

IMPACT



June 2012

A Monthly Publication of Impact Ministries

*Everything
About
Love!*

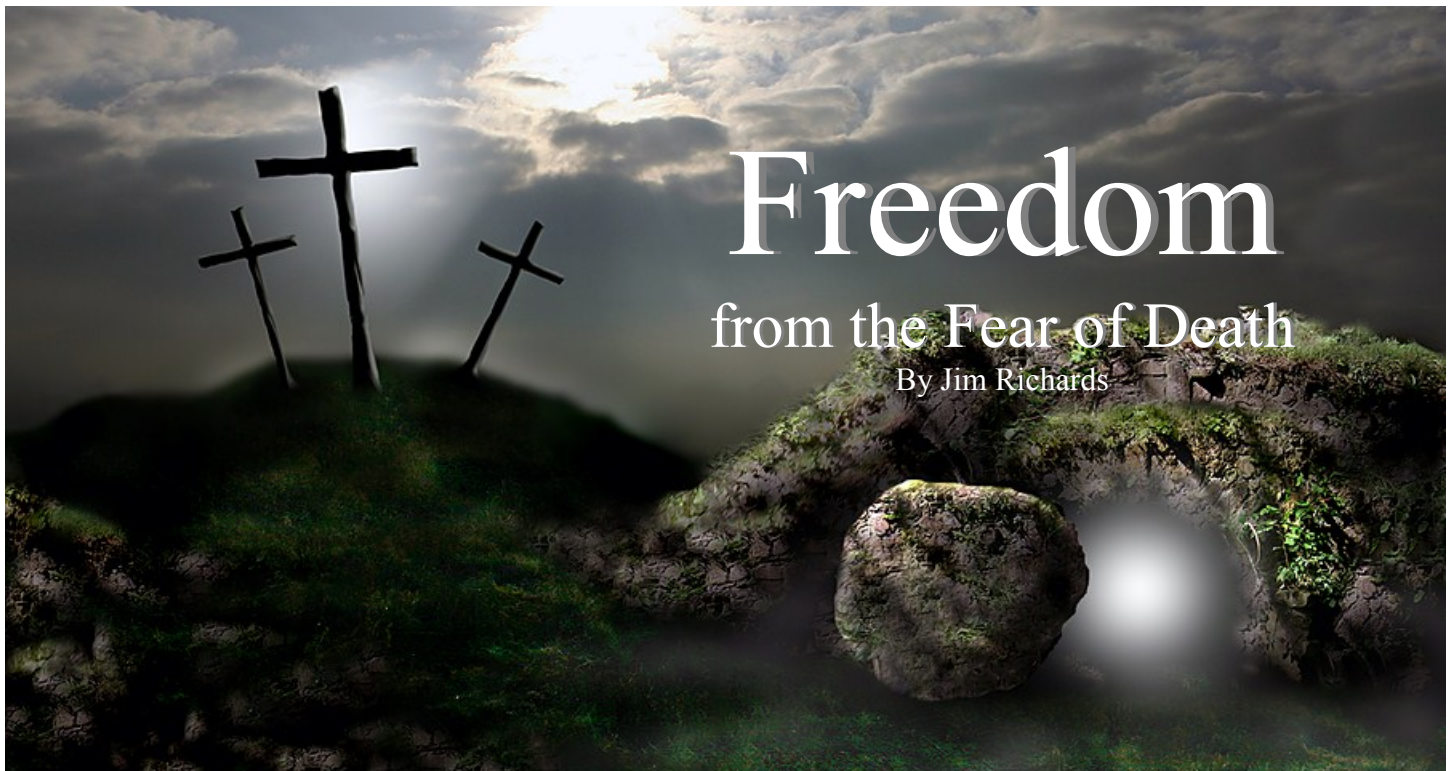
World Changers
Weekend 2012

Freedom
from the Fear
of Death

By Jim Richards

Building
a Healthy Ministry

By Allen Speegle



Freedom

from the Fear of Death

By Jim Richards

Hebrews 2:14-16 identifies freedom from the fear of death to be one of the key victories won by Jesus on behalf of mankind ...*that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.* According to Scripture, overcoming the fear of death is essential to freeing ourselves from a lifetime of bondage to the devil.

