10 CUISES THAT BLOCK INC BLOSHING

LARRY HUCH

10 GUISES THAT BUSING



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10 Curses That Block the Blessing

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my family.

To my children and their spouses:

Anna & Brandin, Luke & Jen, and Katie;
to my "grandsugars," Asher, Judah, and Aviva Shalom;
and as always, to my wife Tiz, my ber sheat.

I can't tell you often enough how very proud I am of all of you. Your constant example of faith, love, and dedication to the Lord and to His people brings honor, joy, and purpose to my life.

I love you all.

Preface

ave you ever wondered, or maybe even said out loud, "Lord, what's wrong? I love You. I'm born again, a Christian, a child of God, but it's not working. Lord, I believe Your Word, but for me and my family, it's just not working." Well, I know exactly how you feel. I have felt the same way, and so has my wife, Tiz. In this book, I'm going to show you the answers to the question, "Lord, what's wrong?" The Lord wants to take you further than just your salvation. You and I will together climb Calvary and touch Jesus and the power of His cross. Are you ready to remove the curse and finally release the blessing?

A few years ago, Pastor Benny Hinn invited me on his television program to share my testimony of being set free from cocaine and heroin. A young man Pastor Benny knew had gone back on drugs and had unfortunately overdosed and died. He told me that he has seen and heard of so many people with a similar story. They got saved, seemed to really love the Lord, but for some reason they fell back into the same old problems. In this young man's case, it was drugs, but it could be anything. The enemy has a list of ways he wants to destroy you. It may be anger, debt, divorce, or illegitimacy. Maybe you or someone you know battles with depression or failure. Sometimes the war is with poverty, and, as we all know, the list goes on and on. So what is the answer? Simple, it's right in front of us. It has already been taken care of, but as I will say over and over again in this book, Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." I explained

to Pastor Benny that the Lord showed me that I had gone to Calvary to receive my salvation, but I didn't stay long enough to receive my deliverance.

Let me stop the story for a moment and talk to you about what the word *deliverance* means and, just as importantly, what it doesn't mean. So many times when we hear the word deliverance or we hear about setting the captive free, we immediately think about somebody who is possessed or has a demon. This is not what I'm discussing in this book. First, you need to understand that a Christian cannot be demon possessed. If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have asked the Lord and His Holy Spirit to come into your heart and life. No demon can live in the same house with Jesus Christ. So when I'm teaching you about deliverance, I'm assuming that you are a child of God, that you are born again, and so therefore you cannot be demon possessed. Although a spirit or a demon cannot possess your life, it is very possible that it might be oppressing certain areas of your life.

Then [the angel] said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." (Daniel 10:12–13)

God had heard Daniel's prayer and was ready to answer, but a spirit was blocking that blessing from coming in. The enemy may be blocking the blessing that Jesus has already paid for. Through this book you will find out how to finally

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get your breakthrough to move from poverty to prosperity, from sickness to health, from the battlefield to the victory. All we need to do is *remove the curse and release the blessing*.

When I pray for Christians to break the curses that are in their lives, there is no screaming, no yelling, no demonic manifestations at all. Many times, there is a very real and very positive physical sensation—a release of joy, peace, and happiness. I've had people tell me, "The anger is gone. I felt it leave." They feel God's hand touch them. It's not easy to explain, but they know that "the Son has set them free indeed." We have all seen people being prayed for, and then all kinds of dramatic manifestations take place. Most of that kind of thing is just for show.

Back in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Tiz and I had just opened up our first church. In fact, it was our opening weekend. After our first service, I was out front talking with some new people when Tiz walked up to me with a worried look on her face. "You'd better come in the back," she said. I went to a room in the back of our little church and saw about seven or eight people standing in a circle, yelling and shouting as they prayed. Then I looked down and saw they had a teenage girl lying on the floor, coughing into a paper bag. I stopped this nonsense and asked, "What in the world are you people doing?" "We're casting a demon out," they said. "Well, what's with the paper bag?" I asked. Now get this. They said, "It's to catch the demon in when it comes up." I told them, "If the devil you're trying to cast out is so little it can't get out of a paper bag, leave him in there—he's not big enough to do any damage!" As we discovered, there was nothing wrong with this girl. These kind of theatrics do a lot of damage to God's

truth that Jesus has come to set the captive free. Remember, it's not the show that sets us free, it's the truth we know!

