

January 2022

FULLNESS

magazine

online

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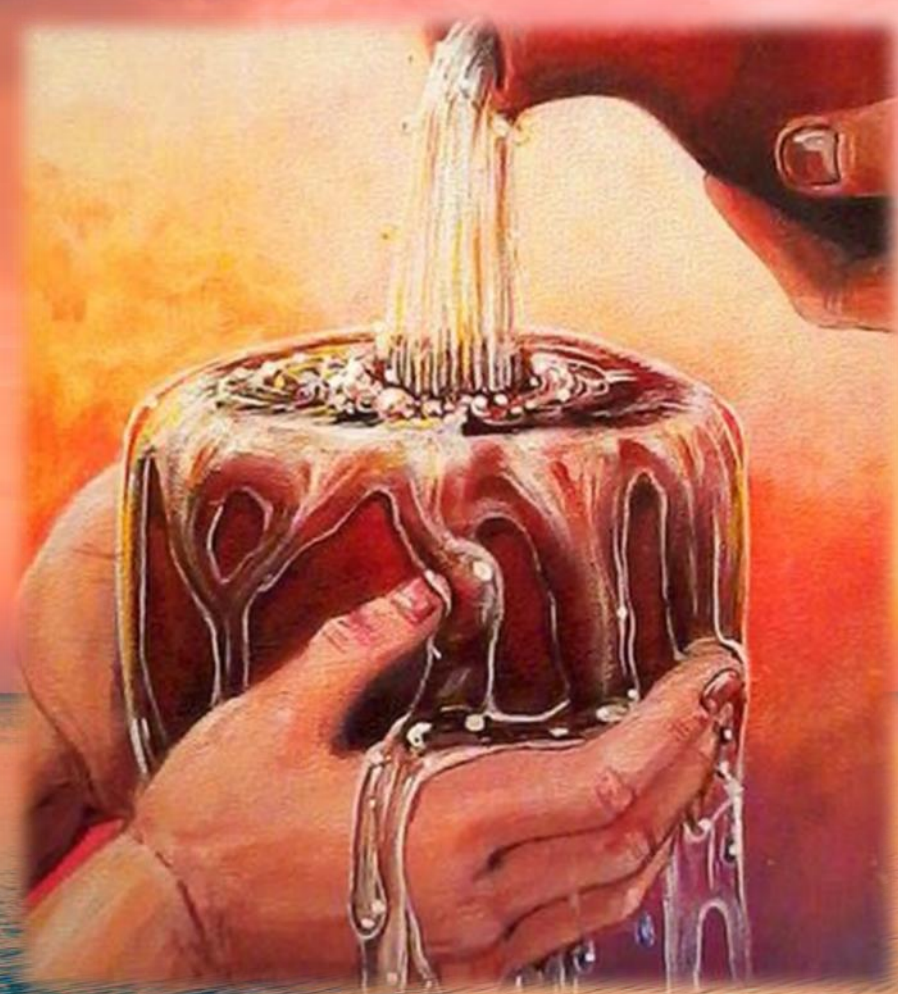
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Living Life to the Fullest

What it Really Means to Live by the Word of God

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by Beverly Robinson



Sponsor A Child. Change A Life.



FCM began sponsoring children in the Philippines in 2001. For 20 years, God has given us an open door to touch the lives of thousands of young people and change their lives, making it possible to escape poverty. Every sponsored child is provided education, supplemental nutrition and is assigned to a local pastor who cares for them. Hundreds more are waiting and praying for someone to help them.

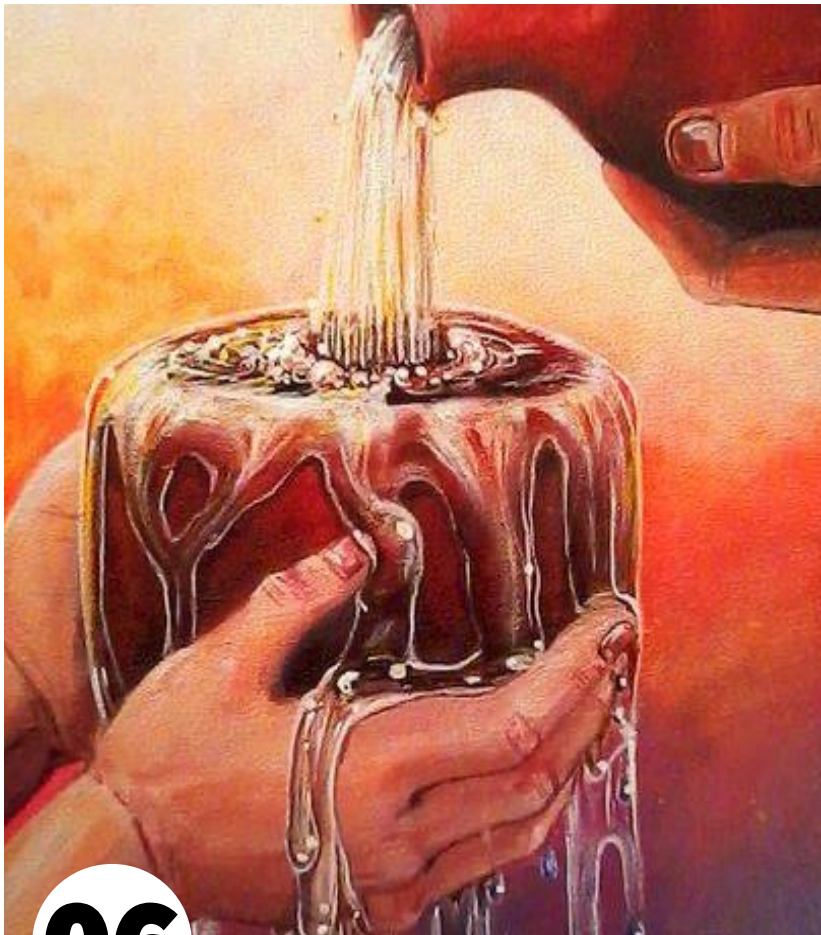
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*If you prefer to pay by check, make it to "FCM" and send it to
Fullness in Christ Ministries, PO Box 136117, Fort Worth, TX 76136.*

For more information about sponsoring a child through
Fullness in Christ Ministries, contact us at sponsors@fullnessnetwork.net.

January 2022

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Editor's Letter



Welcome to Fullness Magazine!

On behalf of our editorial board, staff and contributors, welcome to **Fullness Magazine Online**. Like a scribe who brings out of his storehouse old and new treasures, it is our desire to connect not only with you who have appreciated Fullness Magazine in its original print version but also to connect with a new generation of readers who want to know how to live life in the abundance and fullness of Christ. To this end, we are publishing Fullness Magazine Online, including all the digital enhancements, articles based on a bi-monthly theme, a “retro” or previous article from the print magazine—including Ras Robinson’s original editorial in this issue—and future articles by well-known ministers in the body of Christ. It is our hope and prayer that you’ll find your life enriched by what you read and that you will gain a sense of community and connection in your journey to experience a greater influence of the Holy Spirit in your personal life.

I first met Ras and Beverly Robinson at Lake Country Baptist Church after being fired as pastor from my traditional Baptist church in 1985.

Having served as a pastor for eight years and obtaining both a master’s degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree by the time I was thirty years old, I was filled/empowered with the Holy Spirit under the ministry of John Wimber at a James Robison Bible Conference. It was an exhilarating and bewildering

experience to be electrified by the power of God and to have Him speak to me concerning my life and the lives of others. The resulting breakout of the power of God and the physical healing and manifestations in the church were not well received, and I found myself in need of guidance (fathering) beyond



Ras and Beverly Robinson

the limitations of my seminary education. Within a week after I was terminated, a spiritually dying Baptist church in Corpus Christi, Texas unanimously called me to be their pastor, even after telling them that I was fired for issues involving the Holy Spirit, and I intended to bring spiritual change to that church. I became the pastor of what would become a “Spirit-filled Baptist Church” Sound familiar?

According to Peter Wagner in his book *The Third Wave*, twenty-eight million Baptists and others, came into the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the first time, departing from Pentecostal theology to emphasize the gifts of the Holy Spirit as also a sign of being filled with the Spirit. This blending of reform theology with charismatic practice led to a hybrid movement that moved swiftly among Baptist Churches. At the forefront of this movement was “Fullness Magazine”.

