

Paul G. DeNeui ∞ In Him Realities



I've Been Redeemed

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CHAPTER 1
REDEMPTION

Jesus is coming again! Amen. Oh, we look forward to that, don't we? Praise God! Listen to this: Eph. 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.* Now let me ask this question - Do you remember, now this was several years back, going to the grocery store? You'd buy so many groceries, spend so much money and then the cashier would give you some stamps, S&H Green Stamps. Remember those? That brings back a lot of memories.

At our house, we had a toaster that kind of worked. You could put the bread in the toaster, you could push the knob down and it would start making toast, but then it would never pop back up. So you

had to watch it all the time. If the phone rang or somebody was at the door, if you had to leave the kitchen and you forgot about the toaster, you could have a problem. You could get burnt toast or, worse than that, you could have a fire. So Mom wanted a new toaster. She saw in the catalog, the S&H Green Stamps catalog, that for so many books of Green Stamps she could get a new toaster. So now the quest was on. She was saving those S&H Green Stamps for a new toaster. It took a while, it seemed like it was a lot of Green Stamps for that toaster. When it was time to get the toaster, we went to a different building. We shopped at the Red Owl grocery store. We didn't go to the Red Owl store to pick up our toaster. Do you remember what the name of that building was called? It was called the Redemption Center. The S&H Green Stamps Redemption Center. We went to the Redemption Center with our books of Green Stamps. We redeemed the toaster with our Green Stamps. In other words, we walked in with one thing, but we came out with something else. We went into the Redemption Center with our Green Stamp books and saw the toaster in a box up on the shelf. We gave our Green Stamps in exchange for the toaster. We redeemed that toaster with our Green Stamps.

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We knew what the toaster could do. It was designed to do something – make toast. When we got home it was the middle of the afternoon, but we didn't waste any time to make some toast. We got that toaster out of the box, put bread in it, pushed down that little knob and waited for the toast to pop back up. And so now, you see, the toaster was redeemed to do what it was designed to do.

This word “Redemption”, the Bible tells us that we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. In other words, when Jesus came to this earth and shed His blood on the cross for you and for me, he paid the price for us. We have been set free. You could say it like this, we have been given the ability to hop off the shelf and start making some toast. Do you see that? Many times the excitement in a new Christian compels them to share Jesus everywhere they go. They're so eager to share the Good News. We have the ability to start doing what God has put on the inside of us to do.

Each one of us is different. We are not all the same. We're all designed a little bit different. There are people who you know that I don't know. There are people who I know that you don't know.

There are some things that you can do, that you can do a whole lot better than I can. We have been redeemed, or in other words, we have been set free to do what God has designed each and every one of us to do. Isn't that awesome?

Now, I want to take a look at something else. In Galatians 3:13 it says, *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law.* So we have been redeemed from something. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

You know, when I was a little kid, I lived in a neighborhood that had a lot of kids. Some of the kids were easy to get along with and others were not. Some kids just wanted to start trouble. It seemed like if I'd get about a block away from my house, there'd be some kids who would want to push my bike over or they'd want to hit me. I'm telling you, that's what I'd call a curse. It was not a good thing. There were things coming against me that I didn't like. Until one day, I remember being about a block or two away from home and there was that road block again, a gang of kids on their bikes. I knew that if I turned and started running, they'd come after me. So I just rode up to them, I got off my bike and asked them a question. I said,

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“Do you know anybody in the neighborhood by the name of Joel?” Joel is my big brother. I don’t know why I’d never thought of this before. He is 10 years older than me. I was in grade school, he was in high school. When the kids heard this question, I could tell they knew who he was. They did not know he was my brother. Their eyes got big and they asked me, “How do you know him?” They knew he was a high school kid. I said, “He’s my big brother.” I said, “I’m telling you, if you keep messing with me, you’ll be messing with him, because I’ve had enough of you guys.” You’ve got to know this; they never messed with me again. Now, I tell that story because I wanted you to see there was power in that name. Do you see that? Those kids knew that they better not mess with me anymore, because if they messed with me, they’d be messing with Joel.