Getting back to being on Pastor Benny Hinn's program, as I began to teach on breaking family curses, Pastor Benny said to the director, "Stop the taping. Let's start again and do a whole week on this teaching." When we had finished a week's worth of programs, Benny said, "Larry, I've never heard this kind of revelation before. Let's bring Tiz up and do another week." I shared how Jesus didn't just come to forgive us of our sins, but He came to give "life and that life more abundantly"!

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(John 10:10)

We have all known that, through the death of Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Jesus died for us so we could be forgiven and once again have a relationship, through Him, with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God of Israel is now our God too. I say this all the time: If all Jesus did was die to forgive our sins, we couldn't praise Him enough, serve Him enough, or love Him enough. But Jesus did much more than simply forgive us of our sins and leave us alone.

First, Jesus not only died, but He died on the cross. He didn't just take our sins, but He took every curse that our sins and our family sins have brought on us. "Cursed is He who hangs on a tree."

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"). (Galatians 3:13)

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His body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God. (Deuteronomy 21:23)

In crucifixion, it usually took several days for the victim to die. It's not the nails that kill him. It's not the loss of blood. The person would actually slowly suffocate. That's why the soldiers were coming to break Jesus' legs. According to Jewish teaching, anyone who died on a cross had a curse on him. They had to get him off by the Sabbath or the curse would transfer onto all the people. This is why Jesus didn't just die for us, but He took our curses because "cursed is he who hangs on a tree."

The second thing we need to realize is that we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18–19)

The Bible says that "My people are destroyed for one reason: by their lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Jesus did not shed His blood just on Calvary, but seven times, so we could be reconnected to the covenant promises of God. The crucifixion and the blood of Jesus have made our redemption complete. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." And Revelations 12:11 says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

When the Benny Hinn programs aired, many thousands of people called or wrote to say that, as Christians, they finally found out what was wrong—they had to remove the curse before they could release the blessing. When Benny Hinn and I went to Oral Roberts University and did a worldwide service to set the captives free, Benny said to me, "Larry, you need to write a book and teach this to the world." That became the seed for my book, *Free at Last*. Then he said something that was going to start me on a journey that would change my life and my ministry: "Larry, God has given you the same anointing and spirit as Derek Prince." I didn't know who Derek Prince was, but by God's divine appointment, I was about to find out.

A couple of weeks later, Tiz and I were having dinner with Oral and Evelyn Roberts. At one point Oral said to me, "Larry, I've been listening to your teachings on breaking curses that block the Lord's blessing from our lives. This is a missing revelation in the body of Christ." He then told Tiz and me that at first God had called him to the deliverance ministry, but it then moved into the healing ministry. He then said something that deeply touched my heart. He said, "I want to pray for you, for I believe the Lord is giving you my mantle of deliverance." Wow! Then listen to this. He said, "Larry, God is sending you to bring freedom to His people, just like He did with Derek Prince."

Just a short time later, we invited a couple from Colombia, South America, to speak at our conference at New Beginnings. I had never met them before. The first night of the conference, while we were all fellowshipping, the pastor's wife said to me, "Pastor Larry, I don't know why the Lord wants me to tell you this, but He said that He has given you the gift

of deliverance, and a gift to teach it, that will change people's lives all over the world." The next day we were all at lunch and the pastor said to me, "Last night I had a dream. I don't know what it means, but the Lord told me to tell it to you." He then said that he was sitting on a platform, and sitting in the seat next to him was Derek Prince. As they sat there, they saw a huge crowd of people coming to thank Derek for their deliverance, but then there was a noise behind them and they saw a huge mass of people coming toward them. "They were coming to be delivered. When Derek saw them coming, he started to stand to minister to them. But as he did, God put His hand on Derek's shoulder and said, 'Stay seated and rest. I've raised up another and he will teach them my freedom."

Another pastor who was with us asked me if I knew Derek Prince. I said that I didn't know much about him at all. He said, "Well, I think it's like when Reinhard Bonnke was led to have Brother [George] Jeffreys lay hands on him. You have to find Derek Prince."

So we began to try to track down Brother Prince, and we found out that he was living in Jerusalem, Israel. When I found this out I knew it had to be the Lord, because a very big part of seeing God's people set free and then move into all the blessings that Jesus has paid for is having a correct knowledge of God's Word by getting back to our Jewish roots. I'm going to write a book very soon on the subject of Jesus, our Jewish Messiah. I've discovered that we are missing many of God's great truths because we are looking at His Word from an Athens perspective, instead of from Jerusalem.

