faith through sacrifice. From the entire Christian world, God is setting apart a chosen generation, forming a holy nation of those who build their lives on the foundation of sacrifice, placing their trust fully on the "Stone" (the Altar), which is the Lord Jesus.

But how do we become part of this chosen generation? It's not enough to simply attend church, identify as a Christian, or receive a blessing here and there. We must go beyond that by forsaking the values of this world and doing what is written: "Then you will lay your gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver." (Job 22:24-



Abraham did just that. He placed his son Isaac—his most treasured possession—on the altar. Isaac represented not only Abraham's past, having waited 100 years to have him, but also his present and future, as Isaac was the key to Abraham's legacy. Yet Abraham offered him on the Rock (Jesus), becoming the father of faith for this chosen generation. His act of faith set him up for a life of blessings here on earth and eternal glory in the future.

Now, the opportunity is in front of you. Come to this Rock, which is Jesus, and take action through faith. Surrender yourself fully on the Altar without holding back, and become a true member of the Church of the Lord Jesus. Then, the gates of hell will never prevail over your life.

### BEATING DEPRESSION

Every Sunday, the Universal Church opens its doors to those seeking to overcome depression. If you're in need of support, visit a branch near you. Join a Chain of Prayer by attending a prayer meeting for seven consecutive weeks. You'll receive spiritual strength

around the world have shared their testimonies, prov-



Sofia and Wilson are living proof that with faith, we can change not only our own lives but our families' too. Keep reading to hear their story.

Sofia grew up in a broken home filled with physical and verbal abuse, which eventually led to her parents' divorce. She carried a deep emptiness inside and tried to fill it by surrounding herself with toxic friends and spending her nights at clubs. Even in her love life, she couldn't find happiness. "Every

### "I rewrote my story"

relationship I had was full of disrespect and physical abuse. It got so bad that I tried to take my own life several times," Sofia shares.

#### **DESTRUCTION**

Wilson, her husband, also struggled in his early life. He dealt with fear, trauma, and constant feelings of inferiority, which led him to addictions—pornography, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. "I'd always go out at night, thinking, 'This is the night I'll finally be happy,' but instead, I just felt emptier," Wilson admits. "My love life was a mess. I had several relationships, but none of them worked out-either I was rejected, or I pushed people away."

### **DESTINY**

Everything started to change when they both accepted an invitation to visit the Universal Church. There, they realized that the problems in their love lives stemmed from a generational curse. They began attending a chain of prayer services on Fridays, praying for deliverance to break that curse.

"Sofia and I met during a youth group event at the church, and that's when everything turned around," Wilson shares. "We dated, got married, and started a family. Today, we have a daughter." He adds, "I found a wife, and once again, God's Word proved true for me: 'He who finds a wife finds a good thing and receives favor from the Lord' (Proverbs 18:22)."

- Sofia and Wilson Toste



### **HEALED FROM TUMORS IN HER THYROIDS**

At 36, Simone faced a major challenge when she suffered a stroke. The following year, she had a heart attack, and by 38, doctors diagnosed her with two thyroid tumors. As she underwent treatment to remove the tumors and went through chemotherapy, Simone battled deep fear. Along with the physical pain, she felt an overwhelming anguish soul. In that difficult moment at the hospital, Simone turned to her faith and cried out to God for help. On the same day, something remarkable happened—her health longer improve, and she needed began surgery.

Simone's experience showed how profoundly her faith played a crucial role in her recovery.



"I had bleeding issues; I was weak and couldn't even walk properly."

For four years, I suffered from severe bleeding. Each year, I visited the doctor three or four times for this issue. They would prescribe medications, and sometimes I needed blood transfusions because I bled so heavily.

I spent a lot of time in and out of the hospital, enduring constant pain. I learned about this ministry by watching the Showdown of Faith on TV. When I finally came, I started exercising my faith. I drank the blessed water every day.

Today, I am healed—just look at me now! I couldn't even walk before; I was so weak. But now I can do everything on my own, without any help from my family. — Nermala



# Healed from Cardiomyopathy

In 2020, I was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy, a disease that affects the heart. The doctors told me

that my heart wasn't beating correctly and that there was no cure—they said I would die from it. I struggled with shortness of breath, especially at night. It was a journey of faith. I had to trust that God would be my doctor, and I drank the blessed water by faith. After undergoing new tests, the results showed that my heart is completely normal. I no longer have any of the symptoms I used to suffer from.