The fear of death holds an unspoken dread for every human being; in fact, death may possibly be the most dreaded fear imaginable to a species that was created to live forever. Yet, the opening of sin gave entrance to death, and because all men sinned death was passed to all; (Rom. 5:12) therefore, all men must resolve their fear of death or live a life of bondage.

You may ask, "What exactly is the bondage we will experience?" The bondage every person who does not resolve their fear of death will face is the root of all bondage: bondage to self! In a day when there is little emphasis on dying to self but great emphasis on living free, we have created a gospel that is based more on mysticism and fairytales than on the Bible. The offer of freedom without death to self is a delusional deception designed to pacify those who want to be Christians but not disciples, or church members but not members of His body.

We cannot live a new life while clinging to the old one. We cannot participate in resurrection power unless we have known the fellowship of His suffering and conform to His death! (Phil. 3:10) Before we can put on the new man we must put off the old man. Before we can have a new identity we must surrender our former identity!

Everything in man's original "wiring" was designed to avoid pain and pursue pleasure. Of course, in the beginning man was in an intimate relationship with God wherein he discovered all the joys and pleasures of life. Because he lived in perfect trust and obedience to God he enjoyed a level of abundance wherein was no lack whatsoever! Man's absolute trust for God and His wisdom produced a perfect obedience that led to a perfect life!

In the temptation man was told the forbidden fruit would give him the ability to *know good and evil*, i.e., to ascertain by seeing and perceiving. Then when they ate their eyes were opened to do just that. It is interesting to note that nothing evil came into the world at that moment. There was not a torrential deluge of demonic power released and things that were once good did not suddenly become evil. But just as expected, their perception of the world changed. Rather than trusting God's wisdom to know good and evil they now had the ability of perception, and in a final attempt to be their own gods they judged what they saw independent of God's truth!

Every evil in the world is the result of a human making it so by his judgment, intent, distrust of God, or unbelief! All things God created were pure and good; nothing was or is evil within itself. In the Book of Titus Paul made the insightful statement that bears this very truth: *To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure.* (Titus 1:15) This one statement clarifies the profound reality that nothing in creation is evil within itself. We make it evil by our intent; then we discover that through a distorted perception and personal judgment we create our chaos and subsequent pain!

As previously mentioned we were created to pursue pleasure and avoid pain, but that process is corrupted by our own perception. When we fail to take God at His Word all we have left to distinguish pain or pleasure is our corrupted perception and personal judgment. This brings us to our fear of death and its ability to hold us in bondage! Not everything we judge to bring pain will do so, and not everything we determine will bring us pleasure will actually end that way!

Our “old man” is an idea of who we think we are. Every life experience is recorded in the cells of our body. Through cellular memory we have a subconscious memory that has created a sense of who we are... our identity! The heart is the part of our anatomy that stores our long-term memory and thereby gives us a sense of self based on everything we have ever experienced!

Based on all of our experiences we view life and make judgments about what we can and cannot do. We create the limits of our life, thus fulfilling Proverbs 4:23, *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues (boundaries) of life.* The thing that makes us function as a slave bound to lack, sickness, or any other destructive factor is that we are still living within the boundaries and limitations of the delusion of who we were apart from Jesus.

Our instinct to preserve our life doesn't just extend into our natural life; it carries over into our sense of identity, i.e., the life we think to be ours because we have not yet accepted our death with Jesus. Because we refuse to die to self, we stay bound to the limitations of our natural self!

Through the carnal/natural mind we have created a way of viewing ourselves and the world around us. Through this skewed perception we think we are alive and we are attempting to hold on to life. We do not see that the life we work so hard to protect is one of limitations. Through our natural mind we fear death to self. We only see the pain because we do not see the eternal, limitless pleasure of the resurrection life!

Our great struggle of faith is not because we lack the faith to believe for individual promises; it is because we still perceive ourselves to be the person we were outside of Jesus! We don't lack the faith for anything.

Accept following Him in death so you can live now and forever in the quality of life possessed by God! The moment you surrender all that you are outside of Jesus and consider yourself dead to sin, you experience the power of righteousness, the power of the resurrection, the power of life... the power of a new identity! And as an added bonus, when we die to self and connect to our identity in Christ it prepares us to crossover into eternity with no fear of natural death!

