INTERSAL EWS



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Bishop

Edir Macedo

Authority
of Faith







OPINIONS

IN THIS EDITION

Evil Attacks

Many believers don't realize that two spiritual forces are always at work in this world: the forces of good—God and His angels—and the forces of evil—Satan and his demons. While one brings life and all that is good, the other brings destruction and negativity. These spiritual forces constantly surround us, and if your spiritual guard is down, you can easily fall victim to evil attacks.

Unfortunately, this is the reality for many people today. Without even knowing it, they've become victims of these attacks, leading to chaos and sadness in their lives. The Bible warns us that evil comes to "kill, steal, and destroy" (John 10:10)—to kill joy and hope, steal peace, happiness, and faith, and destroy lives.

Perhaps this describes your situation. Maybe your life has been going from bad to worse, and nothing seems to go right. You may be facing constant failures, struggling with addictions, or dealing with an incurable or undiagnosable illness. Maybe you're bombarded with suicidal thoughts, suffering from witchcraft or generational curses, or experiencing paranormal activities. If any of this sounds familiar, it's a sign that your life may be under an evil attack. But you don't have to stay in this situation—you can fight back and be freed from these forces.

Every Friday at The Universal Church, we hold a special service dedicated to spiritual deliverance. You'll receive powerful prayers for deliverance, along with practical guidance to help you fight against evil and maintain your spiritual freedom. Join us this Friday at a branch near you and take the first step toward

BEATING DEPRESSION

Depression is more than just feeling sad—it's a deep, overwhelming sorrow that affects the very core of a person. It brings feelings of hopelessness and creates a heavy void that can drain the motivation to do even the simplest things. In severe cases, depression can cause people to lose the will to live. It 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.

Every Sunday, The Universal Church opens its doors to those seeking to overcome depression. If you're in need of support, you're invited to visit a nearby branch. By joining a Chain of Prayer—attending prayer meetings for seven consecutive weeks—you'll gain spiritual strength through powerful prayers, practical guidance, and personal counseling.

You are not alone in this battle. Thousands of people around the world have shared their stories, showing that a Chain of Prayer can truly make a difference. You can be the next success story. You can overcome depression!





Bishop Edir Macedo



Authority of Faith

n addition to being an instrument of eternal salvation, faith-whether intelligent, rational, or supernatural—is a powerful tool of spiritual authority. Spiritual forces of evil have dominated people across the world, causing social injustice, broken families, tragedies, and disasters. These are often the visible consequences of unseen evil at work.

However, those who are born of the Spirit of God, though they live in this world, are not subject to these evil forces—unless they fail to use the authority of faith that God has provided them. Just as He gave Moses the staff as a tool of authority to manifest His glorious deeds, today, God has given His people the staff of faith to overcome the "Egypt" of this world.

If this tool of faith is not being used against evil, that's an entirely different issue! But the authority of God has already been bestowed upon His followers. Look at what the Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples:

"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on



serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

So, my friend, when you are truly born of God, you hold the power to neutralize all the forces of the enemy that come against you. Faith is the power and authority of God at your disposal—use it!

Brushing off the pain caused by depression doesn't make it disappear. In Elizabeth's case, it left her feeling anxious and lost every day. Here's her story and how she found a way out.

"For two years, I struggled with depression. During that time, I felt completely empty inside. I tried to fill that emptiness by going out with friends, spending time with family, and even going to parties just to distract myself—but nothing worked. As soon as I got home, the sadness would come flooding

"I cried all day; I couldn't do anything."

As time went on, my depression only got worse. I cried all day and couldn't do anything. The pain in my soul was unbearable. I thought about suicide, but I never had the courage to go through with it. Instead, I asked God to take my life because I couldn't handle the suffering anymore. But I didn't realize that the worst was still ahead.

One day, I had a severe asthma attack and was rushed to the hospital. That's when I hit rock bottom. For three days, doctors ran all kinds of tests, but no one could figure out what was wrong. Finally, one of the tests revealed that I had a serious lung disease. This explained the headaches and shortness of breath I had been experiencing. At that point, I felt completely hopeless.

A friend, knowing what I was

going through, invited me to the Universal Church, a place that would completely change my life. I accepted the invitation and went—and I've been attending ever since.