We called Brother Prince, in Israel, to see if it was possible to meet with him. At first we were told no; it wasn't possible. We were to find out that he was a very private person,

but on top of that, we discovered that he was very ill with cancer. One of his assistants asked why we wanted to see him. After we told the story that led us to Brother Prince, it got very quiet on the phone, and then he said, "Stay by the telephone. I'll call you right back." In just a short time, my phone rang. "When can you get here?" I was asked. "If you're going to meet with Derek, you'd better get here soon. He's very sick." A few days later, we landed in Tel Aviv. The very next morning we were taken to Derek's home, but when we arrived we were told some very bad news. One of his caretakers said, "Pastor Larry, I'm so sorry, but Derek is so sick today that he can't even get out of bed." I told them we would leave, that we didn't want to disturb him. "No, he's waiting for you."

What happened next was one of the most spiritually powerful days of my life. We walked into Derek's tiny bedroom, where he was propped up in a hospital bed. The room was just barely big enough for three or four of us to be in there with him. As we shook hands for the first time, he asked me to tell him my story. After I shared with this great man of God what the Lord had been teaching me, and the words I had received from Benny Hinn, Oral Roberts, and others, he said, "Let's begin to worship the Lord. I need to hear from God." I wish you could have been in that tiny room there with me. There he was, sick in bed, propped up, and he lifted his hands and led us in singing praises unto God. The presence of God was supernatural. You could feel the Lord's Spirit fill the room. I have never felt anything quite like it. I was immediately reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

After a few minutes of worship, Derek said, "I have a word from the Lord." I knelt by the side of his bed and he put his hand on my head and began to prophesy. At first, his voice was so weak that I couldn't hear what he was saying, but I could feel his hand trembling on my head. But then, all of a sudden, the trembling stopped. His hand was no longer shaking, and his voice got very strong as he gave me a prophecy from the Lord. "My son, I am sending you to the nations and continents of the world, says the Lord. You will be an arrow shot from the bow of God's hand, and you will destroy the enemies of my people." Then his voice got weak again and his hand began to shake. I don't have the words to describe the presence of God I felt on me and we all felt in that tiny room in Jerusalem.

A very good friend of mine, Joseph Shulam, who had known Derek for many years, was there with me that day. He is a Jewish believer who has a congregation there in Jerusalem and is known and respected worldwide. When Derek finished praying for me, Joseph knelt by his bedside and, with tears in his eyes, asked Derek for prayer also. When we left Derek's home, Joseph asked me, "Do you know what the Torah portion for Israel is today? It's the story of Jacob laying his hands on Ephraim and Manasseh."

Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!" "And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh. Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am

dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. (Genesis 48:8–9, 20–22)

This is exactly what I felt happened to me that day: an impartation of an anointing to set the captives free. Through a great man of God, a great anointing was released on my life, just as Jacob laid hands of Ephraim and Manasseh. That's why you're reading this book. The anointing God has given me will set you free.

Later, Joseph wrote me this letter:

Shalom, Larry,

Yesterday I was invited to visit Derek Prince at his home. He wanted a few leaders from Israel to come to him. The meeting was wonderful and we had a fine discussion.

I believe the Lord will anoint you [Larry] with such a new and powerful teaching ministry and also with great love for Israel and the Jewish people just like Derek had had. It will be nothing like the love you have now for Israel and the Jewish people; it will be something supernatural and beyond understanding. It will be an international ministry with influence on many thousands of people around the world. This, in my opinion, will be the fourth wave of the Holy Spirit that will wash the world and prepare the road for the soon return of the Messiah to Zion.

—Joseph Shulam

One of the men with us that day, Jimmy McClintock, recorded Derek's prophesying over me on video. I've showed it to only a few people; it's too personal. But that day, my life was changed forever. My prayer today is that through

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this book, God would use me as an arrow, shot from the bow in His hand, to destroy the enemy who has been trying to destroy you! Let's go together now and remove the curse and release the blessing!

—Larry Huch

Introduction By Sid Roth

od has delivered Larry Huch from a life of rage and unmanageable drug addiction through a revealing truth about breaking family curses that is transforming the lives of thousands throughout the world. Larry's first book, Free at Last, tells his complete testimony.

An Unlikely Beginning for a Man of God

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Larry experienced from an early age the pressure and pain of inner-city life. Generations of anger, violence, and addiction caught him in their vicious cycles. Anger and violence had plagued his family for generations.

The pain and despair of his life were overwhelming forces, and by the time he was nine years old, Larry had put his childhood behind him and become a street-smart, dangerous young man.