In this volume of the magazine, you will find articles related to living the abundant life, which is the motto of the magazine: *I came that they may have life and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]* John 10:10b (AMP). In Bev Robinson’s article, “Living Life to the Fullest”, she shares how to experience abundant life during suffering through staying positive in faith, she recounts her fight of faith regarding jaw cancer and the ordeal of her treatments. Robin Robinson Bohlin in her article



Robin Robinson Bohlin

“Living in the Bubble” reflects on the favor of God from being contented as a little girl to pursuing “the more” of God’s blessings to see one’s dreams come true. Thomas Reedy in his article “How to Experience the Abundant Life as a Caregiver” provides practical counsel, drawing upon his experience as a husband and caregiver to his wife Kathy, who suffered a traumatic brain injury from a horse accident in 1989. Encouraging the abundant life, Budd Rodgers in his article “The Great Reunion” addresses the relationship of mentoring and being mentored through a spiritual father and son



Budd Rodgers

(including mothers and daughters) relationship by reflecting on his relationship with Ras Robinson and his search for a spiritual father. Elizabeth Verver in her column “Beyond Your Wildest Dreams” exhorts us to lay aside our human dreams for success and instead embrace



Elizabeth Verver

God’s dreams that can take you from homelessness to experiencing the favor of God. Kevin Robinson, in his column, “House to House”, uses the story of his own life, proposes the way to live the abundant life is through encouraging others (as his father did) by giving encouraging words and serving others.



Kevin Robinson

In time, it is our desire to sponsor conferences to encourage and bring together like-minded individuals to, once again, spread the Fullness message. If this magazine has been a blessing to you, you may donate to Fullness Online Magazine by clicking on the following link:

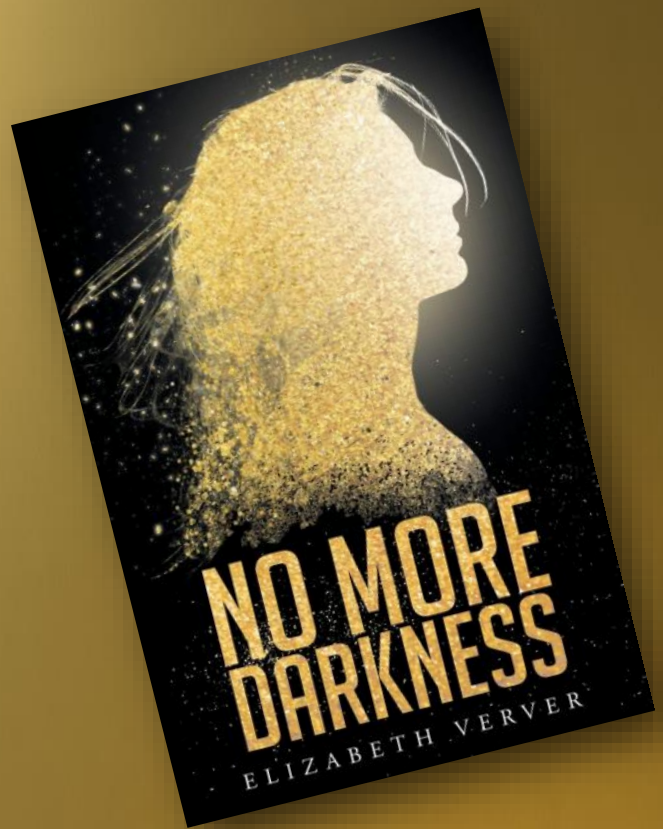
www.fullnessnetwork.net

May you live in the fullness of Christ and the abundance He provides.

Thomas Reedy

Is there any hope for our fractured hearts, shattered dreams and devastated lives?

If you are struggling like I did against the vicious enemy of depression, then you are in great company. Get ready for a life-changing journey and the brightness of a new day.



It's time to come into the light and leave the darkness behind.

Available today at amazon.com, barnes&noble.com, and iTunes.



From Fulness to Fullness

This is an excerpt from the editorial written by Ras Robinson in the first issue of Fulness Magazine, published in January of 1978. We have lifted his words from the printed page of that first magazine and his wife Bev adds her commentary for the first issue of Fullness Magazine Online published in January of 2022 at the end of the article.

“What’s in a name? A name is given for identity. The identity of FULNESS is found in its name. Fullness means ‘that which has been filled’ John and Paul together show that Fulness is the presence of the whole divine nature of God in Christ Jesus He was the incarnation of the Fulness of God. John wrote that all believers have received Fulness (John 1:6). Paul continued that in the body of Christ (the Church) is the Fulness of Him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23). The Fulness of Christ is the goal of the church and of every believer. Paul prayed that believers everywhere might be filled up to all the Fulness of God.

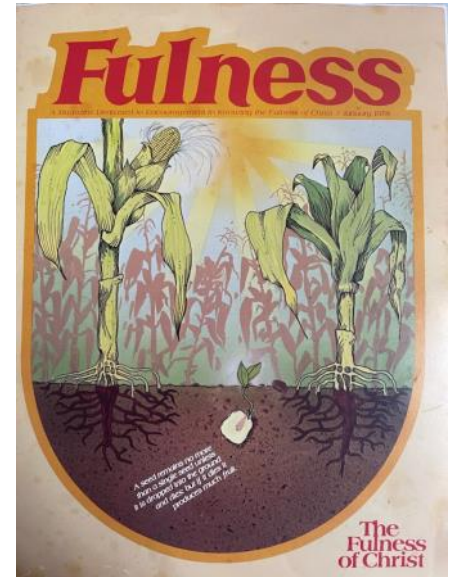
FULNESS MAGAZINE has as its basis the seven-fold spirit of unity found in Ephesians 4:4-6. The purpose of FULNESS is found in Ephesians 4:12-13, the equipping of the saints for the work of service and the building up of the body of Christ. FULNESS continues to aim this equipping and building up at the attainment of unity of faith, knowledge of Jesus, maturity, and a stature of growth and spiritual condition belonging to the Fulness of Christ. This first issue contains balance and diversity. Believers and churches alike are at different stops on their journeys. This difference can result in feelings of isolation and loneliness. These feelings soon fade in the light of God speaking through other believers.”– Ras Robinson

Above is what Ras Robinson, my husband the editor of the first Fulness magazine, wrote. I write this now. Our whole purpose in being born on this earth is to receive Christ as our Savior and Lord and then grow up like Him in all His fullness. We are to be a part of His family, the Church. He came to live and die for those who received Him and acknowledge who He is.

Scripture shows us how He did this. He lived His life to the fullest more than anyone ever has or ever will. He did this perfectly.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 8:28-29



The first Fulness Magazine
Cover January 1978

We are called to live this way as well.

Fullness Magazine Online is designed for the very purpose of helping the reader be conformed to the image of Christ and to learn how to live life to the fullest.

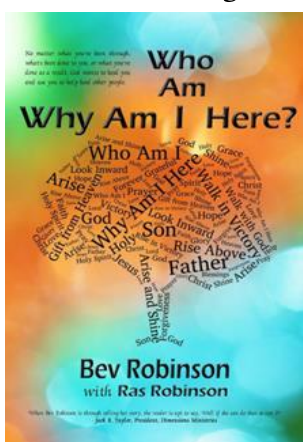
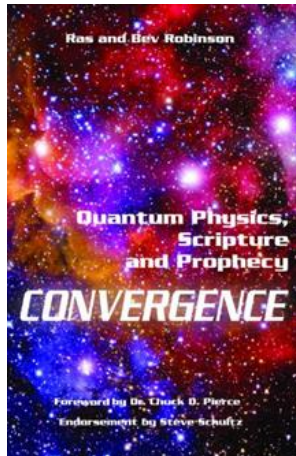
In the years since the first Fulness Magazine ceased being published, we at Fullness in Christ Ministries have received many requests for old magazine articles. There is no way our small staff could meet this request. God spoke to me that it is now time to begin again to help people grow with new writers and new articles. Our deep desire is to encourage Christians to grow to the full stature of Christ. We pray that will happen in all our lives. - Bev Robinson

Ras and Bev Robinson have been in ministry most of their adult lives. They will celebrate 65 years of marriage in June of 2022. Ras and Bev are the founders of Fullness in Christ Ministries and Bev is the CEO of FCM as well. They have a very active online prophetic

ministry in “What the Lord is Saying Today” and also a very active ministry educating, feeding and spiritually nurturing underprivileged school children in the Philippines. Ras has an MBA from Louisiana State University and Bev has two degrees: B.S. in Chemistry from William Carey University and a B.S. in Microbiology from University of Southern Mississippi.

Ras was Manager of Broadman Products, Southern Baptist Convention, in Nashville, Tennessee and moved to Texas for full-time ministry in 1975. They founded Fullness in Christ Church and Bev serves as an elder there. They have two adult children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. You can find out more about their ministry at www.fullnessonline.org.

Bev Robinson is a seasoned teacher and writer. She has taught Bible study classes for many years and has spoken at hundreds of conferences. She also writes daily prophetic encouragements with “What the Lord is Saying Today” as well as having authored two books: “Who Am I and Why am I Here” and “Convergence: Quantum Physics, Scripture and Prophecy”. To find more about this gifted teacher, please visit www.fullnessonline.org. She holds two degrees: B.S.



in Chemistry from William Carey University and a B.S. in Microbiology from University of Southern Mississippi. She is passionate about blending the Word of God with truth from the sciences. She is also passionate about their ministry in the Philippine Islands, educating underprivileged children. She is married to Ras

Robinson and they have two adult children, four grandchildren and eight great grand-children. They reside in Fort Worth, TX.