I started going to deliverance meetings on Fridays and made a chain of prayer. After the third meeting, I was healed from depression. It was completely gone. I gave my life to the Lord Jesus, got baptized in water, and began seeking the Holy Spirit.

Today, I am a new woman. I have the Holy Spirit within me, giving me strength, peace, and joy. I want to live. Now, I can tell others who are suffering the way I did that there is a way out, just like there was for me."

— Elizabeth Panzo

BLESSED WATER

"I was blind."

I wasn't born blind, but one day everything changed. I went to bed like any other night, but when I woke up the next morning and stepped outside, I couldn't see clearly. Panic set in, and I became desperate. My mother took it seriously and rushed me to the hospital.



The doctor told us that a vein in my eye was swollen because my blood pressure was too high. He said I needed a brain scan to figure out what was going on. After the scan, the results came back normal. There was nothing wrong with my brain, and the doctor didn't know what was causing my blindness. While I was in the hospital, a pastor from the Universal Church visited me and prayed for me. He also gave me a bottle of blessed water. At that point, I couldn't see anything—it was just total darkness. The pastor encouraged me to have faith and trust in God. I used the water to wash my face, holding on to that faith. I stayed in the hospital for about three months. But today, I can see everything.



"He had a 4% chance of survival."

In May 2020, Josenilson Vilaca, a 53-year-old security

guard, faced one of the toughest moments of his life. After feeling unwell and being taken to the hospital, he found out he was suffering from respiratory failure due to COVID-19. Josenilson spent 23 days intubated. During that time, he experienced a cardiac arrest, a hemorrhagic stroke, a clot in his left leg, thrombosis, and kidney failure.

His wife, Maria, recalls how she responded to the situation: "There were so many words of fear and death being spoken, but I refused to accept that and started using my faith with the blessed water." Josenilson says, "The doctors told me I was a living miracle because, for someone who came in with only 4% chance of survival, my recovery seemed nearly impossible."

He was discharged 60 days after being extubated and acknowledges that his full recovery was due to his faith: "Even while I was still in the hospital, recovering, I lived by faith and believed that my healing would be complete. Today, I have no lasting effects. Thank God, after this battle, we had victory. They even said I might never walk again, but God restored my health, and I am grateful for what He did. All honor and glory to the Lord Jesus."





I struggled with a B12 deficiency for a long time, and it took a serious toll on my muscles and ability to move. The constant pain left me feeling weak and limited. Simple tasks became exhausting, and I was always uncomfortable. But everything changed when I turned to faith for healing. I prayed, fully believing that God would restore my health. And He did. The pain is gone, and I no longer feel restricted. The chronic pain that once held me back has disappeared, and now I'm able to move freely again.

I'm beyond grateful for this transformation. My health is restored, and I'm living pain-free!



"Sarah Cristina discovered inchildhood that she had only 20% vision in her right eye."

"Sarah Cristina discovered in childhood that she had only 20% vision in her right eye." Sarah Cristina, an 18-year-old student, is a healthy young woman today. However, her health wasn't always so good during childhood. She was diagnosed with chorioretinitis, an inflammation of the eye that causes progressive vision loss. After Sarah's diagnosis, her parents began attending meetings focused on divine healing. They would wash her eyes with blessed water they blessed in the church and declare her healing. When Sarah returned to the doctor, the inflammation had completely healed, and surgery was no longer necessary. "The doctor was amazed by the results, but our God is a God of miracles," her father says. With each passing month, Sarah's vision improved more and more. "I can see perfectly now and don't even need glasses. I see my healing as a true miracle, something I never imagined would happen to me. The doctors had already told me I would go blind. But today, I enjoy a full life, completely transformed in every way," Sarah concludes.



TRUE DELIVERANCE



t's crucial to understand that the Lord Jesus came into this world to destroy the works of the devil. As it is written, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

Many people envision God as being only in Heaven, but that's not the case. While God is indeed in Heaven, He is also here for you! He desires to dismantle the works of the devil in your life. So, what are these works? They include thoughts of suicide, depression, sleepless nights, addiction, panic attacks, sickness, and anything else that aims to destroy your well-being.

The reason Jesus came was to eradicate these evil works from your life, to set you free and offer you an abundant life. However, for Him to accomplish this, you must reject the works of the devil and earnestly seek the Spirit of Life—the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, He removes destruction and fills you with peace, joy, happiness, rest, strength, and everything good! Most importantly, He empowers you to overcome the works of the devil.