— Miss Jackson

THE TIME OF MIRACLES IS NOT OVER YET!





"My medical test results were all negative."

For over a year, I silently battled depression while undergoing medical tests for six months. I didn't even tell my children about my health struggles, and I constantly worried about the results.

I decided to use my faith in God with the Blessed Water, declaring my healing in Jesus' name. Today, all my test results came back negative and normal, and I am no longer depressed.



### | MESSAGE |

### Bishop Joshua

### COINCIDENCE OR SOMETHING MORE SINISTER AT WORK?



Is it merely a coincidence that after being told you would never amount to anything, it actually happens? Is it just luck that everyone in your family experiences accidents or the same illnesses? Is it a coincidence that after visiting a tarot reader, things took a turn for the worse? Is it just chance that those negative feelings about yourself have started to materialize?

While a coincidence is an unexplained pairing of two or more events, curses can be explained. Curses are real, and the explanation is simple:

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." (John 10:10).

This well-known Bible verse highlights how the devil operates. If your life feels plagued by a series of negative events, if it seems like you can never catch a break, or if you feel cursed, there's a strong chance that something is indeed at work.

Here are four types of curses to consider:

1. The Spoken Curse: Phrases like "You are such an idiot," "You are just like so-and-so," or "You're going

to end up dead or in prison" are destructive words often spoken within families.

2. The Generational Curse: Patterns of diseases, addiction, accidents, and suicidal tendencies that seem to run in families

can indicate a generational curse.

3. The Acquired Curse: Seeking help from dark spirits, such as through witchcraft, tarot cards, or palm readers, can invite those spirits to accompany you throughout your life.

4. The Invoked Curse: When you proclaim negative words about yourself, those declarations can actually come to pass.

Regardless of how a curse entered your life, the way to break them all is the same: through faith and taking authority over the devil. Yes, you have the power to dismantle all of Satan's plans and break every curse in your life.

Now that you have this knowledge, what will you do about the unfortunate events you're facing? Praise and worship alone won't be enough! If you don't actively fight back, the thief will succeed. Find your fighting spirit and take action. With God on your side, the gates of hell shall not prevail.

You can break free. You deserve to be happy.

May the God of the Bible bless you.

September 21 Bible Reading Daniel 8 Mark 2 Mark 9 Mark 4 Mark 6 Mark 8 Mark 11 Mark 12 Mark 13 Mark 14 Mark 15 Mark 16 Philippians 1&2 Philippians

### THE CURSE OF POVERTY IS BROKEN

Pedro Lima, 42, grew up in poverty. His father worked hard but struggled to provide for the family. Pedro's life mirrored this path until one day he realized it didn't have to be this way. Here's his story.

"I was born into poverty as one of 13 siblings, facing hardships from a young age. Poverty reigned in our home. My father worked tirelessly but couldn't even buy me a pair of sneakers. There were times when my mother would make porridge with just water and flour—that was all we had to eat.

pend on anyone, but despite my hard work, I saw no results.

My sister often invited me to the Universal Church, but I always brushed her off. Eventually, I set aside my prejudice and accepted her invitation. One day, I heard the Bible verse that says, 'All things are possible to those who believe'



As a teenager, I searched for a role model, but all I found were addictions and fights among my siblings. One of my brothers got involved in crime, trying to lift us out of poverty, but one Sunday, we received the devastating news that he had been murdered. Telling my father that my brother was gone was one of the hardest moments of my life.

After that, I lost my will to live and even tried to cause an accident by throwing myself between two buses, but something stopped me. I didn't know it then, but God had a plan for my life. Fearing for my safety, my father sent me to another city to stay with my sister. Unfortunately, the struggle continued. I faced a new challenge: as a minor, I couldn't find a job. Eventually, when I did get a job, I turned to drinking to cope with the depression of being away from my parents.

Years went by, and I worked various jobs like my father, but my situation didn't improve. I wanted to break free and not de-

(Mark 9:23), and those words resonated with me. I began participating in the chain of prayer and discovered my true problem.

I had already been baptized in water and turned away from my sins, but I longed for the Holy Spirit. So, I started to obey God and demonstrate my faith on the Altar.