What Does it Take to be a Son of Fullness?

June 24-26, 2022

There have been many lives changed and directed by the ministry of Ras and Beverly Robinson.

The legacy continues.

The Sons of Fullness has its origin in a prophetic word delivered from God to Ras through Budd Rodgers that there would be “Sons of Fullness” who continue to open doors of opportunity for those who desire a deeper, more intimate understanding of the Holy Spirit.

Register online at www.fullnessnetwork.net

SONS OF FULLNESS

Living Life to the Fullest

What it Really Means to Live by the Word of God

by Beverly Robinson

Living life to the fullest is sometimes a hard challenge even when all is going good, but it is more of a challenge when you are going through a hard time. I want to tell you what I've learned using my own testimony. I am going through a hard time right now. I do not usually talk about it as I don't want to rehearse anything hard or bad, but when you practice living life to the fullest, I believe it is good to get everything out in the open. It is not bad to have the facts if you let the Truth supersede. This will be the first time I have told my whole story.

A little over two years ago I was sitting on my couch with my puppy in my lap. He looked and smelled in my mouth two times and turned away his head. I thought to myself, I better have this checked out. I had been treated before for Lichen Planus, a disease that made small lesions



**“The question is:
how do I live life to
the fullest when going
through really bad
times?”
*It can be done.***

in the mouth, for several years. I had been told it would not turn into something more serious.

I went to a dental school in Dallas for treatment because back then this was a new disease. When I went for my appointment, I was immediately told this had turned into a Squamous Cell Carcinoma cancer. I went to a dermatologist and the dentist’s diagnosis was confirmed. I later went to a head and neck cancer specialist. I did not know then but found out that he was a world-renowned doctor right here in our town of Fort Worth, Texas. Doctors all over the world fly in to learn his methods of treatment.

This doctor, Dr. Ducic, examined me and said he could fix the problem and I would be back out on the lake fishing in a month. That did not happen. It has been just over two years and I still cannot close my mouth or eat by mouth.

Surgery was performed and the cancer was removed. It was much more invasive than first thought. It had wrapped around my lower jaw. My jaw was removed and replaced



with my fibula bone from my lower left leg. (A human has a fibula in each leg. That left me with one fibula so I could walk, but I was not as stable as before). I stayed in the hospital for quite a

while. After that, I was recovering at home and I lost my balance; I fell and broke my hip on our tile floor. It left my leg about an inch shorter than the other leg. That makes it a little harder to walk so I have an inch platform in my left shoe.

Radiation

I then was scheduled to have radiation to be sure the cancer was gone from my mouth. The results of radiation have been one of the hardest parts of my recovery. Radiation destroys cancer cells but also destroys muscle and tissue. My mouth keeps small bits of phlegm in it all the time. Since I cannot close my mouth completely, I must suction the phlegm out several times a day. It feels like corn meal mush in my mouth at all times; it is a yucky feeling.

The radiation also killed the first transplanted bone in my mouth, and I had to have more surgery, to take out my fibula in the other leg to remake the jaw. This has left me even more unstable. I have fallen several times. I have broken a hand, two sides of my collar bone, my tail bone besides my hip. I now have to use a cane for stability. The radiation also made my eyes very dry and I must put drops in about every hour of the day. I cannot talk where people can understand me. I haven’t had anything to eat by mouth in over two years.

My body is scarred up from transplanting muscle, tissue and skin to fix my jaw and mouth. I have to sleep sitting at a 45° angle. I go to speech therapy three times a week to retrain my esophagus to swallow again. I cannot swallow because I have not swallowed for so long. I feed myself with liquid through a feeding tube straight to my stomach. One of the things I dislike the most is there is so much scar tissue on my neck that I cannot lift my head completely upright. It causes me to keep it at an angle. It neither feels or looks good.

Five years ago, I had open heart surgery with a quadruple bypass. In writing this it makes me sound like a sick person, but that was not the case. I was very active, and I still am as active I can be. I drive my Mustang convertible. I launched my own fishing boat, went fishing usually once a week. I am a very active wood carver, and of course still very active in church. I write a prophetic

word of encouragement every day of the week except Sunday.

I knew this would sound terrible as I wrote it, and it is hard, very hard, the hardest challenge I have ever had. Looking back, it almost seems easy to live life before all this happened. The question is: how do I live life to the fullest when going through really bad times? *It can be done.* I am writing this to encourage all of you who are going through hard times that you can get through this time also. We have an enemy and we want to keep him under our feet at all times.

This whole experience has brought me closer and more intimate with God. I do not understand why all this has happened, but I refuse to live there. I have submitted to God and bound the devil. I believe God has told me I am like Job and will receive a double portion as a result of going through this. I try not to think or speak negatively about my situation.

I get up each day and have a quiet time for about 30 minutes with God as I have done for years. I am more in tune now than ever. I try to listen for his voice more carefully. I talk with Him often. I refuse self-pity as I know that is a deep hole. I keep my mind as much in the positive as I can. I know I have choices to make, and I try to make them following the voice of God. I keep in mind He is good and always wants the best for me. I pray for other people going through hard times and realize there are many who have it much worse than I do. I do not allow myself to withdraw from people.

“I know I have choices to make, and I try to make them following the voice of God.”

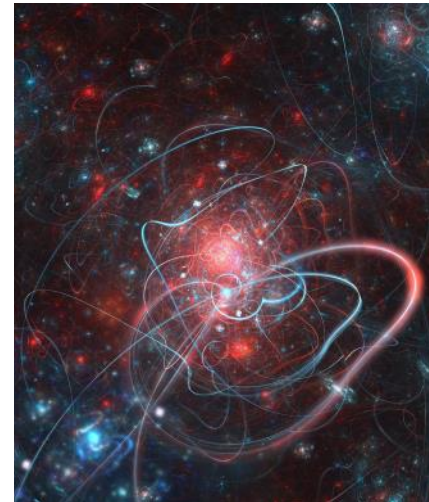
The Start of a Journey

Five or six years ago, before all this started, God had me studying Quantum Physics. I now know part of that was to prepare me and to teach others the truth that you can make it through hard times. I was learning how and why you can live like this. If I sort of know why, I can endure and overcome most anything. The following is how my study began.

I heard a word from God over and over that I was to read my Chemistry 101 book. I thought it a very strange word and must not be from God, but the word would not leave me, and I finally gave in. I have a degree in chemistry and know generally what is in the chemistry book, but I started reading anyway. One Saturday I had my book open on the kitchen counter. Almost immediately I began to get revelation, not information, but revelation.

This is what came to me. If you remember your high school science class, you learned that an atom

is constructed in a certain way. In the middle there is a nucleus which contains positive charges called protons. There are also an equal number of neutrons which do not have a charge. On the outside of the nucleus still within the atom there are electrons which are negatively charged and swirl about.



Everything is made up of atoms. Rocks, trees, bunnies, all are made up of atoms. So everything God created is positive in the middle. That tells us something important. You were designed by God to run well when you are positive in the innermost parts of your being. He gave the neutron, the Holy Spirit, to help keep the positive stable. He keeps us stable when we stay positive. I had seen a new revelation. I got so excited.

I taught a Bible study at Church on Sundays and the next day was Sunday. I was so excited to share what God had revealed to me through Chemistry. A visitor was there from Maine. After class she asked me had I ever studied Quantum Physics. I told her that I had not. That was taught after I left college. She said you have a blue aura about you. Language like this was usually a warning to me to not pursue things further but I knew this was a word of knowledge. I asked her, “what did that mean?” She said, “you know a lot about inner healing.” That struck a cord in me, because I had been teaching inner healing for years.

Quantum Physics and God’s Plan

With that experience I started studying Quantum Physics. Quantum Physics is the study of subatomic particles that are smaller than atoms. The smallest measurement of a subatomic particle is 10^{-33} seconds and 10^{-43} centimeters. At this level, which is at the bottom of everything, there are bubbles or something like a froth. These bubbles contain possibilities to everything living. All these possibilities are good. So at the middle of an atom there is good and at the base of everything there is good. This is very good news and it shows us that God is good.

I was amazed as I began to study and saw how much the subject aligned with Scripture. I studied anything I could find on the subject. Somehow I became acquainted with David Van Koevering and even got to teach with him in a church on the subject of Quantum Physics. He taught that everything we say is recorded and continues to speak into the atmosphere. That corresponds to Scripture about speaking in faith to the mountains in your life and making them move, also that life and death are in the power of the tongue.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].” Proverbs 18:21 (AMP)

“I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart.”