If you genuinely want to experience true deliverance—complete freedom—you need to seek the Holy Spirit with all your strength.

May the God of the Bible bless you!

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UNDERSTAND WHAT'S BEHIND "STRANGE" BEHAVIORS AND PROBLEMS THAT SEEM UNSOLVABLE, AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM.

y parents separated when I was young, so my father raised me along with my six sisters and three brothers. Until I turned 16, I went to the Universal Church with my sisters. But since I hadn't really committed to God, I eventually gave in to my desires.

At 17, I left the church. I made new friends and started going to bars, drinking, and using drugs. I had several boyfriends and became rude and rebellious toward my family. After a few relationships, I developed an addiction to masturbation. I felt torn between wanting God and my family back in my life and indulging in the pleasures of the world.

By 19, I had gotten involved in prostitution. I started working as a call girl, chasing after easy money without realizing the serious consequences, like the risk of sexually

transmitted diseases or even death. That's when I contracted a disease and was raped. I genuinely thought I was going to die.

Shortly after that, I moved in with a man I had met while working. He pulled me out of the life of prostitution, and I got pregnant. I thought I'd finally found happiness, but I was wrong. He treated me like a call girl—only now, I was exclusively his. I felt frustrated and began to hate both him and the child I was carrying. After my son was born, I sank into a deep depression. I stopped bathing and sleeping. One of my sisters had to take care of my baby because I was barely functioning.

A few months later, I moved in with my mother and went back to selling my body. Then, something happened that changed my life completely.

I took multiple baths every day because I felt disgusted with myself, and countless nights slipped away without any sleep. One night, as I lay down, my body suddenly went paralyzed. I couldn't move or cry for help, but I was fully aware of what was hap-



pening. It felt like I was being violated by a man, but it wasn't physical—it was spiritual. I cried out on the inside. That was the worst experience of my life.

As soon as I could move again, I asked God for help. The next day, I went to the Universal Church and sought guidance. I was encouraged to attend deliverance services and to start a Chain of Prayer for my total freedom. That day, I made a decision to change my life. I told the devil he would never use my body again. I got baptized, broke free from my old life, and became disgusted with prostitution. I focused on seeking God's presence because I learned that only with the Holy Spirit could I ensure that evil would never return.

When I received the Holy Spirit, I was given a new identity. Since then, I've stayed strong in my faith to keep my soul free. Today, my joy is complete thanks to God's presence. I live in peace with my family, and I've taught my beloved son to walk the path of faith. My past is something I now share to testify to the power of God.

Juliana

OVERCOMING INNER CONFLICTS

"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

(Romans 7:19-20)

In these verses, the Apostle Paul highlights the inner conflicts faced by those who desire to keep the law but feel trapped in sin. Many Christians experience this agony; they understand the truth and know they should abandon lies, immoral behaviors, and material attachments. Yet, they often struggle to find the strength to overcome these sins. This struggle arises because they might know the letter of the law but do not truly know the Lord Jesus. They have never experienced the glorious transformation of the New Birth. As a result, their fleshly desires often prevail over their spiritual aspirations. The Holy Spirit brings about a new birth only when He recognizes a sincere desire in a person's heart. If you are grappling with this issue, we invite you to join the Chain of Prayer every Friday for your total deliverance at a Universal Church near you. It's time to break free from the cycle of sin and embrace the new life that awaits you!

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH SUPPORTING THE MICRONESIAN COMMUNITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE

A few months ago, the Universal Church launched social initiatives to support the Micronesian community in Washington State. The church's outreach includes house visits to offer spiritual guidance and assistance, as well as hospital visits to provide comfort and prayer to the sick. In addition to these personal touchpoints, the church holds regular gatherings for prayer, creating a space for communal worship

and support. A youth group was also established to engage Micronesian young people, offering mentorship and a positive environment for growth. Through these efforts, the Universal Church is making a meaningful impact in helping this community feel connected and supported.

House Visits in Tacoma, Washington

At the Universal Church, we're all about saving souls. Our mission is to reach out to those who are struggling—whether they're sick, desperate, or in need of help, hope, healing, and spiritual guidance. Our pastors travel near and far to bring hope to those who need it most. In Tacoma, Washington, the pastor from the Universal Church regularly visits people's homes to offer prayer.