Larry won a football scholarship to college, and left his old neighborhood behind. As an athlete in college, his fearless and aggressive playing made him a star at football. It finally seemed that his life was taking a turn for the better.

He should have felt fulfilled but he didn't. He began to feel empty and started to experiment with drugs. Soon the drug life was consuming him full-time.

Introduction Life as a Drug Dealer

Larry eventually began selling drugs in order to finance his personal habit. That decision rapidly propelled him into the secret and volatile world of drug lords that few people have experienced firsthand. He finally ended up living in Medelin, Colombia, where he was buying and selling drugs full-time.

Larry profited from his drug dealing and lived a luxurious life in a Colombian villa. He kept his cash stashed in boxes in his house along with large amounts of cocaine and heroin. Ultimately he became unable to resist using these drugs himself and found himself constantly getting high.

A Near Fatal Drug Overdose

One day, while alone in his house, he accidentally overdosed on cocaine and was too intoxicated to realize what he had done. As his body began to shut down and die, Larry began to lose consciousness, yet he was acutely aware of three things: (1) he was dying, (2) he didn't want to die, and (3) somewhere there was a God who could help him.

Today, Larry recalls this experience saying, "Before my overdose, I would have thought I was an atheist. But as I lay dying, I just couldn't help calling out to God from the depths of my soul, and I said, 'God, please don't let me die without finding happiness.' In that moment, I just knew I would live, and that I had been saved by the grace of this unknown God."

Search for God

Although Larry knew for certain that God had delivered him from death, he knew nothing about God. He started trying to find Him through taking various drugs and

through all sorts of exotic religions, but a true relationship with Father God eluded him.

He moved to a farm in a rural area of Missouri after his business in Columbia fell apart and searched for an authentic experience of God, while supporting himself by selling a small amount of drugs.

Larry Finds God

After an episode in which Larry became so enraged that he nearly killed his neighbor, and the law enforcement was after him for drug dealing, he decided to flee to Flagstaff, Arizona.

A friend invited Larry to visit his church, and he showed up searching for the power of God. He was a barefoot, bearded man, with waist-length dirty hair, who wore long feather earrings; he was very gaunt looking, with only a poncho over his bare chest and needle tracks visibly up and down his arms. When he heard the testimony of Jesus, something began to move in Larry. For the first time he knew he was hearing the truth about God. His heart was suddenly filled with the knowledge that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, who had saved his life in South America.

When the pastor invited people to know Jesus as their Savior, Larry found himself kneeling at the altar, although he didn't even realize he had gone forward! As Larry prayed to God for only the second time, a tremendous weight rolled off him. He felt years of depravity and loneliness drop away.

Becoming an Ex-Addict

Later, Larry realized that he no longer had a desire to use drugs. He said, "I felt so profoundly happy and so

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complete. I was truly high on Jesus and I realized that I no longer needed or wanted drugs."

Larry waited and waited for the cravings to come back, but they never did. He had been completely and totally set free. That was over twenty-nine years ago, and today, Larry says, "Drug addicts go through treatment to get clean, and they are taught to think of themselves as recovering addicts. I am not a 'recovering addict.' I am an ex-addict. By the power of God, I became a new person, completely set free from drugs."

Called to God's Service

Larry committed his life to the Lord's service and soon became a pastor. He was now married and starting a family, and while he had won the respect of many, he was losing respect for himself because of a dark and depressing secret that he never shared.

Larry Understands Generational Curses

Even though God had delivered Larry completely from drug addiction, he had not been delivered from the uncontrollable outbursts of anger that had plagued his life. Larry had tried everything he knew, but he could do nothing to put these terrible moments of rage behind him.

These outbursts would come upon him unexpectedly, and when they did, he said and did terrible things to his wife and even terrified his children. After violent episodes, he would apologize in tears and beg his wife to forgive him.

Though he would promise to never lose his temper again, sooner or later his control would slip. During one extreme outburst he understood that he had become just like the gen-

erations before him, angry and violent. Though he had vowed never to do those things, he had become the very thing that he most hated.

In a moment of revelation he knew that he was confronting a generational pattern, acting out his anger just as generations of his family had done before him. He went to the Bible and began a study of generational curses that changed his life.