Joel is my big brother. You could say he is my elder brother. Does that sound familiar? The Bible tells me that Jesus is not only my Savior and Lord, he is my elder brother. There is power in the name of Jesus. We know that there are many things that can come against us. I mean, we’re still living in this world. There is still stuff that happens. But we’ve got to know this, Phil. 2:10-11, *that at the*

name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. We have been redeemed from the curse, any kind of curse. We have been redeemed. That's why I get so happy when I sing that song, "I've been redeemed, I've been bought by the blood of the Lamb. I'm redeemed, I have the blessings of Abraham. From spiritual death and poverty, every sickness and disease, I'm redeemed, thank God, I'm redeemed." You can get so much stuff going on around you; you forget who you are in Christ and the power in the name of Jesus.

Faith is a very, very powerful thing. The New Testament says, "The Just shall live by faith," in three separate references, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Heb. 10:38. Faith is released by speaking, in most cases. You have got to believe it. How do you cause faith to operate in your life? How did you get saved? The Bible says in Rom 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Confession is very important.

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We can use the name of Jesus. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law. Jesus did that for us on the cross. He paid the price.

I was able to pedal around my neighborhood, as a matter of fact; I could go just about anywhere in town without any trouble, because they knew Joel was my big brother.

I'm a King's kid. My elder brother is Jesus. So Devil, you mess with me, you're messing with Jesus.

I've got one more verse that I want to take a look at. Galatians 3:14 says, *that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ.* In other words, we have been redeemed from the curse, but we have been redeemed to the blessing. How do we discover what's a blessing and what's a curse? The Bible is my owner's manual. It tells me, as a Christian, who I am, what I have, and what I can do. Then I use the name of Jesus, because I've been redeemed. He paid for me. He bought me, so I can use that name – the name of Jesus. There's power in the name of Jesus.

In 1993, my wife and I and our kids moved to Oklahoma. Up until then we had lived in Iowa our whole married life. My parents owned a home in Minnesota. I remember my dad showing me where he had hidden a house key underneath their deck. He wanted me to know that whenever we were in the area, we were always welcome to stay in their home, even if they weren't there. We could eat their food, sleep in their beds and relax in their home any time we wanted. Why? I'm in the family. I have rights and privileges because I'm in the family. That means not only can I get in the house, I can get in the refrigerator. That was the best part; I liked my mom's cooking. I could spend the night in their beds; I could do whatever I wanted to do in their home. I had that available to me because I was in the family. Mom and Dad had many friends in that town, but their friends didn't know where the key was. Mom and Dad never told them. Why? Because they were not family.

Jesus is our Redeemer. He redeemed us so we can be in the family of God. That family also has rights and privileges. One of the blessings is that in the name of Jesus, heaven is our home. In John 14:2-3, Jesus said, *In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.*

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I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. Mansions in glory - Praise God, I believe that! But between now and then we have rights and privileges, too. We have been redeemed to something. How do we receive what we've been redeemed to? The same way, it's in the name of Jesus.

I thank God every day for my health, even when I don't feel well. I thank God for my healing, because I know that's part of the blessing. I know that in order to receive my healing, I need to speak it and believe it. That's how our faith is released.

I'm talking about redemption. We've been redeemed; we've been bought by the blood of the Lamb. We have been redeemed from something and we have been redeemed to something. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law and we have been redeemed to the blessing of Abraham.

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CHAPTER 2
THE CURSE AND THE BLESSING

I love that word “Redemption”. I have been redeemed. How did I get that way? Well, I said something that I believed, based on the Word. Rom 10:9 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* Now let’s say this – that’s the formula for faith. Say something you believe according to the Word of God. The Lord spoke this to me during a time of prayer. I heard this down on the inside. *Faith is believing that when you speak God’s words they have the power to change your circumstances from the facts of this world to the truth of God’s Word.* That’s powerful.