Youth Power Group

The Youth Power Group was introduced to the young people in Tacoma, Washington, and it quickly started growing. Teens and young adults began





joining the group, participating in volleyball matches, competitive games, prayer sessions, and real, down-to-earth conversations. Every

Sunday, the youth come together in a positive environment filled with sports, entertainment, laughter, and good times.



These families opened their hearts and welcomed him in. Many gathered their entire families, inviting friends and neighbors to join them. Together, they experienced prayers of faith, healing, and witnessed the incredible power of God. During these house visits, people were healed from chronic pain right on the spot. Evil spirits were cast out, lives were changed, and souls were saved. This is the outreach work of the Universal Church—bringing the power of God straight to people's doorsteps.

Back-to-school Blessing



The children in Tacoma Washington received a special Back to school prayer on August 25th for their protection as they go back to school in this new school year. They also received prayer for their studies and for God to help them get good grades in school and help them have a successful year.

Hospital visits - Reaching out to the suffering ones

Pastor Leonardo has been visiting people in hospitals, offering prayers and support to those in need of healing and comfort.





If you or a loved one would like to request a hospital visit and receive spiritual strength, please contact Pastor Leonardo directly to arrange a time.



Weekly Services

Services continue to be held on a weekly basis to help all those in need of a solution to their problems. Services are held every Sunday 10 AM at Holiday Inn Hotel - Tacoma Mall 8402 S. Hosmer St. - Tacoma, WA 98444

Call Pastor Leonardo, and request a prayer or a house/hospital visit (253) 500-2151

middle spre

n our everyday lives, we often encounter challenges and obstacles that can leave us feeling overwhelmed and defeated. While some of these struggles stem from ordinary life events, there can be deeper, more sinister forces at play—what many refer to as "evil attacks." Understanding these attacks and recognizing their signs can be crucial in combating them.

Signs of Evil Attacks

Nothing goes right: There are moments in life when nothing seems to go right. You try, you push, you pray, yet every door remains shut, and every effort feels wasted.

Paranormal activity: When you begin hearing strange voices, seeing shadows, or even waking up with unexplained marks on your body, it may feel like you're trapped in a nightmare. These disturbing experiences are not just random events.

Addictions: Addiction is a heavy burden—one that grips the soul, mind, and body. Many have tried everything to break free, yet they find themselves chained, unable to escape. This relentless struggle is not just a physical or mental battle; it is a spiritual one.

Incurable sickness: When someone suffers from unexplainable infirmities, endless pain with no diagnosis, it can feel like a hopeless prison. Day after day, they struggle, their strength drained, and their hope slipping away.

Curses in general: Curses are real, and their effects can devastate lives for generations. Whether inherited from ancestors or spoken over someone out of envy or malice, curses can bring misfortune, pain, and spiritual bondage.

Suicidal thoughts and attempts: Suicidal thoughts are one of the enemy's greatest weapons to destroy lives, making people believe that their pain is permanent and that there is no hope. But this is a lie from the pit of hell.

Constant failures: When someone faces failure after failure—relationships falling apart, careers crumbling, financial struggles mounting—it can feel like life is nothing but defeat.

DON'T FEAR, SEEK FOR HELP

One of the significant barriers many face in recognizing and addressing these attacks is fear. Some people choose to ignore the signs because they feel embarrassed or ashamed to admit they are struggling. Talking about spiritual battles can seem taboo or may evoke skepticism, leading individuals to suffer in silence. This silence can be even more damaging, allowing the attacks to gain strength. So, what can you do if you believe you're facing evil attacks? First, recognize that you're not alone, and you need help. Second, start attending deliverance sessions with Strong Prayers on Fridays. You will be equipped with the tools of faith that will enable you to will this battle. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:11-12, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age...

This verse reminds us that our battles often go beyond the physical realm and that we must prepare ourselves spiritually. It's time to fight and take your life back. See the back page and find the location near your house.