After capturing God's attention, I received my greatest gift: I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. The joy He filled me with was unlike anything I had ever experienced, and I knew He would be with me always. I realized that the greatest poverty is to live without Him. By persevering in faith, I started my own business and got married. Today, the curse of poverty is broken. I'm a father with a blessed family, happily married, and I lack nothing because I have God's guidance.

So, what about you? What results have you seen from your efforts? Follow my example, engage in the chain of prayer, and break the curse in your financial life."

### What's happening at the Universal Church

## "The doctor gave me six months to live."



Though her health was her biggest concern, Norberta's life was falling apart in almost every way.

"I had diabetes, and then I discovered several lumps in my breasts. My blood tests showed I had more white blood cells than red ones, which was the early stage of leukemia. As if that wasn't enough, I'd already suffered two heart attacks. I was terrified, and my body was so weak that it made everything worse. On top of all that, I had chronic bronchitis and had to get a special, very expensive vaccine from overseas."

Just when it seemed things couldn't get any worse, Norberta got devastating news. Her doctors told her she only had six months to live. Her mother believed she was under a hereditary curse. Desperate for a solution and not knowing much about God, she convinced Norberta to turn to witchcraft for healing.

"My mom wouldn't let me do anything without first consulting the witch doctors," Norberta explains.

She had been sick since childhood, but things really spiraled in her teenage years. She became rebellious, started staying out late, and had multiple boyfriends. Their relationship was full of fights—both verbal and even physical at times.

The financial burden of her medical treatments pushed her family into debt. They lost their business and cars, which only added to their pain. Depression and sadness overwhelmed Norberta to the point where she tried to end her life by throwing herself in front of a car.

"I came to the Universal Church after a friend invited me," Norberta recalls. "I started using my faith, making a chain of prayers, making vows, and participating in the church's purposes of faith."

Today, Norberta's life is completely transformed. "God has freed me from all the curses. My health is restored, and my family is united again." Now, Norberta owns two businesses—a children's hotel and a successful cleaning company.

She finally has peace and joy in her life, but most importantly, she has the Holy Spirit.

- Norberta Nun

# "My Life Was Trapped in a Web of Curses"

Camelia Prieto felt like her life was caught in a web of curses passed down from her ancestors. Both her uncles and her mother had suffered from these curses in their youth, and it affected them in every way—health issues, financial struggles, and personal problems that just wouldn't go away.

"My mom and our whole family were victims of curses and witchcraft. Ever since she was little, my mom faced so many problems—health issues, family conflicts, you name it. Her siblings weren't any better. They had health problems, accidents, and suffered in countless other ways. As for me, I 'inherited' the same fate. I had mysterious health problems like lumps that no one could explain, and I carried the trauma of being sexually abused. I would hear voices, have terrible nightmares, and couldn't sleep because of the constant insomnia."

"I was depressed for most of my life—from the age of 3 all the way until I was 25. The depression was so severe that I started cutting myself because I felt so numb. I had constant thoughts of suicide. In my desperation to find a solution, I even got involved in witchcraft, thinking it might help me, but it only made things worse. I turned to drugs and alcohol, becoming addicted. It felt like I was stuck, unable to move forward."

"Physically, strange bruises and bite marks would appear on my body, and there was no logical explanation for them. But I knew deep down this was because of the curse—my mom had the same problems."

Eventually, Camelia realized that the problems she was dealing with were spiritual. After seeing how her mom's health dramatically improved through her participation in the Universal Church, Camelia decided to follow in her footsteps and learn how



to fight these curses using her faith.

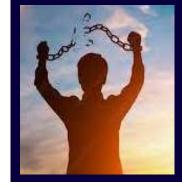
"My mom invited me to the Universal Church. At the time, she had a terminal illness, and the doctors said she didn't have long to live. Her sores would bleed, and they developed pus and even worms, but the doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong. Shortly after she started going to church, the sores just disappeared. That's when I decided to seek help, too."

Once Camelia started attending the services, she began to understand that all the problems she had been facing weren't normal—they were spiritual. "I started using my faith, listening to the messages during the services, and joining the purposes of faith. I fought against the generational curses that had been holding me back."

"By using my faith, I was freed from all the problems I had been dealing with. Today, I'm free from addiction, I'm healthy, and I can sleep peacefully. I don't have any more night terrors or attacks, and I finally have peace. I've been freed from depression, suicidal thoughts, and past trauma. My relationship with my mom and family has been restored, and we've even been blessed financially. But the most important thing is that I received the Holy Spirit. Because of Him, I now have peace and live a life I never thought was possible."