Mark 11:23 (NLT2)

From there God led me to begin reading Neurophysiology. This was a subject that was more closely aligned with Scripture. There is a Neuroscientist, Dr. Caroline Leaf, who was unabashedly teaching about the brain and mind and how the health of it aligns with Scripture. Let me give you an illustration, as a man thinks so is he.

Proverbs 23:6-7 (NKJV) “Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies; For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you but his heart is not with you.”

Whatever we think about eventually turns into words, which then usually turns into actions. No one knows what you think but the results will eventually come about as you dwell on your thoughts.

From the study of quantum physics I was led into studying Neurophysiology which is the study of the brain and mind and I especially studied Dr. Caroline Leaf. I learned many things from my studies of Neurophysiology; here are a few.

When you have a thought, any thought, biochemicals course through your body and have accompanying electromagnetic waves. 87% of illnesses can be attributed to a negative thought life – 13% to heredity and environment. Toxic thoughts, FEAR, release information molecules which changes the make up of a cell on the outside and the attacks the DNA on the inside. Healthy thoughts, FAITH, release information molecule



which strengthens the wall of the cell on its outside and DNA on the inside, producing good health hormones.

This is the journey of hormones as they course through the body. Everyone has a hypothalamus. When a thought is formed it activates the hypothalamus. It is the heart or brain of your endocrine or hormonal system. It then releases chemicals related to the emotions accompanying a thought. The following are the good hormones that bathe the cells causing health and well being: endorphins, enkephalins and serotonin.

“Whatever we think about eventually turns into words which then usually turns into actions.”

This is the journey of toxic hormones as they course through the body:

1. The hypothalamus can produce hormones.
2. The pituitary produces ACTH and is often found in people who have committed suicide.
3. The adrenal glands produce cortisol and adrenalin which first go to the heart.
4. The cardiovascular system, your heart, of course operates your whole body.
5. The brain receives cortisol and it bathes your brain with good thoughts. When you have destructive thoughts, cortisol actually kills part of your brain dendrites. One could black out and get into a black hole or even die.
6. The cells run everything you do. They comprise the whole body. Your thought life affects your cells and everything in your body.

Sudden burst of stress lowers immunity and can even cause a common cold. Day-to-day

small amounts of collected stresses are more dangerous than life threatening disease.

Quote from Dr. Caroline Leaf

“The immune system usually has natural killer cells to get rid of the cancer cells floating through all our bodies, a process called apoptosis. Stress and depression disrupt this process allowing the cancer cells to accumulate and tumors to develop. These emotions become carcinogens (cancer causing agents) by damaging DNA and allowing cancer cells to replicate. Stress and depression also affect the immune system’s ability to destroy or repair this damaged DNA, making it harder to destroy or eliminate abnormal tumor cells and virally infected cells.” - Dr. Caroline Leaf, Who Switched Off My Brain.

The experiences of reading my Chemistry book and moving into Quantum Physics and Neurophysiology have changed my life. My prayer in writing this article is that it will instruct you and you will do what I have written. I know without a doubt it will.

Positive Words

Keep your thoughts and words in a positive vein. When something bad happens of course first pray, seek God for wisdom, be honest in the facts, because you don’t want to get into denial. When you are in denial nothing can get better. You are stuck until you admit you need a change.

First, go to God. If you can’t get there on your own, find a trusted counselor who can help you get to God. He is the only one who can fix the situation. I believe He will help you in the same vein as I have written. Scripture backs this up as the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians:

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you

learned and received from me— everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:6-9 (NLT2)

“Let your mind dwell on good thoughts.”

One of the most important attitudes to have is thanksgiving. I know it is hard that life is hard, but you can find things to be thankful for that He has done in the past. The New Living Translation says, “*Fix your thoughts.*” Another translation which first helped me says “*Let your mind dwell on good thoughts.*” The word *dwell* means to be at home. Which says to me let your thought stay there. Stay your thoughts; keep them in the comfort at home. Don’t let them go to some other place or to someone else’s home. Live with and practice your good thoughts. Do not let them get away.

I am practicing this while I am going through my situation. When I falter, and some days I have, *I get in the Word.* I call someone for



prayer and do whatever I have to do to get back into the positive reality.

I believe God told me I was like Job, and I would have a double portion when it was all

over. That has already begun to come through on two occasions. One is, I prayed for my youngest great grandchild. My granddaughter was told she could not birth a child, but that turned out not to be true. Our little 18-month-old Oliver Jonas Arboleda is living proof.

Another double portion is a grandfather clock. For my Mother’s Day, Ras gave me a grandfather clock. I really enjoy mechanical pendulum clocks. Robin, my daughter, ordered it online and it came by truck. A small glass on the side was broken in route. Robin called to ask for a new glass and the lady said she didn’t want anyone to get cut so she would

give us a whole new clock and I could give that to anyone I wanted. Wow! I took her up on the offer. I gave the clock to Robin who also likes clocks like her mom. Now both of us have an identical grandfather clock. This shows that God has been true to His word of giving a double portion. I look forward to more double portions that He will give.

I have had so many praying for me. One of my close friends heard God say to encourage others to pray. She brought Post-it Notes to a bible study with the words BEV SPEAKS CLEARLY and BEV ENJOYS MEALS BY MOUTH. She asked people to post them around the house and speak them every day. This means so much to me.

Final Thoughts

I pray for you to get through your hard times by trusting God with thanksgiving and thinking and speaking good thoughts. Keep them in the center of your being just as you were designed to do. Keep your mind dwelling on the good things you know. I know I am to keep doing this as I already am experiencing the benefits. This will work for you if you work it and I believe you will do what it takes.

How about you pray for me as I now pray for you. We will get through this time together.



FOOD
For Learning
Feeding Children in the Philippines

What do you think a small cup of warm nutritious soup means to a hungry child? *Pastors tell us that sometimes the children fill their stomach with water so it won’t feel so empty.* Hungry children are not healthy and do not do well in school.

Your gift to “Food for Learning” makes a big difference.

To give a gift of food for the children, go to <https://fullnessonline.kindful.com/> and select the campaign “Food for Learning.”

House To House

By Kevin Robinson

I am living my dreams! As the son of Ras and Bev Robinson, I have watched prime examples of how to live the life of Faith. I've sat under incredible teachers of God's word and have spectacular testimonies of seeing miraculous things take place. Although growing up in a strong Christian home, I didn't give my life fully to the Lord until I was a senior in high school. The story behind that supernatural experience is a great one to be shared in one of my articles. I was very active in church while learning how to live the Spirit-filled life along with my sister and parents. Spiritual leaders sought me out to impart words of faith and encouragement while seeing my potential. I was just being me, but enjoying celibate bachelor life, having fun and serving God wholeheartedly until turning 29.

After having an amazing dream about a beautiful woman with long, dark hair, I met my lovely wife of 30 years on the same day, 9/9/90 at church. She was attending Baylor nursing school and was everything I had ever dreamed of. She was definitely worth the wait. After marrying her and settling into our new home, I felt the need to finish my college degree.



While working as a prayer center manager for James Robison's ministry, Life Outreach International, I worked the day shift while also finishing my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management at LeTourneau University. I was looking for an additional part time job and on the early morning of 10/10/1994, I had a dream that I would be working house to house. I woke up laughing because I thought that only Mormons, vacuum cleaner salespeople and Fuller Brush salesmen were the only ones

who went house to house at that time. Within two weeks I began working as an installation contractor for Sears stores and Lowe's Home Improvement stores throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Interestingly enough, I went house to house installing all kitchen appliances, light fixtures, storm doors and garage door openers, etc. Little did I know the ministry I would have with homeowners while installing for them over twenty three years.

I saw salvations, signs and wonders and miracles happen just by allowing God to minister through me. These God-ordained installations tugged on my heart strings and gave me an avenue to spread the Gospel by going house to house. I was amazed at how open folks were to hear about Jesus and receive prayer.

I love to help and serve others. My wife Jeanette and I hosted life groups for two separate periods within our home for a total of twelve years. I also taught Sunday school for preschoolers for six years; then served as youth director for five years. I have written prophetic words of encouragement for over ten years for Fullness in Christ Ministries.

I give complete credit to My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me to see firsthand His mighty hand at work in and through me in all shapes and sizes. To this day, I have personally witnessed countless supernatural events occur with my own eyes that many believers have only dreamed about. I sincerely hope and pray that "Story time with Kevin" can be an encouraging catalyst to help ignite the bonfires that my father envisioned while using childlike faith to move mountains.

Kevin Robinson is a prophetic writer for Fullness in Christ Ministries. He holds a B.S. degree in Business Management from LeTourneau University. He and his wife Jeanette have one daughter.