Evil Attacks

"I wanted to commit suicide; I couldn't see a future for myself..."

carried a lot of hate and resentment inside me. I jumped **I** from one relationship to another, never waiting even a month between them. My parents separated when I was five, and that's when my battle with depression began. As I grew older, my depression deepened. I started to harm myself, drink excessively, and take over-thecounter medications just to escape and sleep. I constantly felt like I was never enough, never valued. I always asked myself, "Why am I not enough for my father?" I just couldn't take it anymore. I wanted to commit suicide; I couldn't see a future for myself, even though I had my children. I thought they would be better off with their dads.

In 2019, I had my son, but I hated his father. Our relationship was filled with fighting and violence. I would tell him, "I'm depressed, and you don't care! What do you expect from me?" One night, he left the house, and I remember getting in my car. There was an accident, but I don't recall the impact or anything else. All I remember is waking up in the back of a patrol car. The police said I had followed him and tried to kill him, but I couldn't remember anything. I ended up in jail for three days.

My love life was shattered. No matter how much I tried to give, it was never enough. Deep down, I knew that I could only find true fulfillment in God, but I avoided

Him because I felt anger towards God for everything I had endured. I didn't want to surrender my life to Him.

Two months after the accident, I started a new relationship and got pregnant with my youngest daughter. I put my all into that relationship, hoping it would finally bring me happiness, but it fell apart due to cheating and fighting, and we ended up divorcing.

My mom had been attending the Universal Church since 2019 after receiving an invitation from an attendant. She started inviting our whole family. I began going to church, but even then, I was still involved with other men and struggling with that lingering







depression and loneliness. I knew I had to make a decision. I was attending church but hadn't fully committed my life to God because I still held onto the hate from my past.

After attending a deliverance service, I realized that demons had been influencing my thoughts, leading to my depression and anxiety and making me want to harm myself and others. I started to hear about the Holy Spirit in church. I didn't understand what the Holy Spirit was, but I learned that He could transform a person's life, and I wanted that change desperately. I began seeking the Holy Spirit daily—speaking to God in the middle of the night, while I was at home, working, or driving.

I remember going to the altar and pouring my heart out to God completely. When I returned to my seat, I felt a peace, a love, and a happiness that was beyond explanation. After I received the Holy Spirit, a significant change occurred within me. I became able to communicate with my family, and all the anxiety, depression, and dark thoughts that had once consumed me disappeared.



I used to think that the person I was with had to make me happy and provide me with peace and security. I believed they could erase all my past troubles. I didn't realize that true happiness comes from God and that nothing

could fill the void inside me until I received the Holy Spirit. He filled that emptiness completely. - Lizbeth Delgado

"I felt trapped in my house for almost 20 years."

e looked at the wall, and there was a whole figure on it. A man walked past my porch, and he looked just like a human. It was terrifying. You can't tell anyone about this because they think you're nuts. I felt trapped in my house for almost 20 years. A lot of people don't understand the spiritual side of things. Honestly, I didn't understand it until it happened to me. I used to see shadows moving around my house. At one point, I felt like someone was choking me. I could feel something crawling on me, like bugs in my hair and on my face and back.

I would wake up with scratches on my arms. One day, my mom and I were at home, and we saw this whole figure standing therehead, shoulders, legs—everything, just like a person. When you looked one way, you could see the figure on the wall, but nothing was there when you turned your head. I felt trapped in my house for almost two decades. Whenever I tried to leave to get in my car, I felt something approaching, and it would just jump on me. I couldn't breathe. I used my nebulizer, but it never worked. About twice a week, we had to call an ambulance to rush me to the emergency room. I tried to explain this to my husband, but he didn't understand. Most people don't get the spiritual side of things, you know? I didn't understand until I experienced it myself.

My daughter and I called various churches, hoping to find someone to come and pray for our house, but no one would help. We looked for deliverance, but nobody even knew what that was. It felt like we were stuck in a dark pit.

Then one day, I was at home, and I saw Bishop Joshua on TV. He had a woman on who talked about some of the same struggles I was facing. That really struck a chord with me. I thought, "This sounds just like what my family and I are going through." So, I called - Carol Johnson and Annete Reid

him, and Bishop Joshua prayed for me. We decided to go to the Universal Church every week, and that's when we finally found help. The house felt brighter and more peaceful inside. We





stopped experiencing strange occurrences; nothing moved or fell anymore. I didn't see those figures on the wall anymore.