- Camelia Prieto

### **Breaking the Cycle**



Many people feel stuck in their lives, trapped by the same problems that plagued their parents and previous generations. No matter how hard they try to make changes—whether it's moving to a new place, switching careers, adopting a different lifestyle, or even changing relationships—they still feel trapped. Some struggle with ongoing physical and mental health issues, while others jump from one relationship to another without ever finding true happiness.

What many don't realize is that these challenges often have a spiritual root, not just a physical one. When people align themselves with God and confront the spiritual roots of their struggles, they can discover freedom and healing. If you want to break free from the generational curses in your family, visit a Universal Church near you to learn more about finding deliverance and hope.

### **COVER STORY**

middle spre

oyou believe that it is normal to suffer from the same problems that your parents and grandparents once went through or still face today? If the answer is yes, you are mistaken.

It is certainly not normal for you to suffer in the same way as your great-grandparents, grandparents and parents. Whether it is due to problems such as relationship fights, betrayal, divorce, unemployment, disappointments, and illnesses. It does not matter. If these situations have been occurring in your life or the life of your family for decades, they must be fought through faith.

But, contrary to what many may think, this is not a mere coincidence. This is called a generational curse that, if not broken, will continue to cause even more suffering generation after generation.

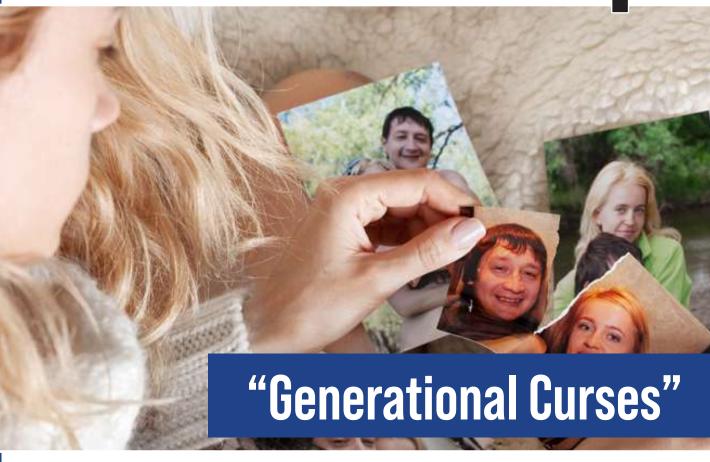
However, when a problem is caused by a generational curse, no matter how much the person tries to overcome it, it seems that nothing they do is capable of changing that situation. Therefore, unfortunately, most of the time, the person ends up resigning themselves to it because they believe that it is their destiny and, therefore, there is nothing they can do about it.

But this is not true. There is a way to break this curse since the Bible itself says that the Lord Jesus became a curse so that those who believe in Him would no longer suffer.

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

**Galatians 3:13-14** 

Therefore, participate the in deliverance service this Friday so that this generational curse can be broken. It will be the end of all the legacy of failures in your family. You will receive guidance and direction to put an end to all suffering. See the back page for locations.



### "There was a generational curse in my family."

There was a generational curse in my family," says Linezia Oliveira Cavalcante, reflecting on her past. She never imagined she'd be happy in love. "Before I met the Lord Jesus, I was arrogant, sad, and empty. My relationships were a mess, but everything changed when I started putting my faith into practice," she shares. For a long time, Linezia believed her family was cursed because most of the women, including herself, kept ending up with men who were already in relationships. "I loved other people more than I loved myself," she admits.

When Linezia first met her husband, Roberto Cavalcante da Silva, she remembers thinking he was very handsome. But because of her deep Roberto admits that he had no insecurities, she convinced herself she'd never have a chance with him. Even if she did, she thought it wouldn't be serious. However, she was wrong. "What really got my attention about Linezia was that she didn't throw herself at me the first time we talked. I had to work to win her over, and that's when I decided I wanted something serious. She was

different from any woman I'd

ever met," says Roberto.

