

Rise above your circumstances

APRIL 2021

I am writing to you with a word of encouragement that I pray will keep you stirred up for Jesus. Sometimes, we could all use a little encouragement, especially when life gets tough and we're faced with trouble. There was a time when I used to struggle with depression and wanted to end my life. Notice that I said "used to." I thank God for the strength He gave me to stand strong when the pressure was on to call it quits. I don't worry over problems anymore; it's not worth it. I'm enjoying life like never before!

If you are struggling with depression, sadness, loneliness, anger, or any other negative emotion, don't give up, cave in, or quit. God has the solution for whatever you're facing. Your situation may seem difficult right now; however, like a late-night storm, it *will* pass, with the help of the Lord. Allow God's Word to remind you of who you are in Christ. You are the victor and *not* the victim. You are above your circumstances and never beneath them!

The Word says that God comforts, consoles, and encourages us in all of our trouble (2 Corinthians 1:3-6, *AMPC*). Why? To position us to do the same for others who may be going through similar situations. This is the point that I want to get across to you this month: God wants you to rise above your present circumstances and be in a position to help prevent misfortune in the lives of others.

Taffi once taught a message called "*The Power*

of Influence" that blessed me tremendously. She shared the fact that as Christians, we have inherited God's blessing, which includes the ability to influence people for God and His kingdom. In a nutshell, we, as representatives of God's kingdom and as carriers of His blessing, are *destined* to change the world. We do this by being living examples of what it means to prosper God's way and not the world's way.

The word *influence* means "the power to produce an effect without any apparent exertion." Let me put it like this: you don't have to do a lot to cause people to follow your example. Whether you realize it or not, people will notice your lifestyle, especially if you claim to be a Christian. Sometimes, those who aren't born-again believers and living for God want tangible evidence that giving up their ungodly ways is worth it. Human nature tends to cause people to make judgments based on results, and that's where the power to influence comes in.

The Bible says in First Timothy 4:15, *AMPC*, that it is important to meditate on and give yourself wholly to living for the things of God so others can see the benefits. Verse 12 reads, "...*be an example (pattern) for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.*" Notice this verse instructs us to be examples to other Christian believers as well. That's because not everyone who calls themselves a "Christian" is living like Christ.

DEMONSTRATE THE LIFE AND LOVE OF CHRIST

Oftentimes, Taffi says an influential Christian demonstrates the life and love of Christ through his or her lifestyle. That includes living by faith and not by fear when trouble arises. It includes operating with integrity in your personal and professional life regardless of the situation. It also involves always speaking the truth and fulfilling your promises.

There are six ways to influence people God's way: (1) be an example of the Word in action; (2) demonstrate love and compassion; (3) be a giver; (4) don't be afraid to make contact with the unsaved; (5) make fulfilling God's will for your life your top priority; and (6) be willing to help people.

Remember, a lot of people who are watching you need guidance; so, be a godly example of how to handle life's pressures. Demonstrate what it means to apply the principles of God's Word and get results. Show people how to overcome depression and defeat sickness. Show them that God can turn around any situation, no matter how bad. It's going to require diligence and commitment on your part to be this kind of example; and I am confident that with God's help, you can do it!

Taffi and I want you to fully grasp the knowledge of how to recognize, develop, and apply the power God has deposited in you. We want you to learn how to effectively influence people for the kingdom of God, especially in these last days.

Praise God! You're our partner and you mean the world to us. Taffi's and my desire is to help you grow in faith and experience great results. Stay strong and remember that Jesus is Lord, and "*...In all your getting, get understanding*" (Proverbs 4:7, NKJV).

In Expectation,



Creflo Dollar

P.S. We want to make sure you get this month's free message.

Download *How to Get Rid of Depression* at <https://creflodollarministries.org/CDMFreeMessage>

**"PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE FATHER OF COMPASSION AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR TROUBLES,
SO THAT WE CAN COMFORT THOSE IN ANY TROUBLE WITH THE COMFORT WE OURSELVES RECEIVE FROM
GOD" (2 CORINTHIANS 1:3, 4, NIV).**

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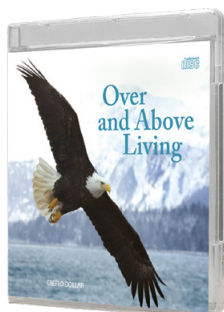
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IN CHRIST...

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I AM ABOVE MY CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEVER BENEATH THEM.

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