THE GREAT Reunion

Stick around; there is coming a day when a reunion will come that will be unlike any other. I am calling it the GREAT Reunion for a good reason.

By Budd Rodgers

THE GREAT REUNION

Have you ever attended a family reunion that wasn't that great? Maybe there were strained relationships to deal with or you felt out of place or possibly you were thinking "how could I be related to those people"? Perhaps there was unnecessary drama.

Stick around, there is coming a day when a reunion will come that will be unlike any other. I am calling it the GREAT reunion for a good reason. You are probably asking, what is this great reunion? The one I'm talking about is found in the book of Malachi, which is the last book of the Old Testament in the last two verses of the last chapter:

Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction.
Malachi 4:5-6

This reunion prophesied will occur between the hearts of sons (children) and fathers. This reunion must occur, or the land will be turned over for complete destruction.

Most people these days are aware that a lack of fatherhood in a life has negative effect. We have seen over and over that those statistics come to life in the evidence of criminal acts, the increased numbers of jail and prison populations, et cetera.

We now have studies that affirm the role of fathers as nurturers and esteem givers in a child under the age of five. It wasn't too many years ago that the role of the father was minimized in the rearing of the children and the primary caregiver responsibilities was attributed to the mother.

"The Bible gives many examples of spiritual fathering including Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, the Apostle Paul, and the father of the prodigal son."

As you read this article, I believe that God is speaking to you to ask God about your role as a spiritual son (child) and your role as a spiritual father (parent). I have used the words child and parent to this thought because we need to understand that in the spiritual realm there is neither male nor female. Therefore, in the spiritual sense, a woman can do fathering. I believe that most "fathering" will be done by men, however, a woman may be called to "father" if the Lord chooses her to do so. This is why it is so important to hear from the Heavenly Father about such things. The Word of God is clear that there is neither male nor female in Christ Jesus. A woman can do what a man can do in the Spirit of Christ who has made no distinction.

The Bible gives many examples of spiritual fathering including Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, the Apostle Paul, and the father of the prodigal son. In these examples, we have been given a pattern to follow in leading, developing spiritual qualities, comforting, encouraging, discipling, disciplining and mentoring sons.

My Story

I was raised as a church-going boy in a small north Texas town and saved when I was 9 years of age. A few years passed and I begin having dreams about preaching in jungles to the natives while I was wearing a suit and tie. I wasn't sure what it meant, but honestly, I felt those were nightmares and not dreams. I was active in youth church activities, along with my busy high school schedule and had just enough inoculation of Christianity to be saved but not enough to be

effective in my witness for Jesus.

That all changed early in my freshmen year of college after attending a Billy Graham crusade in Lubbock, Texas. After that crusade, I was ready to accept the call to preach the gospel by using a term that was said quite often in Baptist circles, “*I surrender*” to preach the Gospel.

In 1979, I was licensed to preach and in 1982, I was filled with the Holy Spirit and left the Baptist denomination to join a “Spirit filled” church in West Texas. In 1985, I was ordained as a pastor by a pastor of a “Word of Faith” Spirit-filled church in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1988, a prophet came to that church and gave me an extensive “word” about my calling. He asked me if I knew what God was wanting to do with my calling and what I was called to do and be. He saw the words, “*a prophet of God*” over my head. From 1988 and onward, that word propelled me to seek out the will of God for my life regarding ministry. In a portion of that 1988 prophecy, I was told there would be *an Elijah in my life to help guide me and train me*.

In the early 90’s, I discovered FULLNESS magazine and subscribed to it. I loved the articles I read and loved hearing about the Spirit-filled life of many Baptist pastors and leaders. Of course, Ras Robinson was one of those leaders and I loved to read his articles. Little did I know that I would someday meet this man of God.

Fast forward to 2019. I moved back to Fort Worth from west Texas, and before that, I was in Arizona for several years. I kept hearing over and over that I needed to get back to where I first heard that prophetic word in 1988. The word was this, “*you will be launched out from here*”. The HOLY SPIRIT continued to speak to me about going back to where I heard that word (Fort Worth) so I could be launched out

from “here” (the place I was living when I received the prophecy)”.

As God would have it, in the summer of 2019, I met Ras Robinson at FULLNESS IN CHRIST Church. I walked into the church not realizing that it was his church. On a certain Sunday after attending for a while, the Lord gave me a prophetic word for Ras. This word had to do with raising up Sons of FULLNESS.

A few months later, I preached a message at the church and later that week, Ras invited me to his home for a visit. As I sat in his office, we were discussing what God was doing in our lives, and he looked up at me and said, “I want you to be one of my sons”. I was stunned. He continued to tell me that, “the church needs to hear what you are saying”. He said, “the world needs to hear your message and I need you in my life”.

I can tell you from the time I dedicated my life to preaching the Gospel, when I was 19 years of age, I had served under a dozen or so pastors, ministers, and church leaders. I respected and/or learned from them in the ministry, however, not one of them had ever asked me to be a son in the ministry. Not one of them ever said “I need you in my life and the church or world needs you too”. The Apostle Paul described it like this to the Corinthians,

For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

I Corinthians 4:15

“There are many who can instruct us in the ways of God, but not many will take the time to impart vision, discipline, affirmation, and unconditional love.”

There is a powerful force that accompanies a word of affirmation, especially when it comes from God. Have you wondered why God affirmed His own creation in Genesis chapter one when HE said it was GOOD? When God’s anointed man or woman affirms something, there is a special force that brings things to pass. When a parent speaks things over their children, those things come to pass, both positive and negative. As parents, we should be very careful of how we speak over our children and even what we “name” them. Words are powerful tools.

In the Old Testament we see the power of affirmation in Genesis 35, when Jacob’s wife, Rachel, named her son Ben-Oni. This name meant “son of my sorrow” and was given just before she died in childbirth. Jacob then re-named his son Benjamin, which means “son of my right hand”. Benjamin’s destiny was changed forever with his renaming and his father’s affirmation.

My prayer for each of you as you read this article, whether you are a man or a woman, is that you pray about your spiritual heritage of becoming a “son” of the person that God puts in your life. This person will mentor/affirm you and cause you to be the “father” that God wants you to be in someone else’s life.

If you are interested in becoming a “SON OF FULLNESS” or would like to know more about that relationship, please contact us at www.fullnessnetwork.net.

Also be watching for our upcoming SONS OF FULLNESS conference coming June 25-26, 2022 here in Fort Worth, Texas.

Budd is the Managing Editor of Fullness Magazine Online. He graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Business Administration. Budd has been in Ministry for 40 plus years in various capacities, including pastoring and church planting. He is the founder of Shepherd’s Voice Ministries Inc., a 501(c)3 prophetic ministry. He has an anointing to activate every generation to promote the kingdom of God and is available as an itinerant minister.



www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net

He and his wife Susie are Elders at Fullness in Christ Church in Fort Worth, Texas.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a large, iridescent soap bubble. The bubble is the central focus, showing vibrant rainbow colors. The hand is positioned at the bottom, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The title 'Life In the Bubble' is overlaid in a pink, cursive font.

Life In the Bubble

by Robin Robinson Bohlin

“I live life in a bubble of God’s goodness” are the words that kept ringing in my ears. I thought to myself, this is ludicrous and almost sacrilegious, yet I could not shake the feeling that my life had been magnificently directed by God. In some religious circles, one might say that I was pompous or overprivileged. I knew neither of those were true, for I had some devastating events happen in my life. Nevertheless, these positive thoughts and feelings about my life kept coming; I began to investigate why I felt this way.

Everyone has had bad things happen to them and I was no exception. While bad happened, I still retained this feeling that I had led a charmed life and that my life was good, good, good! How could this be? These feelings of exhilaration catapulted me into investigating why I felt this way. The first thought that came to me was my husband's favorite scripture,

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

The scriptures teach us that God is good and we should not accept a different opinion. The opposing opinion always comes from the kingdom of darkness and we are children of the light. Our mission is to know God in His fullness and walk in His goodness and light!

“Once your life was full of sin's darkness, but now you have the very light of our Lord shining through you because of your union with him. Your mission is to live as children flooded with his revelation -light!”

Ephesians 5:8 (TPT)

A few years ago, I attended a very large church in the Houston area with my daughter and her husband. She wanted to introduce me to her Pastor. We met him in the church foyer and she introduced me as Robin Bohlin, Ras Robinson's daughter. The Pastor stared at me and turned to my daughter and said, “You mean to tell me that your grandfather is Ras Robinson?” She giggled and said “yes”. He turned to me and said “I'm a Fulness boy”.

I have thought many times about that encounter and I have pondered his statement of being a “Fulness boy”. This pastor was one of two pastors that told me the identical line upon meeting me: “I'm a Fulness boy”.