I have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. I have the right to use the name of Jesus. I choose to believe that, because it lines up with the Word of God. In the previous chapter, we saw that we've been redeemed from something and we've been redeemed to something. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law and we have been redeemed to the blessing of Abraham.

Clear back in the Old Testament, God said He gave to the children of Israel the Promised land. Yet, the children of Israel had to take it. We have to receive what He gives. That first generation didn't believe, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, and they never did go in and possess the land. It was the second generation that said, *we can do it, God gave it to us and we can take it.* They went in and took the Promised land. If you think about that, even though God gives us things, God gave us salvation, yet we've got to receive it. We've got to take it. We've got our part to play. He's already done His part. Now we need to do ours. Just simply say, "Yes, I believe."

The Bible says we have been redeemed from the curse and we have been redeemed to the blessing. What is our part to play? We can jump and shout.

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We can sing, “I’ve Been Redeemed”. But how do we actually walk in redemption? Let’s take a look at Proverbs 18:21. This gives us a real clue. As a matter of fact, this little thing in the mouth called the tongue has a lot to do with receiving. Proverbs 18:21 says, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it will eat the fruit thereof.* So death and life are in the power of the tongue. What we say can make a big difference in our lives. There are things we say every day that are just simply facts. “The sun is up”, that’s a fact. We might call that chit chat in terms of communication. It’s true. It’s a fact. It’s probably not going to change anything. It’s just a statement.

What do we do when we want to change something? I changed the direction of my life when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. As a child, I was old enough to know right from wrong. I knew if I didn’t accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, well, I was heading in a direction I really didn’t want to go. I had to make up my mind that I would accept Jesus. I believed in my heart and I confessed with my mouth. It completely changed the direction of my life. I was heading to hell. I made the decision to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and it changed the direction of

my life. Now I am heading to heaven. I'm in the family of God. Heaven is my home. What a wonderful thing! But what about between now and going to heaven? What about today? What about tomorrow? How can I make changes to my everyday life?

We saw that death and life are in the power of the tongue. What we say, based on what we believe, is going to make a big difference in our lives. You've probably heard this before: "Well, you know it's just that time of the year. Just seems like when flu season rolls around, I always get it. Boy, I don't know why, I just do." And, they don't even have it yet. They're already confessing that this year they're going to get it just like they got it last year. Think about that. We may think that what we're saying doesn't matter. But what we say is extremely important. We get what we say, and then we wonder how we got it! What could we say that could stop that from happening? Someone might say, "I've got heart trouble. My daddy had it and my daddy's daddy had it, so it's just the way it is. I guess I'm going to have it, too." That will not help them change for the better. Obviously, if there is a physical problem that can be fixed, we need to fix it. The Bible says to do all you know to do and

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then stand on the Word of God. Eph 6:13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

We have been redeemed from the curse and we have been redeemed to the blessing.

In James 3:3 it says, *Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.* Did you know that for centuries the Bible has told us how to control a horse? When I was in junior high school, I went to a ranch for a few weeks. I'm telling you, I didn't know a thing about riding a horse. We were out several miles from the ranch when somebody said, "It's time to go back to the barn." If you know anything about horses, if that horse knows it's time to go back to the barn and you don't know how to control him, he'll get you there faster than you'll want to go. I was hanging on for dear life. I saw my life flash before me in a split second. I didn't fall off, but after that incident I had a real desire to learn how to control that horse. This verse says you put a bit in a horse's mouth and you can control a horse. It says you can control the direction of that horse. James 3:5 says, *Even so the*

tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. So the Bible is making a comparison between controlling the horse with a bit and controlling our lives with our tongue. Did you know that you can control the direction of your life with your tongue? Think about that. Let's make a reference again to salvation. We spoke something and it changed the direction of our lives. We'll never be the same. There's death and life in the power of the tongue.