This article is based on the new series *Identity, Self-Image, and Self-Worth*. This incredible series will help you discover the secrets to establishing your heart in your new identity in Jesus. For more information see the ad on page 4 or [click here](#).

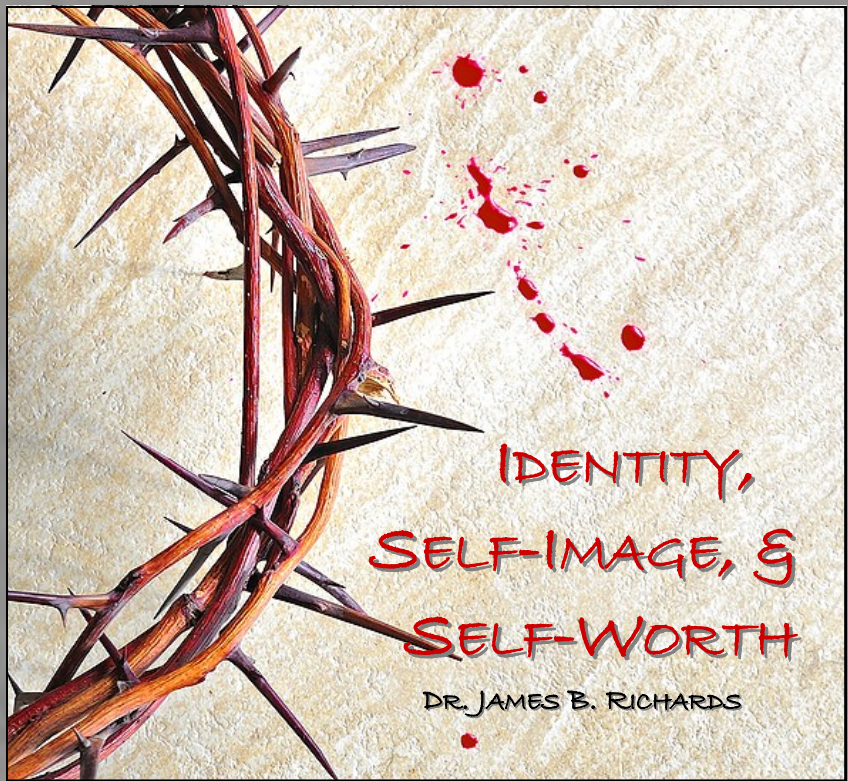
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The first promise of the New Covenant is that we become a new creation and all of our past is eradicated; we receive a new life and a new identity. At the time of the new birth we are baptized into the body of Christ. This means when God looks at us He sees Jesus; *we are hid in Christ in God!* The Apostle John said *as He is* (seated at the right hand of God) *so are we!*

Since we are **in Him** we share in His death to sin, deliverance from the curse of the law, overcoming death, totally defeating the devil, and receiving all the promises of God. He did these things by His faith and obedience; yet, because we are **in Him** they are as much ours as they are His. Our new identity is based on the resurrected Jesus who is Lord of all. It is only when we see ourselves **in Him** that we are able to grasp and live in this new identity!

Despite this reality it seems that most ministry is aimed at fixing the “old man.” If our “old man” died in Christ we don’t need to counsel him. He is dead! We need to acknowledge his death and move on to our new identity **in Christ**. We need to put on this new identity!

All that God has is ours **in Christ**. If we want to see who we are we look at Him and realize His identity is our identity; as He is so are we. Once we discover our identity **in Christ** we are free from the ego-driven need to establish an identity through our own performance. We remove the limitations of our natural life and share in the divine resources of the King of Kings. This new identity becomes the source of our self-image and our self-worth. Every dimension of our life will change when we know who we are **in Him!**

Nothing will change your life more than discovering your identity in Christ!

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A few years ago we did a leadership conference titled “Born Identity” and I believe it was one of the most if not the most important conferences we’ve ever had. As I thought about this today I was reminded of the fact that without a healthy and proper self-worth and identity we cannot build and establish healthy ministries and/or last in ministry. Without a healthy and proper self-worth we, as ministers, will inflict pain upon ourselves and allow others to do the same that will likely cause us to become one of the statistics below.