After a few months of dating, Linezia started seeing more of the real Roberto. "When we started dating, I already saw signs that things weren't going to work. He'd leave work and go straight to clubs," she recalls. Hoping to make things better, she moved in with him, but it only made things worse. "He became more distant. He'd go out on Fridays and not come back until Sunday. When I found out he was using drugs, my world fell apart. I had never lived with anyone who used drugs, so I didn't understand that kind of behavior," she explains.

financial stability or steady job because of his addiction. "I was lost. I was addicted to cigarettes, alcohol, and cocaine," he says. During this time, it was Linezia who kept the household going.

Despite everything, Linezia got pregnant. She thought the baby might make Roberto change, but it didn't. That's when she decided she couldn't take it anymore. "I quit my job and was about to finalize my divorce. My partner was using drugs and always at home.

I was ready to leave, but then my brother-in-law invited me to come back to the Universal Church," she recalls.

Linezia and Roberto began attending Love Therapy meetings at the church. At the first session, they sat on opposite sides of the room. "I couldn't even look him in the eye. I was so angry after everything he'd put me through for eight years. I didn't believe he'd changed, but I stayed strong and firm in God's presence," she says.

Linezia points out that her life only started to turn around once she gave it completely to God. "I realized I was also partly to blame for the problems in our relationship. I was controlling, annoying, and arrogant. The Holy Spirit softened



my heart, and I was able to forgive my husband," she shares. As they worked on both their spiritual and love lives, Roberto and Linezia learned to love each other intelligently. They reconciled, got married in a civil ceremony, and a few months later, they had a church wedding. Soon after, they

welcomed their second daughter. "Today, I truly understand what respect means, and I know I have an incredible woman by my side. My family is a blessing. We have two beautiful daughters, and we are very happy," concludes Roberto.

# "I lost my father, an aunt, and two uncles—all because of drugs."

hiago Mateus Ferreira has plenty of reasons to smile today, but his past was filled with pain and loss that left deep scars. Right from birth, he was robbed of a chance to know his father, who was murdered due to his involvement in drugs and crime. Sadly, this wasn't an isolated tragedy. Several members of his family also lost their lives to crime. "Looking back now, I see that there was a generational curse on my family. I lost my father, an aunt, and two uncles in different situations, but always because of drugs. If it weren't for Jesus in my life, I'd probably be dead by now," he says.

Thiago was raised by his paternal grandmother. Growing up, he harbored a lot of hatred towards his mother, believing she didn't love him, even though she was always present in his life. His anger also stemmed from not having a father figure around.

By the time he was a child, Thiago's rebellious behavior was already noticeable. He started committing petty theft at a young age. "By the time I was 5, I was stealing things from school and the neighborhood. By 14, I had tried drugs, hanging out with bad influences and befriending drug dealers. Drugs marked the beginning of my downfall. Marijuana, cigarettes, alcohol, and parties became a part of my daily life."

Thiago continued stealing until he was 17, and whenever an opportunity came up, he didn't let it pass. "I was filled with violence and anger," he says. Despite being surrounded by people, he often felt lonely, carrying a deep sadness that wouldn't go away. In his search to fill the emptiness inside, he made some bad decisions. One of the darkest memories he recalls is the time someone pointed a gun at his head in a drug den. Another low point

I remember thinking I was going to die in the club that night. My heart was racing, and I felt like I was going to collapse.

Thiago Mateus Ferreira has plenty of was when his mother found out he was using reasons to smile today, but his past drugs and the disappointment she felt.

Partying and clubbing became part of his routine, but one night, under the influence of drugs, he thought he was going to die. "I remember thinking I was going to die in the club that night. My heart was racing, and I felt like I was going to collapse. The next day, I asked my mother—who was already a member of the Universal Church—for help. She had tried to tell me about the Lord Jesus before, but I never listened. That day was different. I was ready for a new life."

On a Sunday, Thiago went to the Universal Church with his mother. Not long after, he felt the difference in his life and family. "The curse was broken when I realized what I was up against and decided that I didn't want to be the next one to die. Through the chains of prayer with my mother, the curse was broken," he shares.

Now, Thiago's life is completely transformed. He says all the negativity and mistakes of his past are behind him, serving only as part of his testimony. "Today, I don't need clubs, stealing, or drugs to feel happy. I gave my life to God, and since then, my character has changed. I love my mother, I love my family, and I'm a new man," he concludes.