Let's go to Mark 11. We're going to look at something that Jesus taught. I'm so thankful that He said it and not me. Because if I came up with this and told you to believe it, you probably wouldn't. So I'm going to read what Jesus said, and you can decide whether to believe Him or not. I didn't say it. I'm just saying what Jesus said. Do you remember the story? It's Mark chapter 11. Jesus would go into Jerusalem, but He never spent the night there. He would go to Bethany and spend the night and then go back to Jerusalem. One day, He was heading to Bethany and along the way He was hungry. He saw a fig tree, so He thought He would go over to the tree to get something to eat. There were no figs. The Bible says in verse 14, *Jesus answered and said unto the fig tree, No man*

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eat fruit of thee hereafter forever. (In one of my meetings I was sharing this story and a man, from the back of the room, shouted out, “I like Fig Newtons.” I said, “Well, thank God He only said it to one tree. We can still have Fig Newtons.”) Jesus said, *No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever.* The next day, Jesus and His disciples were coming back to Jerusalem. The disciples remembered what Jesus had said to the fig tree, so they went over to the tree to see what had happened. Verse number 20 says, *And in the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.* The fig tree Jesus cursed was dead, dried up from the roots. Verses 21-22, *And Peter calling to remembrance said unto Him, Master, the fig tree which thou cursed is withered away. And Jesus answering said unto them, Have faith in God.* Now if Jesus was the only one who could do that, He had a good opportunity right here to say something like this, “I’m Jesus, you guys need to leave this alone. Don’t attempt this at home. I did it because I’m Jesus. You can’t and shouldn’t try.” But He didn’t say that. He said, *Have faith in God.* Then, in the very next verse, verse 23, He said, *For verily I say unto you that whosoever. . .* – aren’t you glad you’re a whosoever? Where else did he say that? John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that*

whosoever. . . He's using that same word in Mark 11:23 *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.* That's an amazing statement! I'm glad that Jesus said it and not me. I'm just repeating what Jesus said. He said you can speak to the mountain and tell it to be cast into the sea, and if you don't doubt, but believe, it will have to obey. What is a mountain? Jesus was referring to something you don't want. You want it to be cast into the sea. You want it out of your way. It's in your way, and you want to get rid of it. Now remember, we're talking about being redeemed from the curse of the law and being redeemed to the blessing. Jesus said in John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* Listen: stealing, killing and destroying is the curse. If you would review all the curses in the Bible, they are either stealing, killing, or destroying. They are not from God. Jesus said, *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* That is the blessing. Jesus makes it

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very clear what the curse is, where it comes from, what the blessing is and where it comes from. Stealing, killing and destroying is the curse. Life and life more abundantly is the blessing. Jesus wants us to have life in every area of our lives. Jesus said you can speak to your mountain. We could say it like this, you can speak to the curse, or you can speak to anything that is coming against you that is stealing, killing, or destroying, and tell it to be cast into the sea. If you're not feeling well, that is stealing your health. Jesus said you can speak to your mountain and tell it to be cast into the sea. I thought about that. I thought why in the world would Jesus be talking about a mountain right there? Why in the world would you talk about a mountain being cast into the sea? The more I meditated on that, I began to get some light. A mountain would be something so big that there's nothing you can do about it in the natural. You just don't know how you're going to handle it, how you're going to get over it, how you're going to get on the other side of it. When a mountain is cast into the sea, into the ocean, do you realize that the ocean has the capacity to engulf that mountain just as though it never existed? You can tell that mountain to go, to be gone, to be cast into the sea just as though it never existed. This verse is not

prayer. Let's look at it again. Not one time did Jesus say to pray to the Father that the Father would cast your mountain into the sea, in Jesus' name. He didn't say that. In effect He said, "Just like I spoke to the fig tree, you speak to your mountain and you tell it to be cast into the sea, and if you don't doubt but believe, it will have to go." That is not prayer. That is the authority of a Christian. You have some authority. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law. The curse is here on the earth, and we've been given the ability to deal with it. Jesus said we have been redeemed from the curse.