Fulness, or Fullness (as we call it now with double “L's”) was a way of living, a life of identification! This first issue of Fullness Magazine Online is dedicated to Ras Robinson and the legacy that he left for people searching for the “more” in their spiritual walks. Fullness has become an identity for those who seek a deeper spiritual walk with more than religion has to offer, or as I like to call it “Life in the Bubble”.

I grew up in the Baptist Church and was part of the Baptist elite. My father was head of the publishing arm of the Baptist denomination. We attended the second largest Baptist Church in Nashville Tennessee where both of my parents were in leadership. My father was the head deacon and my mother was head of the WMU (Women's Missionary Union). Our family attended church on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. I was a G.A. (Girls Auxiliary) and was even president of that organization for several years. I sang in a special choir that recorded an album in Nashville, TN. I was Baptist through and through.

Around age 10, I remember something began to change in my mind concerning God. I started to think that something spiritual was missing. While we were regular church attenders, I began to feel the need for more in my life. Whenever the sermons were over at our church, the Pastor issued an invitation. In the Baptist church, you went forward for two reasons: salvation and re-dedicating your life. I found myself in the aisles responding to the invitations most Sunday mornings and Sunday nights. I even remember having a slumber party one Sunday night. I got up from my seat in the balcony, in front of all my friends, and went forward at the invitation time. I went forward so many times that my mother began to feel embarrassed and told me that I could no longer go forward. Remember, in the Baptist church the invitation was for salvation and re-dedicating your life to God. Seriously, how many times could I re-dedicate



my life? My mother eventually went to our Pastor and asked if she was doing the right thing by telling me not to go forward any more. He wisely said to let me keep coming forward stating, “She is hearing something that we are not.”

As I pondered the expression, “Life in the Bubble”, I discovered that at an early age I was hearing the call of God. Had I been through some traumatizing events, yes, but nevertheless I was hearing a clarion call of God. It was at that young age that my hunger for God began. Some people might be more comfortable with the term of blessed life, but for me “Life in the Bubble” held the essence of my feelings.

Throughout my childhood and adolescent years I had the feeling that I lacked for nothing. During my adult years, I often told my parents “Thank you for giving me everything I wanted.” My mother would quickly reply “You never wanted much”. This did not dissuade my feelings of having all my needs met. This satisfaction with life, albeit with my world’s ups and downs, stayed a constant thread through my life. I could not shake the feeling that I belonged to God and that He was My protector, deliverer and provider.

Fast forward to my now life of being a mother and grandmother. When we reach this stage in life, I think we all re-examine our former years. Why did I still have this feeling of having all my needs met? Why did I feel that I got everything I ever wanted? I believe it came from that little-girl’s knowing that there was more for me. I was living the words of

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

These are the thoughts that led me to believe that I lived in a bubble of God’s goodness!

From this quest, I discovered that living life to it’s fullest or “Life in the Bubble” had some principles.

The first principle is: Those Who Seek Him Will Find Him. I discovered that knowing God and being a seeker of Him would lead me into this beautiful and intimate journey I have been on my whole life! Seekers are like explorers. Truth seekers find truth. Seekers will eventually find what they are looking for as God promises us that when we seek Him we find Him.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

God is like a hidden treasure to be searched. He makes Himself evident and His creation displays His glory for all to see but the deeper things of God must be mined and explored. He knows that when we seek Him on the narrow path, we will discover this treasure that others might overlook because they have not become spiritual explorers. Spiritual seeking requires a heart given over to Him, one that persistently pursues and will not turn back.

“So it is with your prayers. Ask and you’ll receive. Seek and you’ll discover. Knock on heaven’s door, and it will one day open for you. Every persistent person will receive what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he needs. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door.”

Luke 11: 6-10 (TPT)

I believe that from a very early age, I became a seeker of God. At age ten, I did not know I was a spiritual seeker, but later in life I discovered this through the questions I asked myself.

The second principle is that His Word is Alive and Can be a Driving Force in Your Life. After I was married I began to attend Bible studies. I became almost obsessed with learning and hearing

more of His Word. I discovered that every answer I was looking for was found in His scriptures. Growing up I never remember being taught that the whole Bible was mine and that I could find a promise in the Bible to take as my own. But as I learned the Word, I began to see that this beautiful book was written just for me! I could imagine what each scripture held for me and how I could apply His Word to my life. Sometimes I found myself giddy with delight thinking that I could use each one of His scriptures and apply it to my everyday walk! What a comfort the Bible was to me. Sometimes I would even fall to sleep with the Bible on top of my chest, letting the Word permeate through me.

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

I have now taught Bible studies for over 30 years. I will have to say that as I have mined God’s Word for His hidden treasures, I have grown deeper than I ever could have imagined.

The third principle I discovered is that God is Good. God even told Moses of His own goodness while Moses was on the mountain.

“And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you;”

Exodus 33:19

I began to see that when I applied His word to a situation it would have a “God” outcome. Not all “God” outcomes have good outcomes as we know them, because He knows every situation from all angles. We must know that

He is working all things together for us for good, as Romans 8:28 states, and that we should trust Him with the perfect outcome for ourselves. *Psalm 34:8 (NASB) “O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”* He provides us refuge during the storms. The storms will come and go but the Lord provides shelter and comfort to us. He sometimes stops the storms and sometimes provides shelter during them. Trust Him for your good outcome.

My husband tells the story of his father dying at a young age. His father, a Baptist minister, had developed an infection around his heart from a WWII Jeep accident. His father was given six months to live and instead ended up living six years. He eventually passed away when my husband was nine. My husband states that while the death of his father was devastating, it sent him on a different journey of new proportions that changed his life. My husband and I had discovered that living “Life in the Bubble” was trusting Him in the good and the bad, knowing that our future would be bright now matter what.

You might be thinking, you did not have my same experience.

You didn’t hear the clarion call

when you were young, or you didn’t have thoughts of God as your provider. All of that can change today! “Life in the Bubble” is a life God intends for all His children. Just consider a good earthly father. A good earthly father will do whatever he has to do to provide for his children. A good earthly father protects his children and encourages them to do their best. The scripture tells us that God is better than any good earthly father!

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 7:11 (NASB1995)

*Psalm 34:8 (NASB)
“O taste and see that
the Lord is good;
how blessed is the man
who takes refuge in
Him!”*

In order to live “Life in the Bubble” we must know the truth about God. When we know Him and His truths, our lives become this wonderful tapestry that is woven together with the good and the bad producing a life etched with His grace and mercy. I guess I could say now that “I’m a fullness girl”. Living life to the fullest has been a fullness journey of growth. How do we get there? We seek God and we mine for His hidden treasures. We know that He is good and has good planned for us, we accept no other thought. We learn to live in His Word and turn to it for all our answers. By abiding in these principles you too can experience the goodness of God and live “Life in the Bubble”.

Robin Robinson Bohlin and her husband Jonas pastor Fullness in Christ Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Robin is a prophetic writer for “What the Lord is Saying Today”. She has been in ministry most of her life and has been a conference speaker and is a seasoned Bible teacher. She is also a worship leader whose main calling is to teach others how to have intimacy with the Father.



She holds a degree in Psychology with an emphasis on Family Studies from Western Baptist College. She is committed to helping families be healthy and whole through pastoral counseling. She also serves as Clergy with the Fort Worth Police Department. She has three wonderful adult children and 10 spectacular grand-children.

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*We believe that you
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Matthew 6:10

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8895 Random Road, Fort Worth TX

Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

by *Elizabeth Verver*



So often in life we hear that we are to have the life of our dreams, but I learned something better in walking side by side with the Lord for almost twenty years. This truth was realized for me at a very difficult time in my life. It was a moment that I, like Jacob, wrestled with God. I found myself wrestling to become more of the woman that God knew I could be. This encounter with God left me with a limp in my heart that I knew had changed my life forever. It was there that I learned to lean and depend on God entirely.

Ever since I could remember as a child, I had dreams of being

on stages everywhere. From Broadway to Hollywood, wherever my imagination would take me, I could see that God had prepared a place for me. Even then, I didn't doubt those dreams. I knew it was only a matter of time before they would become my reality. You see, I thought that was the best plan for me. I had no idea that my life would dramatically change at the age of twenty-one. It was then that I met who I refer to as Mama Kay. After years of searching and wandering with my broken dreams and shattered heart, I had found myself homeless. I was in desperate need of love. I needed a hero and the hero that came to rescue me was Jesus.

In a moment I'll never forget (and even as I write tears are forming in my eyes) God delivered me. He swept me up into His loving arms, broke every chain from my past, and set my heart on fire for Him. I can't even begin to tell of all the wonderful things God has done since that time in my life. He completely freed me from addiction, depression and suicide, and He gave me a beautiful family. I've been married to my adoring husband for nineteen years. As if that's not enough to be grateful for, God is bringing to pass every dream I have about making Him famous with our testimony of His goodness. God has been so good, and I'm often told that my life is indeed a miracle. The truth is, God is my dream come true and life with Him is truly sweet.