### MAKE A



### **IT WORKS!**

A Chain of Prayer is when you attend a prayer meeting for a certain number of weeks without interruption in order to see a breakthrough in your life. Whether it is healing, a financial breakthrough or spiritual deliverance that you need, a Chain of Prayer helps you develop the faith and determination to overcome.

Monday - Strong Nation 7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm



Learn the secrets to overcome financially. Receive direction to grow and become a successful person.



Tuesday - Prayer for healing
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm

Receive prayers for your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Wednesday - Night of Salvation **7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm** 



A meeting will be held for those who want to invest in a genuine relationship with God.



Thursday - Family & Love Therapy
7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm

The goal of the family meeting is to bring families together.

No family is perfect, but they can be free from any hate,
separation and other underlying issues.

Friday - Deliverance 7am, 10am, 4pm & 7pm



There is a root to every problem. No issue can be dealt with permanently without removing its root. Every Friday, strong prayers is provided for anyone who is facing a problem that is influenced by negativity.



Saturday - Impossible Cases **8am & 12pm** 

Have you ever looked at a problem or situation and thought, 'this is impossible, there is no solution to this?' If you want to see the 'impossible become possible', join us every Saturday.

Sunday - Gathering of Faith & Miracles
7am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm



These meetings aim to help people connect with God, to empower people and teach them how to use their faith to achieve what they want in their lives.



### UNIVERSAL BEYOND BARS

You are not Alone!

# Glabio's Testimony

grew up in the Universal Church until I was 14. But when I became curious about a different religion practiced by some people in my community, I decided to join them. I visited their gatherings, where they beat drums, and I told them I believed I had a calling to be part of their group.

I participated in all the rituals they asked of me



without questioning anything. Unfortunately, my life fell apart. I opened the door to many evil spirits, and instead of finding fulfillment, my situation worsened.

I thought I was conquering my struggles, but in reality, I was losing everything. I spiraled deeper into addiction, using more drugs, smoking, and drinking. Eventually, I lost my home because my addictions consumed all my resources.

In my desperation, I sought help at a clinic. When



the first time I entered, cutting my wrists and thinking about throwing myself in front of cars. Nothing improved; everything continued to spiral downward. I fell into depression, feeling hopeless about life. One day, I got involved in a fight that led to someone's death, and I ended up in prison.

That's where my suffering really began.

It was my first time in prison, and instead of reforming, I learned more about crime and joined a gang. I was released but quickly fell back into the life I had learned inside.

I returned to prison for a second time, facing a sentence of 73 years. During that time, I felt utterly destroyed—unhappy, frustrated, and sad.

The false sense of "power" I once felt meant nothing. I was consumed by evil spirits, trapped in a life of crime. Through it all, I remembered my mom praying for me and using her faith on my behalf.

Even as I sank deeper, she never gave up on me. While in prison, I saw the Universal Church's volunteers come in, but I had lost my faith in God long ago.

One day, I cried out, "God, if You exist, please give me a sign." It took many prayers and persistent faith, but eventually, I regained my freedomsomething that seemed impossible.

I knew it was only God's intervention. I honored my promise to Him by attending church, where I learned that my life could be transformed.

I let go of my past and began to change. I found that I no longer felt anger towards others and wanted to earn an honest living. I knew my mindset was shifting. I got baptized, received the Holy Spirit, and finally found peace.

I arrived, I was in a dark place; I attempted suicide Thanks to the Holy Spirit, I am now a new man.



My wife and I are happy and expecting our first child. I work an honest job, enjoy peace with my family, and I volunteer with the Universal Church inside prisons. I aim to reach those who feel trapped, just as I once did. God is using me to





show them that their lives can change.



Those who feel like there is no way out as I once did, God is using me to show to them that their life can change.

#### "I'm tired of it here, I wish it would end, all of it..."

Stop Suffering. Speak Out! Send Bp. Bira Joshua your info to be added to his E-Message, and receive help today. Or send your letter to: 7075 S.W. Fwy. Houston, TX 77074. Be sure to Include:

- First/Last Name, Inmate ID Number
- Facility, City/State/Zip Code



# Forgiveness heals

### STREAM NEW VIDEOS FROM THE UBB EVERY MEEK









od's forgiveness is greater than any sin, but it doesn't shield the sinner

66

To forgive means release the anger or hurt against the who one However, sinned. forgiveness only addresses the sinner's heart, not the repercussions of their sin.