- 1500 pastors leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in their churches
- 50% of pastors are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living
- 70% of pastors constantly fight depression
- Almost 40% polled said they have had an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry
- 50% of pastors' marriages will end in divorce

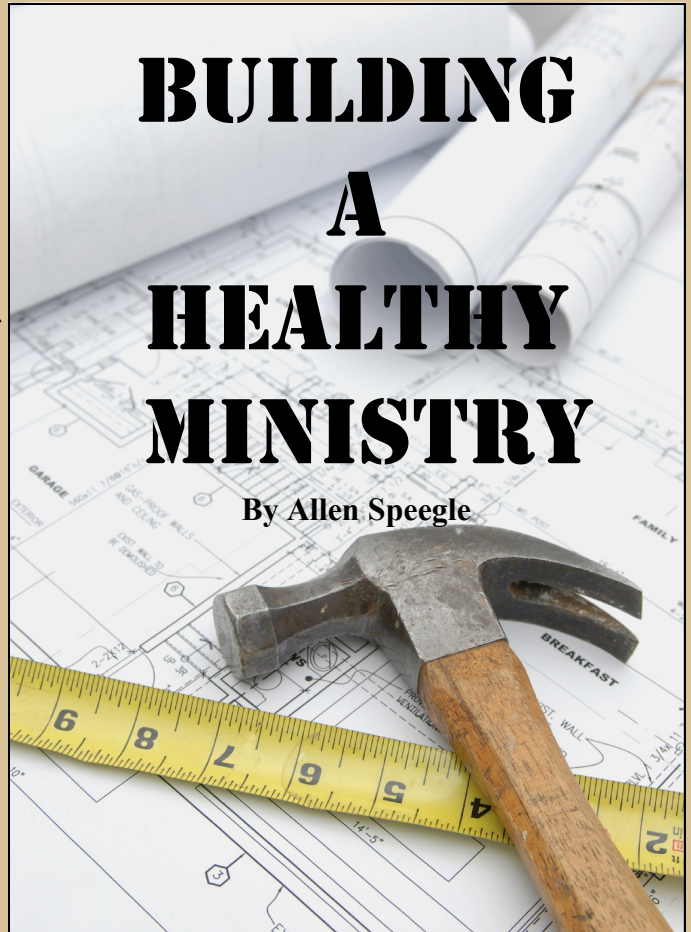
When I use the stats above (as I have many times in various leadership teachings) it ALWAYS alarms me and I ALWAYS say “these thing ought not to be.” How can it be that ministry is taking life away from people who are called rather than adding to their quality of it? I cannot find anywhere that Jesus said “Come follow and minister for me and I’ll destroy your family, ruin you emotionally, and keep you in poverty.” No, in Matthew 19:29 Jesus said “*anyone who gives up his home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or property, to follow me, shall receive a hundred times as much in return, and shall have eternal life.*” (TLB) And let me also remind you that when John 10:10 says *I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, till it overflows* (AMP) it applies to ministers also! So if Jesus was telling the truth (and He was) why are we seeing ministers dropping out like dead flies while most of the ministers who stay in the ministry are struggling just to keep their heads above water and live day-to-day putting out strife fires in their ministries? As it is with almost everything that troubles us in life, it all stems from mis-beliefs about God and self. Simply put, it ALL boils down to proper self-worth and identity.

Low self-worth in ministry produces ministers who...

- strive to keep everyone happy and in the end no one is, especially you!
- are poll takers instead of vision casters - always trying to figure out what the people want rather than going forward as God has directed.
- are too busy putting out fires and keeping people happy (who are not with them anyway) to evangelize and win the lost.
- become stereotypes of what everyone says a minister should be rather than following their passion and doing ministry the way God has graced them.

BUILDING A HEALTHY MINISTRY

By Allen Speegle



Continued on Page 8

Everything About Love!

At this year's **World Changers Weekend** we will be talking about one of my favorite topics with some of my favorite people! Bob and Audrey Meisner, Jimmie and Sheri Bratcher, Allen and Janice Speegle, along with Brenda and I, will be sharing from our heart about falling in love, staying in love, surviving love... *everything about love!* We'll talk about everything from dating to fighting to sex and everything in between!