Step One to Removing the Curse and Releasing the Blessing

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. —Proverbs 18:21

Chapter 1 The Creative Power of the Tongue Blessings or Curses

he number one way a curse can come on your life and block your blessings is in the words you speak to yourself and others. Many times we curse ourselves by the words we speak. We have all heard teachings on prosperity and the blessings of God. I have to admit that when I first got saved, I used to make fun of those who taught about the power we each have through the words we speak by saying things like, "Name it and claim it," "blab it and grab it." But as I began to study the Word of God, I came to realize that each and every one of us has the power of life or death, blessings or curses, in the words we say and the words that we allow others to say about us, our lives, our children, our marriages, our finances, and everything else. Words can release the promises of God, and words can block the promises of God. There is a creative force behind words that are spoken.

One of the reasons many people—I used to be one of them—have a problem understanding the power of the words we speak is because they misunderstand the principle behind this teaching. They think the purpose is only to confess some kind of material blessing into our lives. I confess a new car, a new house, a better job, etc. It might seem a little selfish. However, let me say that although confession has

been mocked by so many and misused by so many others, it still is true. Every one of us is going to confess something today. Why not confess the good things in life? God's desire is for us to reap blessing and prosperity, and much of the power to claim it is in what you confess. Unfortunately, the power of our tongues is not limited to speaking positive words and seeing positive things happen. When we speak negative words, we then see negative things happen.

Life and Death in the Tongue

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit" (Proverbs 18:21). We would do well to listen to what God is saying to us in this Scripture. Our words hold the power of life and death according to this verse. We should not dismiss this warning because it comes from the mouth of God Himself!

According to the Evidence of Your Faith

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

(Matthew 9:27-29)

When two blind men asked Jesus for a miracle of healing, Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29 kJV).

Many of God's children miss the truth of this Scripture, and it not only stops God's blessing from coming into their

The Creative Power of the Tongue

lives, their families, and their finances, but they actually bring a curse upon themselves. Notice that Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you." He didn't say, "According to your positive faith, I will bring a blessing on you, but if you have negative faith, I'll just ignore it." No—positive faith releases blessings; negative faith releases curses.

How are your faith and your words connected to removing the curse and releasing the blessing? Take a look at Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

This is a Scripture that almost every child of God has heard many, many times. I want to highlight a couple of very important things that God is teaching here. We'll start at the end of the verse and work our way back to the beginning. "Now faith is

What things are you hoping for right now?

the substance of **things hoped for**." Let me ask you a question: what things are you hoping for *right now*? And don't give the typical spiritual response you think you should give because you love God. We all want world peace, to see people come to God and love one another, etc. Every good person wants these things. But what are *you* hoping for personally? For yourself, your family, and your future? What are *your* personal wants, *your* personal needs, *your* personal dreams, beyond just what you need?

Do you need a healing in your body? Last month in our church in Dallas, Texas, we saw God touch five different ladies who were told they had cancer. They now have each had reports that their cancer is totally gone! Do you need to see loved ones saved, to receive Jesus as their Lord and

Savior? Maybe they have fallen away and, like the Prodigal Son, they need to come to their senses and come back to their Father's house. I told the church here in Dallas, "Let's call in our loved ones to be saved in the next sixty days." The first week we saw over ninety people receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I want you to remember that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34 kJV)—your family is next. Do you need a financial breakthrough or a miraculous debt cancellation? Every week we are seeing God's people break through in every area concerning their finances. People are becoming the first in the history of their family to buy their own homes. We are seeing incredible debt cancellation, new jobs, and new businesses.

It's your turn. What are you *hoping* for? What are you fully expecting God to do? When God says that our faith is the substance of what we hope for, what we are expecting, He's giving us an open invitation with no limits and no boundaries.

Here's a phenomenal example of how the power of your words can break curses and release blessings. Recently we had a great celebration here at New Beginnings in Dallas. A couple in our church had a beautiful baby girl. Now that is reason enough to celebrate God's goodness. But the story behind the birth made the celebration even sweeter. These new parents came to Dallas from Africa via London, England. When they came to me for prayer, they told me they had been trying to have a baby for over eleven years. The doctors hadn't given them much hope at all. To add to the stress, because of his position in his family and his native country, a lot of pressure was put on the man to have a child. If his wife couldn't give him one, his family felt that he should

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find another wife who could. They came to me, and I soon realized that there was a curse put on them by the negative words spoken by friends and family, near and far. I prayed with them and broke the power of negative words that was spoken over them and removed the curse that was blocking the blessing. The *next week* she conceived, and nine months later it was obvious that the blessing had been released! It reminds me of that Scripture in Daniel where the prayer was given and God heard the prayer, but there was a spirit blocking that blessing from coming. I want you to realize the power of the words you speak and the words you allow others to speak over you. It's time to break the curse and release the blessing. What are you hoping for?

