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NO MORE
EXCUSES
A 90-Day Devotional for Men from
TONY EVANS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Tony Evans is the founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, founder and president of The Urban Alternative, former chaplain of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, and author of over 100 books, booklets and Bible studies. The first African American to earn a doctorate of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, he has been named one of the 12 Most Effective Preachers in the English-Speaking World by Baylor University. Dr. Evans holds the honor of writing and publishing the first full-Bible commentary and study Bible by an African American.

His radio broadcast, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, can be heard on more than 1,400 US outlets daily and in more than 130 countries.

Dr. Evans launched the Tony Evans Training Center in 2017, an online learning platform providing quality seminary-style courses for a fraction of the cost to any person in any place. The goal is to increase Bible literacy not only in lay people but also in those Christian leaders who cannot afford nor find the time for formal ongoing education.

Dr. Tony Evans was married to his late wife Lois for nearly 50 years. They are the proud parents of four, grandparents of thirteen and great-grandparents of two.

For more information, visit TonyEvans.org.

INTRODUCTION

Today's generation of men suffers from "loser's limp."

Anyone who has competed in sports knows what I mean by "loser's limp." It's what sometimes happens when an outfielder misjudges a fly ball and misses the catch or when a wide receiver drops an easy pass. He falls to the ground and gets up limping. The purpose of the limp is to camouflage the failure. The impression he wants to give his teammates and the fans is that he didn't make the catch because of a cramp, a muscle pull, or some other sudden malady of the leg rather than a misjudgment. So the limp becomes the athlete's excuse, his attempt to be exonerated of blame for his misplay.

But while the consequences of a misplay in a ball game are relatively small, the unfortunate fact is that many men have developed a "loser's limp" when it comes to life. Instead of owning up to their failures and responsibilities, they excuse them, giving the impression that forces beyond their control are responsible for their circumstances.

It's true that circumstances beyond our control can sometimes make it difficult for us to be all that God wants for us to be. But we need to start looking at these circumstances as challenges and opportunities for success

rather than excuses for failure or not doing anything. It's high time that we stop blaming circumstances, pressures, or challenges and start living as real men.

Now, I'm not saying that real men just leap over every obstacle like Superman. No, we all stumble and fall. But being real men means we don't let our past control our present and define our future by coming up with a "limp" to hide our sins and mistakes. Instead, we accept responsibility for our actions, identify what needs to be corrected, and set about being the men God has created and called us to be.

That's what this book is all about. It's about Christian men repudiating the "loser's limp" and becoming real men of God. It's about men winning back their families, their churches, and their culture by rising above their circumstances through the grace and power of God. It's about men finding purpose, meaning, and direction for their lives despite past setbacks or present pressures. It's about becoming men of character, commitment, power, and influence for Jesus Christ.



NO MORE
LEAVING
JESUS
BEHIND

COLOSSIANS 1:17

*He is before all things,
and by him all things
hold together.*

Day 1

GET TO KNOW JESUS

To become the man God designed you to be, you must have a relationship with Jesus. Without Jesus, we have no chance of understanding God. The Bible says, “No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father’s side—he has revealed him” (John 1:18). How does God make Himself known? He does so through Jesus.

Knowing Jesus personally radically changes your life. Knowing about Him doesn’t do much good. In order to truly know Jesus Christ, you must experience Him personally. You must abide with Him—hang out in His presence, feel His heartbeat, and discover what brings Him pleasure and what He wants to do with, in, and through you.

Jesus has a plan for you. If you want to know your purpose, then get to know the One who knows it best. The closer you get to Jesus, the closer you are to experiencing and fulfilling what you were created to do.

What steps can you take to know Jesus personally?

JOHN 1:1

*In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word
was with God,
and the Word
was God.*

Day 2

HOW GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN

Jesus revealed everything about God that God wished for us to know. He is the complete revelation of God Himself. That's why you can't go around Jesus and get to God. He is the only begotten Son. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius—not these men or any other prophet, teacher, or king can make that claim. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

The most unique person in human history—God in the flesh—deserves the highest place in our priorities. He should be our everything. As the earth revolves around the sun, so Christ should be the center of our existence.

When you give all of yourself to Jesus, He is there returning all of Himself to you. The power that created the universe is the same power that can strengthen you to grow, change, and experience unspeakable satisfaction.

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? What improvements would you like to see?

ROMANS 3:23

*For all have sinned
and fall short
of the glory of God.*

Day 3

INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The Book of 1 John expresses the meaning of fellowship with God and our need for this intimate, interpersonal relationship with Him. But the apostle John wants us to know that God doesn't lower His perfect standards so that we can have fellowship with Him. The slightest imperfection is unacceptable to a holy God, and we, even on our best days, fall far short of perfection. Since God can't reduce His righteous standards, John says:

If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 JOHN 1:7

God shows us the good, the bad, and the ugly in our lives. When God exposes those things in our lives that are offensive to Him, He deals with that sin, and our fellowship with Him can proceed.

How do you respond when God reveals sin in your life?

1 JOHN 1:9

*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and righteous
to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.*

Day 4 WHEN WE DO SIN

Intimate fellowship with God is possible because of the advocacy of the work of Christ. He is the reason why we can commune with God and know Him intimately. Our God isn't a distant God. He is up close and personal because of what Jesus Christ did here on earth and is doing for us now as He intercedes for us in heaven. The apostle John says:

My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. 1 JOHN 2:1-2

We are sinners who have been made new in Christ and should strive to be like Him in all things. But when we do sin, we can be reconciled to God because of Jesus.

Is habitual sin preventing you from fellowship with the Father? What role does confession play in your prayer life?

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

*He humbled himself by
becoming obedient
to the point of death—
even to death on a cross.*

Day 5

JESUS OUR ADVOCATE

Jesus is our Advocate. Advocate is a legal term, meaning, “someone who helps.” The idea presented through the word *advocate* is that Jesus Christ is representing us in God’s courtroom. When we sin, we are guilty of a crime against God. We must enter a plea, so we confess, “Guilty, Your Honor.” But then our Deliverer, Jesus Christ, speaks up on our behalf, pleading our case through the blood of His own sacrifice on the cross.

In His advocacy, Jesus diverts the wrath of God—He takes the punishment we deserve. “He is the propitiation of our sins” (1 John 2:2, ESV). Propitiation is one of those million-dollar theological words that means “satisfaction of the demands of a deity with an acceptable course of action.” Jesus is not only our Advocate, speaking up for us in court, but He also offers Himself to receive our penalty. Understanding that Jesus took the penalty for our sin should influence our love for Him and serve as motivation to obey Him.

Jesus took the punishment for your sins. How does that reality influence your relationship with Him?