Now let's take a look at the very next verse, Mark 11:24 *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.* Those things that you desire are the blessings or the promises of God. These things come from God. It says, *Whatsoever things you desire when you pray*, so in other words, the blessings come from God. We pray to God for the blessings. Curses don't come from God. It's the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. We speak to the curse and tell it to be cast into the sea. Here's the dividing line. I know I'm repeating myself, but we need to get this. If

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it's stealing, killing, or destroying, it's a curse and you tell it to be cast into the sea. If it's life and life more abundantly, it's the blessing or the promises, and you thank God for them and accept them into your life. Those things that you desire, the promises, the blessings, life, come from God. We pray and we thank God for the blessings. Listen to this verse, Mark 11:24, *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.* We have the ability to speak to the curse, tell it to be gone in Jesus' name. And we have the ability to thank God for all of his blessings, for his healing power, that he meets all of our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Just last June, my wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Maybe a year or so into our marriage, we had gone to a Sunday morning service and were just relaxing on Sunday afternoon getting ready for the evening service. Ann started not feeling well. Nothing in particular, just not feeling well. It was time to leave for the evening service and Ann said, "I just don't think I'll go. I'm just going to lay down on the couch in the living room. You go ahead and go, I'll be fine. I'm just going to rest here on the couch." So I went on

to church. It was a wonderful service. I was thinking the whole time; *I sure wish Ann was here. She's missing a good service.* We like to share these services together. On the way home, I'm still thinking about that. I'm thinking that it's too bad she missed out. Suddenly it rose up in me, if she's not feeling well, that has got to be a part of the curse; stealing, killing, destroying. She's not feeling well, so it's stealing her health. I thought, *when I get home, I'm going to speak to that sickness.* Ann was still on the couch when I got home. She said she wasn't any worse, but she wasn't any better either. I told her, "I am going to speak to the sickness. I just want you to know what I'm doing." I said, "You foul sickness, I command you to leave this body. You have no right to be in this body, because Ann is a child of God. Ann is a holy temple of the Lord. Sickness, you have no right to be here, now go, in Jesus' name." Then I began to pray. I said, "Lord, thank you for your healing power. I want to thank you for your healing and wholeness that is flowing into Ann's body, affecting a healing and a cure. Thank you, in Jesus' name, Amen." We looked at each other a moment and then Ann said, "I believe I'll get up. I feel better." We were just starting to learn some things about the authority we had as believers.

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There is life and death in the power of the tongue.
Speak to the curse and thank God for the blessings.

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CHAPTER 3
JESUS AND THE FIG TREE

We've been looking at redemption. Now let's look at the story of Jesus and the fig tree a little closer. Let's see how it relates to being redeemed from the curse to the blessing. It was the incident of Jesus speaking to the fig tree that caused Him to talk to his disciples about speaking to "the mountain" and praying "whatsoever things you desire." I've always been fascinated about why Jesus cursed the tree.

We have been looking at redemption and we saw in Gal 3:13-14 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on*

the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Then we looked at Mark 11:23 *For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.* I believe he was talking to his disciples about things that get in our way, mountains, things that sometimes appear to be bigger than what we can handle. Jesus was saying that we have the power; we have the authority to speak to our mountains. If we believe it when we say it, we'll have what we say. We've looked at the fact that we have been redeemed from the curse and we have been redeemed to the blessing. Verse 24 says, *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.* We compared that with John 10:10 which gives us the source of the curse and the blessing. It's the thief that comes to steal kill and destroy. That is the description of the curse; stealing, killing, and destroying. Then Jesus said, *I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.* That is the blessing. Jesus was telling his disciples that you can see the curse. When you

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see something that is the result of the curse – stealing, killing, or destroying – you have every right to speak to that curse or mountain. Tell it to be gone in Jesus' name. You can also see the blessing. When its life and life more abundantly, thank God.