After one of the services, I went home, and for the first time, I slept through the night. Yes, I finally slept all night long! After I received my deliverance, I participated in the Daniel Fast. I had a terrible attitude; I didn't like myself, and I didn't like other people. I had been molested when I was five or six years old, and I never dealt with it. But I learned that I had to forgive those who hurt me, as well as others in my life. I needed to let all that go. On the last day of the fast, a wave of peace and joy washed over me. It felt like my entire room filled with nothing but love, and I finally had the assurance that Jesus was with me. I felt fulfilled for the first time in my life. I now know that if I leave this world, I know where I'm going. I used to feel a hole in my heart, but now I don't feel that emptiness anymore.

Please find a Universal Church near you and go on Fridays for deliverance. There are people here who understand you. God is there, and He will fight for you.



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.

THE POWER OF THE WORD:

Carol Vance Unit

HEYTHERE HAVE
YOU WATCHED THE
LATEST VIDEO ON
THE UBB?









UBB
Universal Beyond
Bars

What a day! The UBB was welcomed by the Carol Vance Unit for a powerful service on the impact of words. What does "the word" represent? It's like a seed, planted in their lives, that eventually grew into something bad.



Have you heard the parable of the sower? Check this out: "He told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.'" (Matthew 13:3).

Who is this sower? It's the person in your life who spoke words to you. You are the soil, and their words were the seeds. Those seeds took root, and over time,





they produced bad fruit.

You might have heard words like, "You'll end up just like your father," or "Don't worry, you'll be in juvie soon and graduate to the big house." The worst things were said to you, and what happened? Those negative words took root and eventually became your reality. It's not what you wanted, but it's what happened.

You never planned to miss your kids' birthdays, first holidays, or the passing of a





That a day! The UBB was welcomed by the parent or loved one. But because of those bad seeds, Carol Vance Unit for a powerful service on the your life turned upside down.

There's a powerful part of this parable that explains the importance of the seed and how you need to be prepared to receive it. The seed and soil work together, but the sower must be careful where they plant the seed.

Eventually, the sower finds good soil. As the Bible says, "But other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain—some a hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty." (Matthew 13:8).

You've made mistakes. You have regrets. You're frustrated. You want a change. The good news is, you can become that good soil, and you can receive good seeds—positive words—that will bear good fruit. But first, you need to open yourself up to receive God's word, so He can bring good things into your life.

First things first: prune the soil of your life—your heart and mind. You need to remove and cut away what doesn't belong. Only then can the good nutrients—God's word—enter and take root in you.

Once you've pruned your heart and mind, you'll have room to receive what God has to say to you.



Cut off the bad roots: unforgiveness, anger, guilt, and regret. Get rid of them. How can you expect to bear new, healthy fruit if you're holding on to the same bad roots? It won't work. Your life won't change unless you let go.

ARE YOU DOWN WITH UBB? BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW EPISODES!









Universal Beyond Bars

You are not Alone!

THE POWER OF THE WORD: Carol Vance Unit Continued

Pollowing this powerful message, the men The lesson they took from this passage was to on to "I wish" wouldn't change anything—it was time to stop holding grudges against themselves. Quincy, and UBB volunteer and ex-inmate, Mr. Rodney. Together, they united in faith, praying to release the negativity they had absorbed and to cast away the burdens of their past. After the prayer, the men felt lighter—they could sense the difference within themselves.





After this trans-formative prayer, they were ready to dive into the word of the day: being real. Together, they read about a man named Ananias. Let's take a

closer look at the scripture: "Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. He kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, but brought only part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events." (Acts 5:1-2, 11).

Ananias wasn't real with himself or with God he was merely following along. The men were asked, "How many of you are here now because you followed your 'homeboy'? Because you were influenced by someone who isn't even a friend anymore?"

Many of the men nodded, relating to the message. behind. Holding

Ananias' problem was that he never fully



surrendered his life to Jesus. He thought he could deceive Him by holding back what he had promised to give. Bishop Taylor illustrated this with a simple example. He said, "Imagine I give you my Bible, 'T,' and tell you it's yours. But shortly after, I take it back. Did I really give it to you?"

The men replied, "No," followed by laughter as they realized many of them had done the same thing with God. They'd say, "Lord, here is my life," but then they'd take it back. The Bishop explained, "You didn't give your life to God—you only lent it to Him."