I've noticed that people who live in sin often postpone repentance and change because they want to "enjoy themselves a little longer."

In their subconscious, they might think, "I know I need to change. I will change, but not now... Just a bit longer... I'll make things right with God and the world later."

This reminds me of a thief who always thinks, "This is the last time I'll steal." They promise themselves they'll stop after this one last act.

Yet, they end up caught, facing prison time, and pray to God, vowing to change. God forgives them, but the thief still has to pay their debt to society and serve their time.

God forgives the drunkard and the drug addict, but their bodies will still bear the consequences of their choices.

God forgives adultery, but the child born from that act remains—a reminder of the sin, from facing the consequences of their regardless of what happens in the marriage. God forgives your irresponsible spending, but you're still the one who has to pay the credit card bill.

> God forgives your lies, but rebuilding trust with those you deceived can take a long time—if it's even possible at all.

> That's why our spiritual intelligence tells us that the best course of action is to avoid sin in the first place. If you've already sinned, the wisest choice is to stop while you still can.

> Someone once said, "When you find yourself at the bottom of a hole, the first thing you should do is stop digging."

"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father trespasses." Matthew 6:15

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# Is it worth following the crowd?

you decide to take a different path.

Despite remarkable technological advancements, humanity's moral decline is becoming increasingly evident. Each day, the chaos in the world grows more pronounced. What was once considered wrong is now accepted as right, while what was once deemed right has become outdated. Behaviors that were once shameful are now openly celebrated, and those who refuse to conform often face backlash and cancellation. It seems that challenging the status quo has become a crime. In this climate, doing the right thing may not earn you praise; instead, it could make you a target.

that was just how life worked," she explains. Her family faced financial struggles, which worsened after her father passed away. As a teenager, she entered relationship convenience and moved in with him. "He helped my mom, so I staved with him more out of need and gratitude," she says.

#### True Freedom

What does "right"

even mean today in a world where everyone At work, her friends has their own version of the truth? We live in an environment where lies disguised as half-truths are promoted to soothe our consciences. However, remember that half-truths are still full lies.

It's essential to understand that God embodies the Truth. Lies, on the other hand, have the devil as their father. Therefore, we cannot claim someone is living in the Truth if they don't align with the Word of Truth-God's Word.

At first, a lie may seem to offer freedom, allowing the liar to temporarily escape consequences. It may appear to simplify life. However, one lie often leads to another to protect the first, trapping the person in a situation of their own making. Ultimately, the consequences will catch up, threatening the very thing they tried to shield with the lie.

#### Finding True Freedom

For 33-year-old hairdresser Juliana da Costa, lying felt completely normal. "I grew up in an environment where everyone lied, so I thought encouraged her to bend the truth. "I'd go out to bars and pretend I was single. I got involved with some guys

for gifts. People thought I had it all together, but inside, I felt empty and angry," she shares.

When that relationship ended, she started a new one with her current husband, but the issues persisted. It was during this time that a cousin invited her to church. "I began attending every Sunday and liked what I heard. I even got baptized, but I was still lying and not truly changing. I carried a lot of anger and anxiety and tried to handle everything on my own," she recalls.

Then came a turning point: during a routine check-up, Juliana received a cervical cancer diagnosis. This became a wake-up call. "I realized I was going to church but not genuinely changing. I wasn't being honest with myself or with God," she remembers.

Determined to improve, she made a vow to God and stopped drinking. However, lying continued to shadow her life. "I'd cheat people, buy things without paying, and always felt on edge. I spent seven years in church but remained dishonest and failed to follow through on my

promises," she admits.

One day, a service focused on the Holy Spirit, and her 13-year-old brother's eagerness to seek God's presence struck her hard. "I thought, 'My brother's new to this and is so serious about his faith, while I've been taking it lightly for years," she reflects.

About two years ago, Juliana began to truly engage with the church's teachings. "When the pastor said that if you keep lying and die, you might not be saved, it really hit me," she explains. During a faith campaign, she decided to come clean with God. "I started being honest in every area of my life. I paid back people I owed and asked for forgiveness. Now, I live a clean and honest life," she says.

Happily married with a 4-year-old son, Juliana has experienced incredible changes. "When I stopped lying and started living the truth, God began working in my life. It's been the best decision I've ever made. Living in the truth isn't hard; living a lie was what really weighed me down," she concludes.







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