I've been fascinated with why Jesus would use a mountain for an example of the curse. He may have been in an area where he could point to a mountain and tell them, "You speak to it, and if you believe it, it will have to go." I'm fascinated with the use of a mountain, something that is possibly bigger than what we think we'll be able to handle. When a mountain is cast into the sea, what happens? The sea or the ocean has the ability to engulf that mountain. The sea can absorb that mountain just as though it never existed. I'm telling you, that's something I get excited about. When something is coming against me and looks bigger than what I can handle, I can use my authority in the name of Jesus. I can tell my mountain to be cast into the sea and it has to go. It will dissipate and never be seen again. I can know that in the name of Jesus, I can speak to my mountain. Again, Jesus said he came to give us life and life in abundance. Eph. 1:3 says, *Blessed be*

the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. The blessing comes from God, so we pray to God in Jesus' name and receive the blessing. We have received all spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, so we honor Him; we thank Him for the blessings.

All of this came on the shirt tales of Jesus responding to a fig tree. Jesus had just been in Jerusalem. He was on his way to Bethany to spend the night and then go back to Jerusalem the next day. It really doesn't say this in Scripture, but evidently Jesus was hungry. He saw a fig tree. The Word says this fig tree was full of leaves, so he went over to it to see if there were figs. There were no figs. The Bible says it was not time or it was not the season for figs. The Amplified version says the figs come at the same time as the leaves. When there are leaves, the figs should be there. Figs come at the same time the leaves come. Jesus knew it was not time for figs, but he saw the leaves. He went over to the tree to see if he could find figs. There were no figs. I can imagine him thinking of several things right here. Jesus looked at the tree because of the leaves. Sometimes we get sidetracked.

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Eve was sidetracked when she heard Satan say, “hath God said”. It made her question the truth. She ate of the fruit because she was deceived. 2 Cor 11:3, . . . *as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness.* . NKJV She believed something that was not true.

When Jesus had fasted 40 days, Satan came to tempt him. Matt 4:1-3, *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* In the computer world “if – then” statements say, *if* this happens, *then* that will happen. It always works the same way. Satan was telling Jesus that, *if* you are the Son of God, *then* you will turn these stones into bread. The opposite would also be true. *If* you aren't the Son of God, *then* you won't turn these stones into bread. Satan was attempting to trap Jesus. What Satan says is deceptive. That's his number one tool. The curse came about by Satan's deception. He is the Deceiver. Jesus answered Satan by saying, Matt 4:4, *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word*

that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. In other words, this was not about turning stones into bread. This was about allegiance. Who do you follow, Satan or God? If Jesus had turned the stones into bread, He would have been following Satan.

When I think of Satan and his deception, it reminds me of that old movie, “The Wizard Of Oz”, the scene in the Emerald City where there was a white haired man behind the curtain. He was using deception to gain control or power. He was creating “the Great Wizard Of Oz.” It was an illusion. It was created by fire, smoke, a projected image and an amplified voice. It was not real. But everyone believed it was real. People put themselves in danger and did things they didn’t want to do because of his power through deception. He had created “The Great All Powerful Oz.”

Jesus thought there should be figs on the tree because there were leaves. *If* there are leaves, *then* there should be figs. He was deceived. Jesus hates deception. It made him very angry. When he spoke to the tree and said, Mark 11:14, *No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.* In effect He was saying,

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“No man be deceived by you hereafter forever.” It was a reminder that even this earth was cursed as a result of the deceiver. It was the platform for Jesus to share with his disciples how to handle the curse and how to handle the blessing. Jesus began by saying, *Have faith in God*. Now we can see how important it is to always put your trust in God and in his Word. Don't be deceived by anything else. Jesus said anytime there's something that comes across your life that is deceptive, anytime there's something that comes across your life that falls in the category of stealing, killing or destroying, it comes from the thief. It comes from the deceiver. It's a result of the curse. You have the authority to speak to your mountains and tell it to be cast into the sea. Jesus spoke to His Mountain. He spoke to the fig tree. He told it to be cast into the sea. That tree shriveled up and died from the very roots. He said, in effect, “No man will ever be cursed by you again. No man will ever be deceived by you again.” So on that premise, Jesus was determined to tell his disciples how to handle the curse, how to handle deception, how to handle the blessing, how to handle the promises of God. The curse comes from the thief, it comes from Satan. It will steal, kill and destroy. We have every right to speak against it. We have authority in the name of Jesus

to speak to the curse. You could say it like this, deception or the curse may be a fact, but it is not the truth. Don't be deceived by the facts when they don't agree with the truth. The truth is more real, more powerful, than the facts. Understand the truth and walk in the truth. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, . . . *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* The truth will carry you through. John 10:10 says, . . . *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* Thank God for the truth. Thank God I've been redeemed!