This act of taking back what was offered showed a lack of trust in the Holy Spirit. But this message wasn't about condemnation. The Bishop continued, sharing that God's forgiveness was available to them if they were willing to let go and truly surrender.

He reminded them that even though they were known by a number behind bars, God knew them by name. They had leave their past



That day, the men realized the importance of rebuilding their lives on the foundation of Christ. Forgiveness, they learned, is a choice. And by choosing to forgive, they could receive the forgiveness of God. They prayed for faith to receive a new heart.

Out of the 130 men in attendance, many received that new heart. They decided to surrender their lives, their will, and their grudges in exchange for





the new heart God had for them. They learned to see beyond the number assigned to them in prison and to know that their names were written in the palm of God's hands.

No matter what they had gone through, they knew that if they let go of the pain, their souls would no longer suffer. They would finally be set free.

I leave you with this thought: A heart that forgives is a soul that receives forgiveness. And when your soul receives forgiveness, you receive the gift of God—salvation.



Hey! Listen up UBB is in the House!! Send your letter, or E-Message to Bishop Bira Joshua 7075 SW. FWY. Houston, TX 77074. Be sure to include: Complete first and last name. Inmate number. Facility name, and complete address. City/State and Zip code.

"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:20

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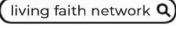




















REAP PROSPERITY TODAY



Growing up, Maria's family endured harsh living conditions. They faced a devastating loss when a fire destroyed nearly everything they owned. "We almost lost everything in that fire," she reveals, sharing not only their struggles but also the painful abuse she suffered during her childhood, which left lasting scars.

the children. My father worked

tirelessly to bring us back from the

homes where she had placed us,"

she recalls.

Life was a constant battle for survival. Her father, shaken by the separation and grappling with health issues like high blood pressure and diabetes, struggled to support the family. Despite these challenges, he cared for Maria, her younger siblings, and their elderly grandmother. "We lived in misery, in filth, in a cramped house filled



with arguments and fights. My father drank and suffered a lot. He hit us, but we weren't to blame for their separation," she reflects, highlighting the complexity of their situation.

Hunger was a constant presence, and the children often relied on the generosity of neighbors for meals. "We managed with what we had and received donated notebooks for school. Some days, our only meal was the lunch provided at school," she shares, emphasizing their resilience. Maria recalls how they would create an improvised wood stove on the floor to cook whenever they had manioc flour and a bouillon cube, showcasing their resourcefulness.

In Search of Change

As time passed, Maria grappled with feelings of emptiness, sadness, and insecurity. "I often cried, wishing I could just disappear," she admits, revealing the burden of her past.

At just 14, determined to change her life, she left home in search of a better future. She moved to a new city to live with two siblings who had also left. "I felt a strong desire to work and provide for myself and my father, hoping to help my family," she explains, reflecting her determination.

However, her youth and lack of experience made it difficult to find employment. "Life was tough, and we lived on the edge without much support," she notes. During a visit back to her family, she met someone who would later become her husband, marking the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

Finding Peace

In 2015, Maria and her husband officially married, and she hoped this union would bring her happiness. However, the relationship proved challenging as she discovered her husband's infidelities. "I went through a really tough time in my marriage, filled with heartache," she recalls.

Their work together blurred the lines between personal and professional life, leading to frequent conflicts and even physical altercations in front of their daughter. "It was a very difficult phase. I felt trapped in a cycle that would never end," she emphasizes, revealing her vulnerability.

During these challenging times, an employee recognized Maria's struggles and introduced her to the Universal Church. "She invited me to join her, showing me that God could truly transform my life," Maria shares, igniting a spark of hope.

As her faith deepened, Maria realized she needed a significant change. poured all my physical strength into overcoming my problems and chose to surrender my life to God, trusting in the Living God I had only heard about," she explains.

By fully dedicating herself to God, she experienced a profound transformation: "I felt a deep sense of freedom that day-relieved, light, and at peace." Later, she was baptized with the Holy Spirit, describing Him as her "greatest treasure and salvation. Without Him, I can do nothing."

Beyond achieving spiritual and financial stability, Maria expresses the beautiful blessings she received: "God honored and blessed us. He gave me His presence, love, and salvation. He filled my life with purpose so that everyone can see how great He is for those who embrace His love."

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