In every one of these cases, people have spoken negative words about themselves or others have spoken negative words, and I want you to remember that you need to break the curse of words spoken over your life.

Let's look at the word *hope*. We use this word all the time. I *hope* I get that raise. I *hope* I get that new job. I *hope* the doctor's test comes back positive. When we use the word *hope*, we're giving ourselves a fifty/fifty chance. "Maybe it will happen, maybe it won't." This is not the same thought that God intends in the phrase "things hoped for." Hope here means something I fully expect. Hope is not "maybe it will happen," but it is something I fully expect to happen. "According to my earnest expectation and my hope" (Philippians 1:20 kJV).

Moving back through Hebrews 11:1, we are going to take one more step. "Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for." Substance means "property, confidence, assurance, giving substance to."

In other words, *substance* means the assurance, the title deed, to everything you're hoping for, for everything you're fully expecting. And the key that locks up or unlocks all the things you are hoping for is *your faith*.

Now look at the Scripture from front to back. Your faith is the substance (the title deed, the ownership, the platform, the condition) to everything you hope for and are *fully expecting!* Our faith is the key. The key to what? The last part of Hebrews 11:1 says, "the evidence of things not seen." Our faith is the proof or evidence of the things that we can't see yet.

Your faith is the key to everything you hope for!

When the two blind men came to Jesus and asked Him for a healing, He responded with a question: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matthew 9:28). Their reply, of course, was "Yes, Lord" (verse 28). I sometimes see God's children

respond the same way. "Pastor Larry, I don't know why God hasn't answered my prayers. I've come to Him. I've asked Him. I believe Him." But He says to us, "Let's play back the *evidence* of your faith." It's amazing how negative we can be at times.

Let me give you a little assignment to bring this truth home to you. Next Sunday, after you go to church, go out to a restaurant somewhere in your hometown and listen to the conversations of people around you. If it's at a time that most churches are getting out, there's a good chance many of these people just came from a church of some kind. They just left hearing the "good news," singing songs like "What a Mighty God We Serve," or maybe "Majesty, Worship His Majesty," or perhaps, "Our God Reigns." We leave the place

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where we came to worship almighty God saying that there is nothing impossible with God, and a short time later we are confessing over lunch that the devil is going to win over our marriage and over our home or that he'll defeat us in our family, finances, and future. Stop it! Here is life and death, in the power of the tongue. It's time to realize the negativity we speak upon our lives. It's time to change. It's time to remove the curse and release the blessing.

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

(John 21:15-17)

Have you ever wondered why Jesus made Peter confess three times that he loved Him? Words bring blessing, and words bring curses. Peter had to confess that he loved Jesus three times to erase the curse that he put on himself by denying Jesus three times. If you look at this teaching, the first thing that Jesus said was, "Peter, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord." And Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." The first place that Peter denied Jesus was to a little girl. Every place that Peter brought a curse on himself by words of denial, Jesus reversed the curse with Peter's words of love and acceptance.

Have you spoken negative words about your finances, about your children, about your marriage? Every negative word that you have said, you need to cancel that curse and release the blessing by speaking positive words. "I'll never get a raise." You need to cancel that curse and say, "Everything that I put my hands to, God will cause it to prosper." Maybe you've said in times of anger, "My kids are never going to straighten up." You need to cancel that curse and release the blessing on your children and say, along with God, "As for me

You can release blessing by speaking positive words.

and my family, we shall all be saved." (See Acts 16:31.) Whatever negative words you have said, whatever negative words have been spoken against you, you need to cancel the curse of negative words by speaking the promise of God's positive words.

My life changed with one word from God. As I said at the beginning of this chapter, I was raised against this positive confession stuff from the moment I got saved. Not only were we against it, we made fun of it. But one day, in a little motel room in a tiny town in New Mexico, my life and my understanding of God's Word and His love were changed forever. I was preaching a revival for a church in that town, and I was waiting for the pastor to pick me up. I had a little extra time, so I opened my Bible and began to read. I wasn't looking for anything in particular; I just wanted to read God's Word. I opened my Bible to Numbers 14, and what God showed me that night truly put me on the *first step* to understanding how to remove the curse and release the blessing.

How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints

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which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, "As I live," says the LORD, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you."