CHAPTER 4
REDEMPTION APPLIED

Redemption is a wonderful word. The reality of redemption is available to everyone. Jesus came to redeem all mankind. Jesus paid the price for our sins at the cross.

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Rom 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Salvation is a gift that is made available to those who repent, believe, and confess that Jesus is Lord and that He died and rose from the dead to save mankind. Jesus went to the cross to redeem us with His blood. We have been given the ability to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour because we have been redeemed. Jesus paid the price for you and me.

I remember, vividly, accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. My mom tells me that I was four or five years old when I got saved. I remember where I

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was and I remember how it happened. We were going to Vacation Bible School that summer and we were learning about Jesus. We were studying the verse John 3:16. We were also hearing about John 14:6 where the Bible says, *Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by, or through, Him.* And I know, growing up in a pastor's home, we were just always at church. When I was little we lived in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Our house was a two-story house: living room, dining room, kitchen, and den downstairs. We had three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. I shared a bedroom with my older brother. At night, when it was time for me to go to bed – let me say this, I always went to bed earlier than my brother, since we're ten years apart – Mom would come up, and we would kneel by the side of the bed (we had bunk beds and I was on the bottom). Mom would pray with me before I got into bed. On that particular evening, Mom mentioned Vacation Bible School. She said that she knew I was learning about Jesus. She asked me a question similar to this, “Paul, I think you probably know enough through Vacation Bible School to answer this, Would you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?” I remember saying, “Yes.” I remember praying with my mom to

accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Now, I didn't understand "Lord". As I look back on it, I understood that Jesus was my Savior and that if I accepted Him, I would go to heaven, and I would be in the family of God. I'm not sure I really understood "Lord." It's a growing experience to understand Him as your Lord. Back then, I really understood I was in the family of God. I knew I was going to heaven. I remember finishing my prayer and climbing into bed - Mom tucking me in. I'm telling you, that bed never felt so good. Just never felt so good. Seemed like the sheets were softer. Even at that age, people can know that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Salvation – it's a big, big deal. Being born again – Jesus said, *You must be born again.* John 3:7, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

If you are looking for a change in your life, if you are seeking a peace that is found only through a personal relationship with a loving God, then you are at the right place. God is ready and willing to help you – right here, and right now.

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Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, *Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (Acts 2:21) I am calling on You. I repent of my sins. Jesus, come into my heart and be Lord and Savior of my life. Thank you that you took my sins to the cross for me. Romans 10:9-10 says, *If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* I do that now. I confess that Jesus is my Savior and my Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Thank you Lord, I've been Redeemed. I Am Saved!

Welcome to the family of God! Now, you can say,
Thank God I've Been Redeemed!



In Him Realities

In Him Realities is a series of books dealing with who we are in Christ. This is the first in the series titled "I've Been Redeemed". It answers the questions; What is redemption? What are we redeemed from? What are we redeemed too? What does "Jesus cursing the fig tree" have to do with redemption? It's a great read for the nonbeliever, new believer, or someone who would like to know more about redemption.

About the Author



More than 35 years ago, the Lord gave Paul DeNeui a call, Matt. 4:19, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". Today he is ministering over 480 times a year throughout eastern Oklahoma in assisted care facilities. He also travels to churches, ministering and sharing: who we are, what we have, and what we can do, in Christ. Paul maintains a web site - www.pauldeneui.org He has produced a southern gospel CD titled "I Believe", a healing CD titled "Healing, Forever Settled" and his first book "The Nursing Home Chronicles". In this book, he shares: 12 basic beliefs he lives by, and chronicles the first year of the nursing home ministry.