I thought at one time I knew what I truly wanted, but that was until I encountered God's love. I had all sorts of plans about what I wanted to be or who I could become, but God had even greater plans. I see this happening in the lives of so many of His children. God desires to pour out heaps of His goodness, and yet, we settle for a tiny spoonful. I believe that the cares of this world and our desire for self-sufficiency has caused us to miss out on all the benefits we have waiting for us to receive. God wants more for you, but He also wants to be your dream and delight. This truth is found in one of my favorite scriptures. I remember hearing only one part of the following verse when the Lord prompted me during a personal study time to read on.

That's when it hit me. He opened my eyes, and suddenly, I could see an important truth. Let's look at both verses together to grasp the big picture of what He is wanting to reveal to your heart right now.

This encounter with God left me with a limp in my heart that I knew had changed my life forever.

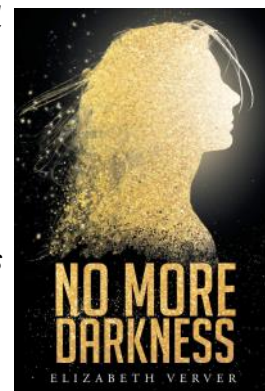
Find your delight and true pleasure in Yahweh, and He will give you what you desire the most.

Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way, you'll find He pulled it off perfectly!

Psalm 37:4,5 (TPT)

Your true delight is to be found in the Lord Jesus alone, and when He is your dream come true, there will be nothing to compare with Him. It wouldn't be hard to ask God for a dream home, financial blessing, favorable opportunities, or whatever you desire. What could the world and all its false glory compare with the love of God we have in Christ Jesus? He is greater than your most impossible dream coming true! When your heart is His, God will give you even more than your wildest dreams (Ephesians 3:20). After all, our God specializes in doing the impossible, and His plans for you will go beyond what your heart and mind can even conceive. Let's go for our dreams together! See you next issue.

Elizabeth Verver is a passionate pursuer of the heart and presence of God. She is a loving wife to Frankie Verver and a devoted home-school mom of four beautiful children ages 12 to 16. Her desire is to see people from all walks of life reach their highest potential in Christ, to be completely set free and to discover the God-ordained dreams He designed for each of them. Elizabeth is a conference speaker, Bible study teacher and she preaches the word of God with power and boldness. Currently, Elizabeth is serving as the Women's Ministry Director at her home church in Fort Worth, Texas, under the leadership of Pastors Jonas and Robin Robinson Bohlin.



www.ElizabethVerver.com

How to Experience *Abundant Life* as a *Caregiver*

by Thomas Reedy

On August 1, 1989, my wife Kathy was thrown from a horse and sustained a traumatic brain injury while on vacation near Mineral Wells, Texas. We were away from our home and church located in Corpus Christi, Texas. We had decided to take a break from the Fulness Conference in Fort Worth so that our children could enjoy a horse-riding experience at a friend's ranch, some 20 miles from the nearest town. Our youngest child, Sarah, was staying with my mother. My mother had a bad feeling about our plans but never told us. The other three children were riding tandem with me, my wife, and our friend. As sometimes horses will do, they bolted in a gallop toward the barn. I was in the lead but slowed my horse down, as Kathy's horse sped past me. I saw Kathy pull up on the reins and, as the horse reared,

she flew off the back of the horse holding onto our youngest son Timothy to protect him. Consequently, when she fell on her right hip she slammed the right side of her head against the ground. I flew off my horse, bringing my oldest daughter with me, and was at Kathy's side within ten seconds. I turned her from her right side onto her back and noticed that her eyes were glazed over, showing no life in them, and she was not breathing. I thought she was dead.

At that point, the only agonizing prayer I could pray was, NO, NO, NO! I was devastated thinking that I might have to raise four children, the oldest being six, by myself. God had mercy on me, and I saw movement (life) had come back in her body (she started having seizures) along with shallow breathing. Martha, our friend,

went back to the house with our three kids and called an ambulance. It broke down halfway there, and another one had to be dispatched. After 40 minutes of Kathy laying in a pasture in 107° temperatures, I was frantic and felt I should load her myself into the car and drive to the hospital. Martha wisely prevailed. The first ambulance had overheated and the second ambulance was having problems. We passed the first ambulance on the side of the highway, and upon delivery of my wife, the second ambulance dumped it's radiator water at the emergency room entrance. She was then care-flighted to a hospital in Fort Worth because the county hospital could do nothing but stabilize her. The accident happened at 11:40 and her first real medical treatment came at 3:00 pm.

By now, everyone at the conference heard about the accident and they were praying, others were prompted by the Spirit that something was wrong with a family member and started calling around and found out it was Kathy.

Her parents and siblings were on their way, but the spiritual war began immediately in the Neurological Intensive Care Unit. Kathy was in a coma, which lasted five weeks, and she would not have any memory of the experience until her birthday on September 20th.

I have been a caregiver now for 32 years. During that time there has been healing and recovery, but as Kathy got older more problems developed. She began with memory loss, speech difficulties, seizures, bipolar disorder, double vision, right side weakness, walking difficulties, and currently, now has Parkinson's Disease and must use a walker.

I know that some of you reading this article, have different circumstances. There are many ways that caregiving can be situational: caring for a disabled or mentally challenged child, caring for an aging parent, caring for an adult who was involved in an accident or one who has experienced a debilitating illness. There is a difference between caring for a person who

has become physically disabled and one who is experiencing cognitive decline or injury. If the decline took place over several months or years, there is an opportunity to prepare for the responsibilities that will be incurred, however, if the disability is result of an accident you may find yourself almost immediately in a situation that will require an accommodation to your daily activities and life. Regardless, of your circumstances, there are some common emotions and factors that can affect you. You may experience grief at having watched the person that you used to know become changed. This grief affects both your loved one and it will grieve you. In some sense, I lost the woman I married and gained a different version of my wife. At first it was hard to give up the person I knew because I was praying for her restoration. While I still believe this, I had to change my perspective to meet the needs of the person who I was now living with.

I know that it is scriptural that all husbands should be caregivers having been called to love their wives, there is a difference in this kind of relationship. The caregiver and the person being cared for are affected by being in a codependent relationship. To some extent, a caregiver becomes almost like a parent to the those receiving care. They are dependent upon the caregiver to meet some of their basic needs. This change in relationship can be resisted by the loved one, causing you to feel unappreciated, as your loved one may or may not know what is best for them. This lack of autonomy can result in anger on their part and frustration on your part. You will find yourself becoming weary, experiencing stress, and, depending upon the level of their disability, you may find yourself feeling isolated and maybe even depressed. You might say to yourself: "Great, I thought this was an article on how to experience the full and abundant life". Hold on; we will get there. The need then arises for you to be honest with God so that you may experience His grace. Do you think you can do this on your own strength? These unpleasant conditions can be lessened when you understand you are going to need the Holy Spirit to sustain you as a caregiver.

I use the word caregiver instead of a caretaker. A caretaker is one who looks after an animal and is usually paid to do so. A caregiver may be paid or may be a family member. That person needs to have a relationship with the one being cared for, at least

the good caretakers do. This article is about those who are caring for a loved one.

Experiencing the abundant life is somewhat different for a caregiver as compared to one who needs care. While certain things are shared, the caregiver does not experience the deficits of the one being cared for. I want to acknowledge this, because there is an empathy, even though it is tested, shared by the caregiver and the one who is receiving care. In short, it can be emotionally painful to see a loved one struggle either in pain, cognitive decline, or loss of freedom. At times, these feelings and emotions can become suppressed to the point that you might become numb. I've said all these things to let you know that I understand what you are going through; I want to tell you that the only solution to experiencing the abundant life in these situations is through Jesus himself and having an intimate relationship with Him.



Jesus said, *"I came that they might have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (John 10:10b-AMP)*

There are some important things you can do to experience abundant life (peace and contentment) while serving as a caregiver. I suggest the following to change your frame of mind, since most spiritual battles take place in our minds.

First, remember your circumstances do not determine if you are going to experience an abundant life. Jesus is the one that gives abundance or fullness. You can gain endurance and patience by simply seeking out the joy that comes as a fruit of the Spirit. It's too easy to see yourself as a victim of circumstances beyond your control. Begin by seeing what you're doing is not an obligation, but an act of loving service. Don't use the words "have to" or anything that turns your loved one into a "project." Anything that reduces the relationship with your loved one is detrimental to you and your loved one. Do your best to find ways or activities you can enjoy together.

You will find yourself becoming weary; experiencing stress, and, depending upon the level of their disability, you may find yourself feeling isolated and maybe even depressed.