(Numbers 14:27–28)

I'm sure you know the story of the life of Moses—how God sent him to set the children of Israel free and they journeved to the Promised Land. But allow me to briefly retell it so you can see what God showed me. Israel was in slavery to Egypt for hundreds of years until God sent Moses to set His people free. Pharaoh released them after God demonstrated His power through ten miracles. The Israelites were not only set free, but they also left with the "wealth of the wicked." (See Proverbs 13:22.) The Eygptians' gold and silver. God said, "I'll lead you to a Promised Land that flows with milk and honey." He didn't say there would be no challenges along the way. He just said, "I'll get you there. Trust Me." When they left, everyone was dancing and singing, "God is good." Then they ran into a few challenges. The Red Sea. Pharaoh's army coming after them. The desert. No water. No food. Every time they faced a problem, they forgot God's promise to get them to the Promised Land. And they cried out, "We're going to die! Our problem is bigger than God's promise."

Sound familiar? "I know God said, but the Red Sea...." God parted it. "I know God said, but Pharaoh's army...." God destroyed them. "I know God said, but the desert...." God brought water out of a rock, and food fell every day from heaven. The Israelites saw God's power again and again. But they had to learn to grow up and trust God's promises. They finally got to the Promised Land, just as God said. But when they got there, there were giants in the land. Remember, when God is taking you to your personal promised land, He

never promised there wouldn't be Goliaths, but He is still a giant killer, if you'll have the faith of David.

So if you watch what happened next, you'll see God didn't change His mind, but they actually cursed themselves. Twelve men went to spy out the land. When they came back, ten of the spies brought back a negative report. They questioned the promise that God gave them. "But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we'" (Numbers 13:31). After all that God had done for them, they were still looking at their own strength and not the promises of God. They essentially said, "We are nothing. They are stronger than we are."

Keep your eyes on God's promises, not the size of your problems. When we see that, we wonder, *How* could they say that after all God had done for them? But I want to ask you, Do you say the same thing? Cancer cannot defeat you, divorce cannot defeat you, drugs cannot defeat you, and poverty cannot defeat you. You

know why? Because greater is He who is in you than the giant trying to keep you out of your promised land! "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Look at what else they said in Numbers 13:33: "There we saw the giants...and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight" (emphasis added). The reason that the giants had more power is that the ten spies looked at the size of their problem, instead of looking at the size of their promise. This is a common trick of the enemy. They cursed themselves and their children's destiny by confessing the problems instead of the promise. Remember, life

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and death are in the power of words. Their words not only killed their destiny, but they also cancelled their promise and negated the promises of God.

Remember when Peter and the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water?

And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:26–31)

At first the disciples were afraid. But Peter by faith said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Jesus simply said, "Come." He didn't explain how the miracle was going to happen. He just said, "Come. Trust Me. Step out by faith." I'm sure the other disciples thought, "Peter, that old big-mouth, got himself in trouble again. He should have stayed in the boat. Because he got out, he sank." But the lesson is not to stay in the boat, but to walk on water by faith. Peter did walk on water, but when he took his eyes off Jesus and put them on the storm, when he looked at the problem and not the promise, he began to sink. But the moment he cried out to Jesus again, he was once again a walking

miracle. It's time for you to stop being a boat rider and start being a water walker! Quit looking at the signs of the giant. Quit talking about how big the problem is. Quit confessing that the storms and the winds and the waves are bigger than the power of Jesus. It's time for you to remove the curse and release the blessing from the words that you say.

If He'll do it for Peter, He'll do it for you. If He'll do it for Joshua and Caleb, He'll do it for you. Look at the curse those ten spies spoke over themselves. Remember God said He'd take them to the Promised Land, but every step of the way, when things got a little rough, they stopped believing in God's power in His promises and confessed, "We're going to die." And God answered them by the confessions of their tongues.

And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you."

(Numbers 14:26–28, emphasis added)

The King James Version says, "As truly as I live." This is the word God spoke into my spirit that has truly changed my life, and I want to release this power into your life right now. Examine this closely: "As truly as I live,…that which you have spoken, so shall I do" (kJv). There is no truer statement in the entire world than God lives. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He always has been, and He always will be. I want you to realize the importance of what God is teaching us here: "As true as it is that I am alive, it's just as true that what you have spoken, you will get.

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- I promised you I would deliver you from Egypt. I did.
- I promised you I would destroy your enemies. I did.
- I promised you I would bring you water. I did.
- I promised you I would bring you food. I did.
- I promised you I would bring you to the Promised Land. I did.