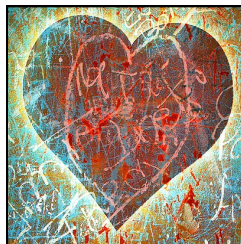
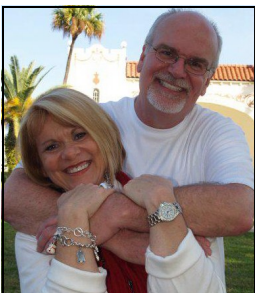
We'll be discussing subjects like:

- **Fighting Fair:** How to fight in a way that saves your relationship instead of destroying it
- **Feeling Forgiveness:** It's one thing to forgive the other person when they hurt you, but how do you actually get over the pain, hurt, and anger?
- **Sex for Success:** Your sex life can affect everything about the relationship, and everything about the relationship affects your sex life.
- **Getting Past Dirty Sex:** What you were taught about sex as a single teenager may be what is making your sex life dull and boring. One belief change could transform your sex life.
- **Turning Points:** The situation that creates the most potential to destroy your marriage is usually the key to transforming it.
- **Turn a House into a Home:** How to have a home you actually want to come home to.
- **Heart Physics for Love:** Learn to instantly infuse your emotions with positive feelings about your mate.



Between the eight of us we have been through nearly everything couples can face: sickness, financial ruin, unfaithfulness, divorce, PMS, and menopause - yet we are all still here and more in love than ever before. We want to share how we made it and we want to give you incredible tools so you can make it... with over-the-top, crazy love.

Space is limited! Make your reservation now! Free Registration for World Changers Weekend!
Register by phone at 1.800.284.9402 ext. 301 or online at impactministries.com



Everything About Love!

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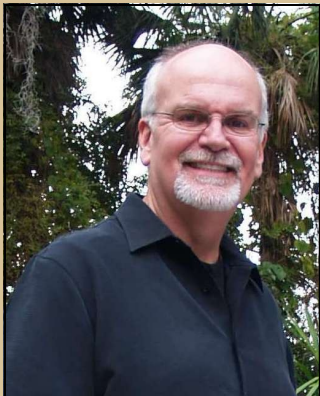
One Weekend to Change YOUR World!

Building a Healthy Ministry

(Con't from page 5)

So what's the answer? We must develop a proper self-worth, self-image. A person who gets their self-worth/image from what they do instead of who they are will not last in ministry and will destroy their life. As you develop a proper biblical self-worth/image it will keep criticism from killing you and praise from puffing you up. The thing that all of us **MUST** remember is that God never intended for us to get our identity from our ministry, but rather from Him and who He has made us. Pastoring is what I do but it isn't who I am and I should never confuse the two. Matthew 9:9 says "Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, 'Follow me.' and he arose, and followed him." When you read of Matthew's calling in the other gospels they state Jesus saw a tax collector named Matthew. By Matthew's own account he says Jesus saw a man that collected taxes but he did not make him what he did, He saw a man. When I read this I cannot help but believe that Jesus caused Matthew to feel a level of acceptance apart from what he did that no one but Jesus could make him feel. Matthew said, He – Jesus saw a man. When God looks at me He doesn't see a preacher, but a man, and places value on the man, Allen, not the preacher, Allen, and He did so while I was yet lost in unbelief. The NLT says in Hebrews 4:12 **the Word of God exposes us for what we really are.** I have said countless times when ministering that most Christians read the Bible for the wrong reasons. It was never God's intent that we read His Word to condemn ourselves and make us feel bad about ourselves but rather as a love letter that describes **WHO WE REALLY ARE** and what we can experience freely because of Jesus. **I am the righteousness of God** and **I am a child of God** and what I do has nothing to do with it. You are loved and accepted by God, your Father, not because of what you do for Him but who you are; so let that be the foundation from which your ministry is built. Without a proper foundation no house can stand, but with the proper foundation we can withstand the storms of life and ministry.

When we settle the self-worth issue in our life we will end the self-defeating patterns that have plagued our lives and ministries. A proper self-worth makes us healthy enough to know what to say "yes" and "no" to and keeps us from allowing others to dictate our calling; therefore, we will build a healthy ministry.



