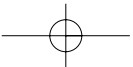
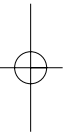
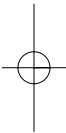




IT'S NOT OVER

By Dr Cecil Stewart OBE





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This was the message given to me after I received bad news about my health. I was in my early twenties and suffering from pain in my left lung, which turned out to be tuberculosis. In those days this was a very serious and contagious disease. I was told I would have to go to the sanatorium for at least six months. In addition to this I was experiencing deep depression and a sense of hopelessness. This was totally opposite to what I had known. All my life I had enjoyed excellent health, energy, joy and blessing in business, which enabled me to travel and encourage people to rise above their limitations and reach their potential. On top of all this my fiancée, Evelyn, a nurse who I was hoping to

marry had just been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the glands. So I am sure you can see and imagine how it looked like my life was over. Prior to my illness I was in my showroom in Adelaide Street daily and enjoyed the car business and meeting people. Some evenings I would speak at meetings and share inspirations about living life to the full and fulfilling the purpose God had given. Now all this seemed to be far away, as I lay in bed suffering pain in my lung and overwhelmed with depression, unable to go to work or meet people. Then I was visited by a friend from England who told me your life is not over, you are coming into a new chapter in your life and you will share good news with many people in different nations. Space and time does not permit me to share all the detail in this short article, but over the coming months I had a change of attitude and began to thank God even before I felt better. This was the start of a new chapter in my life, which led to a complete recovery within a few months and then the x-rays showed that the scars were still there on my lung but the disease was no longer active.

What I'm about to share with you is relevant to your life, and if taken seriously and applied, can bring the dawning of a whole new day, that will bring you to a

“What I'm about to share with you is relevant to your life...”



higher level of living in all areas of your life, including your relationships, health, finance and developing your gifts and skills.

Please read **Acts chapter 12** which reveals what happened to some followers of Jesus around the time of His death and resurrection and **shows how you can have a turnaround in your circumstances.** It was a time of triumph for Jesus had given his life to reconcile a lost world back to the Heavenly Father and redeem all mankind from the hand of Satan, our enemy. The world would never be the same again. Guilt and condemnation had been dealt with at the Cross, all the sins that had been committed by anyone in the whole world could now be forgiven, if they would repent and receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. See **John chapter 14 v 6** and **Romans chapter 10 v 9-10. 1 Timothy chapter 2 v 5** states 'For there is

“ Almighty God can turn it around to be a great triumph... ”

one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus'.

It was also a time of great trial as Herod the king stretched forth his hand to harass and persecute the Christians, killing James with the sword and now it looked like it was all over for Peter, as he was put in prison. Peter was kept in chains between the soldiers and four squads of them watched over him. He was obviously a high security risk, bound in chains and secured behind three gates. **But consistent prayer was made for him by the Church** and the same night that Herod was planning to bring Peter out for sentencing an angel of the Lord arrived at the prison. Light shone, life-giving words were spoken by the angel as he struck him on the side and said 'Rise up quickly'. His chains fell off and he prepared himself to follow the angel out of prison into freedom.

It shows that when the Church unites in prayer and faith, no matter how great the trial, Almighty God can turn it around to be a great triumph. It's interesting to note that even though the chains fell off, the light shone, words from the angel were spoken, that none of the soldiers or security watching Peter were made aware of any of it. He was able to rise up from between



the two soldiers, who he was chained to and walk out through the gates and finally the big security gate into the city street, which opened of its own accord.

1. It's time for turnaround

You may have had a disappointment, a broken relationship, financial loss, or a bad health report, but that doesn't mean it's over. Evelyn and I have both experienced turnaround many times when it looked like there was no way out. It happened when we discovered God's plan and followed it. The result was Evelyn's complete healing from cancer when the specialist said her days were numbered. We experienced a turnaround financially during the biggest financial crisis of our lives when the accountant said 'it's over'. But again, by the grace of God, we followed His plan and in a few months

we were able to complete the building of six nursing homes within six months. You can read the detail of this turnaround in my book 'What do you mean it's impossible?' You may ask 'what is the key plan that brought turnaround?'. It is the plan of God found in the bible and it shows His plan for your life if you will meditate in His word until it renews your mind and start thinking, walking and talking in line with His plan.

See **Ephesians chapter 2 v 10** and **Romans chapter 12 v 2-3** and **1 Peter chapter 2 v 24**.

Psalm chapter 40 was a big key in my life and recovery at that time. You can read it over and over, as I did when I was at my lowest in life.

The great news is that the power of the risen Christ lives in us and we have been called to let that life flow through us to a hurting and broken world, see **2 Corinthians chapter 5 v 20-21** and **Romans chapter 5 v 17**. So we have an exciting future to look forward to, as we fulfil His call. See **Ephesians chapter 2 v 16-18**. The impact of His death and resurrection not only provided forgiveness and eternal life for that generation, but **for all generations and nations who will receive His provision**.

“The great news is that the power of the risen Christ lives in us . . . ”



2. Enemy's evil intention

Acts chapter 12 shows that Herod's hand was stretched out against the Church but we know that Jesus stretched out His hands on the Cross, as He took our place and paid the penalty for our sins. Because His hands were stretched out for us, we do not need to fear the enemy who stretches his hand out against the plan and purpose of God in our lives, for Jesus lives in us. See **1 John chapter 4 v 4** and **1 John chapter 5 v 4**.