"But every time you faced a problem, you murmured and made confessions against Me, My promises, and My Word. Now, according to your faith, according to the life and death in the power of your tongue, so be it unto you. Just as truly as I am alive, whatever you have said, I've heard. So be it."

This is how we release curses that block the blessings in our lives.

Ten spies came out and said, "We're going to die." God said, "So be it." Two spies—Joshua and Caleb—said, "We can take the land." God said, "So be it." I love that God is no respecter of persons. When He gave

I promised you I would bring you to the Promised Land. I did.

the promise to take the Israelites to a land that flows with milk and honey, He didn't then whisper to the angels, "I really only meant Joshua and Caleb." No, it was for all of them, but they talked themselves out of the promises of God. For Joshua and Caleb, their tongues and faith brought life to themselves and their families. Their tongues released a blessing. Unfortunately, even though the other ten spies had the same promises as Joshua and Caleb, their faith and their tongues literally brought death. Remember there's life and death—not just life—in the power of our tongues.

It's time to bring blessings to your life, your family, and your future.

A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence. He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (Proverbs 13:2–3)

Isn't it time for you to start dining on the good fruit? Joy, peace, health, and prosperity. Now we can understand why God says to put a guard on our mouths. I've noticed that people are simply creatures of habit. Unfortunately, most people—even children of God—have gotten into the habit of being negative instead of the habit of being positive.

Overcoming the Habit of Negativity

About eight years ago, God spoke to my spirit while I was in Israel and told me He was going to show me how to pray and understand His Word in a way that was new to me. To read it as a Jewish Jesus would teach it. To read it as it came from Jerusalem, not Athens. I began to study teachings by Jewish scholars, and I discovered that there are volumes written about the power of the tongue and its creative force. "Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man" (Matthew 15:10–11, emphasis added). We must learn to break the habit of negative speaking, which creates curses in our lives and families.

The rabbis teach that God has given us a tremendous tool in doing this each Sabbath. We are forbidden to talk about anything negative. You can't talk about your bills; you can only talk about Jehovah Jirah, your Provider. You can't talk about what you lost; you can only talk about Jehovah Shammah, the Lord of restoration. You can't talk about any of your problems; you can only talk about Jehovah Nissi, the Lord your banner, your victory, and your protector. God is trying

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to get us to break the habit of being negative and get into the habit of speaking positively.

My wife, Tiz, and I live this way. Every day! It's not just a doctrine with us; it's a way of life. Look at what God says in Revelation 12:10–11:

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." (Revelation 12:10–11)

The way to overcome the enemy is by the seven places that Jesus shed His blood*, but it is also by the word of your testimony. Your heavenly Father is not the "Great I Was." Nor is He the "Great I Will Be," but He is the Great I Am. We need to remember that God inhabits the praises of His people. The enemy inhabits the complaining of God's people. The enemy is waiting to steal or block God's blessing on you, but you can defeat him by the words of your testimony.

Many of you have cursed yourselves, your marriages, your children, or your finances because of the words you have spoken. You didn't mean to. You didn't know any better. I like to say it this way: If you're saying it, you're praying it. Quit praying for bad luck. You're not someone who is destined to have "bad luck." There is no such thing as bad luck for the child of God. In this world there are simply blessings

 $^{^*}$ The seven places that Jesus shed His blood are covered extensively in my book $Free\ at\ Last.$

and curses, life and death. Let's you and I stop right now and cancel every negative word we have ever spoken.

I want you to begin to prophesy over yourself and your family the blessings of God and stop prophesying the curses.

Prophesy over yourself the things Jesus has paid for with His blood.

According to the words we speak. Start speaking the promises of God. Quit looking at the giants. Quit looking at the wind and the storms and the waves. Stop speaking about the problems and start confessing the promises. Prophesy over yourself, your finances, your family, and your future

the very things Jesus Christ has paid for with His blood.

Pray this with me:

Father, I come before You right now, in Jesus' name, and declare that every curse that has come on me and my family and my finances, in every way, by the words that I have spoken, is broken and reversed in Jesus' name from this moment on. And, Father, I prophesy that my family and I will serve God. That prosperity is mine. Salvation is mine. Deliverance is mine. Healing is mine. I claim it and I speak it into existence in Jesus' name.

Now take a moment to pray over specific areas in your life and family that God is revealing to you. Your marriage, your children, your health, your finances—whatever areas God has revealed to your spirit where your words have blocked the blessing of God.

Now claim this with me: Today God has removed the curse and released the blessing!