ALLEN SPEEGLE

Allen and his wife, Janice, are the Senior Pastors of Family Bible Church in Eustis, FL and founders of Safe Harbor International "Net" Work of Ministers. Allen has a firm belief in the value of building strong families and offers healthy, applicable insights in how to make this a reality.

Allen teaches practical, biblical truths that help others experience the fullness of life that God alone can offer. He has a heart to encourage and minister to other leaders and pastors locally, nationally, and worldwide. His television program, **Real Living**, is seen throughout most of Africa and in 135 countries around the world on the Spirit Word Channel. His simple approach to the wisdom found in the Word makes it easy for the individual to understand the love of God.

Check out Allen's ministry at fambible.org

If you enjoyed *Escape from Codependent Christianity* you will love the new, expanded edition, *Take Control of Your Life!*

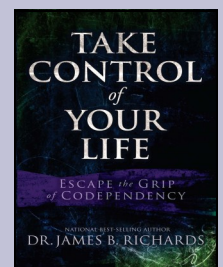
You won't find the term "codependency" in the Bible, yet it motivated Adam at the fall of man, it is the root of all addictions, the destroyer of all relationships, and it is consuming our world.

The greatest weakness of the Church has been our failure to set people free. We reach people who are addicted, but instead of helping to set them free, we simply transfer their addiction onto the local church, the pastor, or some religious program. The result is a church full of hurting people who are not free.

This book identifies how the world system of codependency has swept through government, education, family, and the Church; but more than point out the problem, it points out the only cure.

Available in eBook \$9.99 or Paperback \$14.99 + S/H

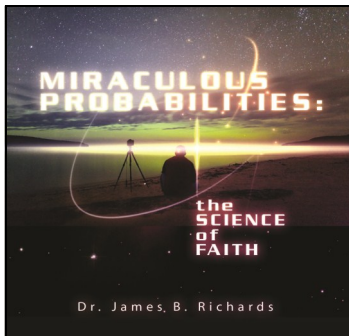
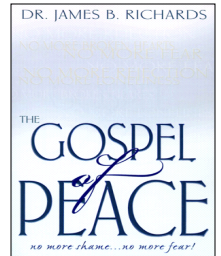
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June TESTIMONIES

A friend loaned me a copy of *The Gospel of Peace* and the DVDs for *Foundations of Faith*; what a revolutionary change to my perspective of God's love and the finished work of the Cross!

I reviewed the audios and workbook to reinforce the truths and am strengthened by it. Thank you.
~TP~



I downloaded some YouTube clips where Dr. Jim was teaching on *Miraculous Probabilities: The Science of Faith*. He shared how some truths of the subatomic realm, belief systems, and deep-seated feelings actually interact with our bodies. He mentioned how a particular deep-seated feeling is indicative of a belief system that we carry subconsciously, and how that it automatically collapses every probability that does not harmonize with that feeling and always produces the same result. That's why things NEVER change! LOL

It really awakened my eyes to the simplicity of faith and change and how we can receive from God by changing deep-seated feelings, sending away negative feelings derived from experiences of the past, and adopting feelings that are consistent with the Word of God and

also what it is that we desire.

For the past two months I have had this lower back pain that has made walking difficult and most mornings I get up I do it struggling. I'm only 30, so it really has been bothering me.

Anyway. I decided to put into practice what Dr. Jim "prescribed" and in ONE DAY the pain decreased dramatically and what was perhaps 90 percent pain is now around 2 percent. I am continuing to choose health as Dr. Jim suggested until it all disappears.

I would just like to thank Impact Ministries for this invaluable teaching and, of course, thank Jesus for gracing Dr. Jim to teach truths in a practical way. God's Richest Blessings to You ~MB~

Dear Dr. Richards,

God bless you, your family, and the Impact team!



This week I watched the movie, "Limitless." It's about a man whose life is profoundly changed upon the consumption of a pill. Daily ingestion of this drug allows him to think clearly and access his full brain capacity in so many ways.

This movie reminds me of my life change since I've been established in the truth of faith righteousness and that's why I give.

I am a "World Changer" so that others may be set free from legalism and be able to see more clearly the love, wisdom, and grace of God that enables us to truly do all things through Christ who strengthens us. That verse is no longer one I spew out randomly, but reality.

My daily affirmations have enabled me to feel "limitless." With all my heart – *I Thank You!* ~AD~



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