In **Matthew chapter 28 v 18-20** Jesus spoke following His resurrection and said 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo

“the angel of the Lord stood by Peter...”

I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'

We as His followers have been given authority to go to the community and the nations declaring the wonderful news of salvation and restoration. See **Mark chapter 16 v 15** and **Luke chapter 24 v 47 - 53**. When it looked like it was all over, it was just the beginning.

Herod no doubt was determined to stamp out Christianity and silence those who believed that Jesus was the Saviour and had died and rose again. He got a shock when, after the angel had entered the prison and set Peter free, to find that he was not there.

John chapter 10 v 10 reminds us that Satan comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus said 'I am come that they may have life and that they might have it more abundantly'.

In **Acts chapter 12 v 6 & 7** the same night that the enemy was preparing to bring destruction the angel of the Lord stood by Peter and raised him up. It is so good to know that God is interested in bringing light to those in all kinds of prisons, prisons of fear, prisons of broken relationships and



regret, prisons of guilt and condemnation. Many cannot go forward because they are living in the past and bound by regret and condemnation but Jesus came to give us a new life and He touches millions throughout the world every day.

Psalm 106 v 10 reminds us that we are redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

2 Corinthians chapter 5 v 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

3. Divine connections and open doors

Satan's intention is to keep us in bondage, just as Herod tried to keep Peter. But Jesus is alive in us and therefore we don't have to be held in any kind of prison or bondage. When the church connected with

God in united prayer doors and gates opened and the prisoner walked free.

Ephesians chapter 2 v 13 reminds us that we were once far from God but now have been brought near through the blood of Jesus.

Just as the angel told Peter to get ready to wake up from his sleep, so God is saying to us 'Wake up, the Resurrection is a reality, Jesus did it all for us, we don't have to stay in prison any longer'. When we have a divine connection with Heaven and each other doors open when we start to co-operate with God and move forward in faith. So get ready to follow Jesus out into freedom and share it with our generation. When we move with God we will make a difference, in this and other nations.

Mark chapter 4 v 24 reminds us to take heed what you hear, so be careful who you allow to speak into your life! There are many negative voices that seek to bring confusion, doubt, fear and unbelief, but we must continue to follow Jesus and listen to His voice only. Had Peter not heeded the words of the angel he would not have experienced freedom from prison, see **Acts chapter 12 v 7-11**.

“ Jesus came to give us a new life and He touches millions every day... ”



4. Unite & Fight

The church could have easily been frozen with fear and ran away to hide from Herod and from the persecution but instead they came together to fight the fight of faith in prayer and in intercession. When we unite on Earth, Heaven unites with us and God gives angels assignments to deliver us.

Psalms chapter 103 v 20 speaks about the angels harkening to the voice of His word. When we think His word and speak His word angels assist us. We are not alone.

1 Timothy chapter 6 v 12 says 'Fight the good fight of faith'.

If they had been frozen with fear they would have empowered the enemy to take over and carry out his evil intentions, but **they won the victory in the prayer room and it was manifested in the**

“...but instead they came together to fight the fight of faith in prayer and intercession.”

prison.

2 Timothy chapter 1 v 7 God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

We have been given love, power and a sound mind but we must be careful what we say and not speak contrary to what God says about us and our future.

Proverbs chapter 18 v 21 reminds us that life and death is in the power of the tongue.

Ephesians chapter 6 exhorts us to be strong and put on the whole armour of God and then we will be able to quench every fiery dart of the wicked one.

“We have been given love, power and a sound mind but we must be careful what we say...”



5. A new day has dawned

We live in a time of great opportunity with divine favour and blessing, but on the other hand we live in a time of great hostility against the message of God's love and salvation for our world.

But it is our privilege to rise up from the bondage that the enemy has tried to hold us in and let the light of the glorious gospel shine in the prisons of our world. Not only prisons behind bars, but prisons of fear, hatred, bitterness, resentment, pride, jealousy, broken relationships. We can let the light of God's love shine, even as it shone in the prison for Peter, and realise this is a new day. We can expect and experience the same power of the Holy Spirit as seen in **Acts chapter 4 v 13-22**.

Isaiah chapter 43 v 18 says 'remember not the

former things, neither consider the things of old, I do a new thing now it shall spring forth.' This is a picture of our generation, we as God's children have been privileged to experience the reality and power of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and see Him change the lives of many in our generation.

Joshua chapter 1 v 1-2 says after the death of Moses, God said to Joshua 'arise and lead my people forward'.

It is our privilege to rise in faith no matter what has happened in our past. We are called to move forward in this new day of grace and mercy. A new day has dawned, salvation is a reality. The word of God is absolutely true, Jesus is alive and we must not keep silent but share it with our generation.

“ But it is our privilege to rise up from the bondage that the enemy has tried to hold us in and let the light of the glorious gospel shine in the prisons of our world.”



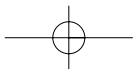
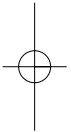
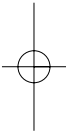
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