Second, if you are involved in a caregiving situation where there was an injury to a loved one in which you were involved, you must forgive yourself if you were responsible. This way you will not minister or give care out of a sense of guilt. If you were there but not responsible, you need to forgive any individuals who may have contributed to the injury of your loved one. Unforgiveness will hinder the grace of God in your own life at a time when you need His grace the most. Bitterness will cause you to be an ineffectual caregiver. Do not play the game of "what if" wondering if

there was something that could have been done differently. The past is gone and cannot be changed. Neither should you blame God, who is the only one that can bring you comfort. God is not punishing you by injuring someone you love; that is not God. Likewise, just because God is sovereign does not mean that He intervenes in every situation; sometimes things just happen or the devil may be involved, if so, blame the devil and be resolved to serve Jesus to spite him.

Third, continually pray for the person you are caring for and pray that God will give you the strength and wisdom to be Jesus to him or her. Understand when the scripture talks about being a servant, you are involved in the greatest service because you are giving (laying down) your life in service of another. Jesus said,

"Greater love has no one than this; that they should lay down their life for one's friends [or another]"

(John 15:13 NIV)

Fourth, often the people you care for feel like they have no ability to contribute in life; they may even become depressed or suicidal. Find ways to get them involved and out of the house. Change up their routine, if possible. Do not allow them (this of course could bring up conflict) to isolate by becoming involved in passive activities that require no interaction on their part. Work puzzles with them, engage in conversation and play games, which, of

course, depends on their cognitive and physical abilities. If you are a caregiver to an elderly parent, be sure to ask about family history. It is a good idea to record what they say because you may not get a chance to know about things that occurred during their childhood or before you were born. These are ways you can be relational with your loved one.

Before my mom died, my children found out that she had been married to someone before my father. My sister who was her caregiver for over seven years knew more about our family history on my mom's side than I did, because she spent a lot of time talking with her before the dementia completely set in. I would not have had this information if she had not been able to speak with my mother over time. It is a good idea to speak to older relatives even if you are not a caregiver because upon their death you will not have that opportunity, and you will miss out on your heritage and what life was like back in the day.

Now, I have some advice for you as a caregiver. First off, you may become weary and experience stress, which might cause you to experience health difficulties. This might hinder or cause you to be unable to take care of your loved one. These issues should be taken to Jesus. If your loved one needs you now, they will need you to stay healthy and have a long life so that they may be cared for by the person who knows them the best. Therefore, learn to take breaks away from your loved one without feeling guilty. Get out of the house, go to a coffee shop, get a massage, meet with a friend or enjoy some leisure activity. So much of caregiving is selfless and it seems like doing something for yourself is counter intuitive. This will help you emotionally and physically to become recharged and you will become a better caregiver, serving in the best possible way.

Also, know that others will be inspired by the way that you take care of your loved one. Kathy and I used to go to plays and concerts at the school where I worked. When I retired from teaching more than one teacher told me that the most memorable and impactful testimony I had given them was the way that I treated my

wife because of her disabilities. Sometimes you will feel unappreciated, but people are watching you and are being inspired. What you do is as important as preaching to thousands. Encourage your own heart by believing there is a reward in heaven for loving and selfless service.

You will draw strength from the prayer and presence of other believers, particularly those who, like you, are caregivers. Perhaps this is an informal coffee meeting or something more formal like a support group. It is good to know you are not alone. Getting together to support one another can be important to your emotional and spiritual well-being. I believe this is best done in the church, but there are also secular support groups dedicated to helping caregivers. Perhaps this would be an opportunity to witness about how Jesus is making a difference in your life and in your situation.

Finally, develop some processing mechanisms. You might want to keep a journal of your caregiving journey. It helps to be able to express yourself, so that you can look at your feelings and thoughts. Include your prayers and listen to God to gain wisdom and encouragement. You might even be able to turn your journey into a book. Write down the moments of gratitude and the times you enjoyed the most with your loved one. Reflect on the things that worked and reconsider the things that did not work. In essence, be proactive and not reactive. You are not at the mercy of your situation.



On a personal note, one of the things that has sustained me is a strong sense of God's love for me and how He has blessed me with the ability to feel His emotions and experience His manifest presence. This is not only in church services but also in my quiet time of prayer and in breakthrough moments. Sometimes I become spiritually intoxicated and receive spiritual guidance and prophetic words to guide me. My mind is constantly reflecting on the scripture.

I am also an avid reader. Reading and writing are not just hobbies but they feed my purpose and destiny, which also fuels my resolve. Additionally, I believe I am the kind of person that my wife needs, and God

knew this before I even married her. **I was made for her.**

There are things that form my character. I am a covenant keeper. Making a sacred vow of marriage, to me, is unbreakable. A year after Kathy's accident, a psychology student in a master's degree program wanted to interview me for her thesis regarding spouses who had a loved one seriously injured. She asked me if I had ever thought of divorcing my wife. I told her no. She said others had. I told her the thought had never entered my mind and that is true to this very day.

Part of this commitment has to do with the value I place on my integrity. I am fiercely loyal and I value faithfulness especially in the face of hardship. The chief goal is not happiness, but as the Westminster catechism says, "the chief purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever". That does not mean we have to forgo any enjoyment of pleasures that are available to us in life if they are not sinful. However, Jesus promises us "in this world we will experience trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 3:3:b). As one of my friends says, "Jesus did not say it would be easy only that it would be worth it."

I've said, "happiness is overrated", even if I have experienced happiness. Said a different way,

"godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).

Contentment is better in any situation than an ill-defined happiness. As Paul said in *Philippians 4:12b* "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation..." Circumstances did not dictate to Paul how he should feel about things; after all, he said this while he was in prison.

I, by nature, I am a warrior. Adversity just makes me want to try harder... I WILL overcome! A pastor once said to me, "No matter what happens to you, you always land on your feet." I can be relentless in my obedience to God, which has

resulted in a better set of circumstances. I believe my wife and I are, and will be, overcomers regarding any prospect of physical decline. God has told me he IS healing me, for all my health tests are coming back excellent. Nevertheless, we will serve God regardless of our health status. Prophetic people have continued to say that Kathy will be healed in this life.

In short, be strong and courageous because this adversity is honing you to endure as an instrument of warfare for the Kingdom of God. Remember, "for the joy set before him, He [Jesus] endured the cross [suffering]" (Heb. 12:2b).

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your feet.”

Uniquely qualified as an editor, having taught college Composition courses for 20 years, Dr. Reedy serves as editor in Chief and a contributor of Fullness Online Magazine. He holds a B.A. degree in Journalism & Communications, an M.A. degree in English-Rhetoric and Composition, and he has completed 30 hours of a Ph.D. program in Classical Rhetoric, Post-modernism, and Victorian Authorship (ABD).

Tom has served as a pastor and church planter for 30 years (12 years as a Baptist pastor). He received his education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. and a D. Min.).

He served as a pastor of Southern Baptist churches until he was filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit (1985) with the gift of healings, prophecy, and a ministry of deliverance. He was commissioned as an Apostle/Teacher in 1990. Ras Robinson became his spiritual father in 1987, resulting in a vital connection with the "Fullness" message.



Dr. Reedy has published under his own publishing company, Roar Publications (Roarpublications@gmail.com), five books entitled *The Hand of Zerubbabel* (1994), *Wrestling with God: Evangelicals and the Holy Spirit* (2015); and *For the Joy: Praise and the Cross of Christ* (2020), *The Apostle: Metaphors of an Emerging Ministry* (2021), and *The Five-Fold Ministry and the Armor of God* (2021). Dr. Reedy publishes online content on his website: www.thomas-reedy.com YouTube: "Eyes Wide Open".



Fullness in Christ Ministries

Ministry to Orphans and Widows in the Philippines

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27 (NLT)

We have long been touched by the conditions of widows and fatherless children in the Philippines. A few years ago we began to hear that God wanted FCM to build Children's Homes. They would be called "The Father's House" and would provide godly homes for orphaned, abandoned and/or abused children. We now have 2 homes and 1 foster home. They are legally licensed and under the authority of the Philippine social services. We will eventually have 10 such homes across the Philippines. They will be small homes with 10 to 20 children, fostering a family atmosphere.

We also are concerned about widows in the Philippines. Many times they are elderly, in poor health and have little to no source of income. We currently have ministry to widows in two locations. It involves food, other essentials and helping to meet other practical and spiritual needs. They especially enjoy the personal care shown to them. Our desire is to expand this ministry in more locations and to more widows.

You can make a difference in the life of a child or a widow.

To give for this ministry, go to <https://fullnessonline.kindful.com>.

Select the campaign "Caring for Orphans and Widows."

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The thief
comes only in
order that
he may
steal and
may kill and may
destroy. **I** came
that they may have
and enjoy life, and
have it in abun-
dance - to the full
till it overflows.



John 10:10 AMP
BEV ROBINSON