

FOREWORD BY GREGORY DICKOW

JOHN RAMIREZ

**CONQUER
YOUR
DELIVERANCE**

HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF TOTAL FREEDOM

CONQUER YOUR DELIVERANCE

HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF TOTAL FREEDOM

JOHN RAMIREZ



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Conquer Your Deliverance • John Ramirez

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Many of us in our lifetimes have someone we look up to. It could be a sports figure, a movie star, a music artist. Many times we go back to our childhoods, and we love our superheroes. For some that is Superman; some might say Spider-Man or even Batman. In my neighborhood, there was no role model. In my home, my hero was absent, which was my father. So along this thing called life, down the path called Journey, I was looking for my hero in all the wrong places. Even in the devil's den.

But one day to my surprise, I met this man—the ultimate Person—who can change your life. Not a temporary transformation; it is an eternal one. This man walked by the Sea of Galilee one day and saw fishermen fishing, and He turned them into fishers of men. This man turned water into wine, walked on water, shut down the storms on a boat by His spoken word: “Peace, be still.” He is a miracle worker: With two fish and five loaves of bread He fed more than five thousand people. He had compassion on the sick, gave sight to the blind, even raised the dead. And He was pretty good at His trade of being a carpenter, not knowing that one day they would create a cross out of wood with His name on it, on which He would be crucified.

But that was not His end; it was just the beginning. He was placed in a grave, and on the third day He rose again and spoke to a woman while dressed as a gardener. And she called Him *Rabbi*, which means “teacher.”

I am so blessed and so honored and beyond grateful that the man who came out of the tomb did not stay in the garden that day. He knew my address in the Bronx and knocked on my door and not only changed my life, but transformed it forever.

*He is my hero, and I dedicate this book to Him.
His name is Jesus Christ, the one and only.*

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Foreword

John Ramirez has a truly remarkable story of conquering his battles and experiencing true freedom. The power of his story keeps you on the edge of your seat. Remember that Revelation 12:11 KJV says, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

John has spent years conquering demonic principalities so that you can spend mere moments and days conquering them. By understanding how to renew your mind and access the power of the precious blood of Jesus, you too will experience true freedom.

This topic is more vital now than ever before in human history. Why? Because so many Christians start following Jesus but remain bound in their minds, not knowing how to walk in their God-given authority. I believe true spiritual warfare is the battle for who or what is going to control your thought life and the decision-making center of your life.

I have personally been teaching about the battle of the mind for more than thirty years. Through our podcast, *Ask the Pastor*; television broadcast, *Power to Change Today*; and global

Life Changers Church family, I have seen firsthand how people can be set free by applying the principles of God's Word that John and I teach about.

One of the things I love most about John's approach is when he says, "Say this out loud." There is power in your words! Hebrews 4:12 NIV says, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Did you know the phrase *double-edged sword* is literally translated as "twice spoken"? Think about that. The power of God's Word is activated when it is spoken twice—first, by God, when it was written, and second, by you, when you declare it out loud. The devil has *no* power over you when you come to understand this reality.

Freedom begins when you say what God says about you: "I am the head, not the tail; above only and not beneath" (see Deuteronomy 28:13). Conquering begins when you declare, "I am more than a conqueror." When you believe and speak the Living Word of God, it judges and condemns the things that are judging and condemning you.

However you found yourself opening the pages of this book and entering this personal journey to freedom and deliverance, I believe that your steps were ordered by the Lord.

May you go forward and experience the freedom Jesus paid so dearly for you to have.

It's time to be transformed, starting today. Your best days are your next days!

Gregory Dickow, author, *Fast from Wrong Thinking*;
host, *Power to Change Today*

A Tribute to My Sister, Desiree

And to All the Foster Kids in the World

My sister was born March 20, 1991, and entered the Lord's presence on December 31, 2020.

I remember as a little boy, in my mom's house, my brothers and I would share precious moments in front of the television with foster kids she took into our home. We would sit across from each other with the TV on, watching cartoons and sharing snacks together. My home was a humble beginning, as my daddy was on public assistance. My mom would get a check once a month and feed my brothers and me and our foster family. I always wondered, sitting across from the new foster family, what would possess a mother to give up her kids. No matter how difficult things were in my house, or the things we lacked, my mother loved us and would never give us up.

My brothers and I wanted to share that same love with the foster kids who were sharing our home. We never wanted them to feel as though they lived in a foster home. We loved and we fought, but at the end of the night we had each other's back. We grew up in this kind of home. My mother was our hero.

Not even once did she make them feel like outsiders, or that they were foster children. They were loved unconditionally.

As we grew up, it broke our hearts when they had to leave to go to another house, and we started again with another group of kids who came in. We embraced them as if they were our own family. We missed them and cried when they left.

And that is how Desiree arrived, given to us as a precious gift. When she came in as a baby, my mom bought her a secondhand crib, and we called her our sister from that very first day. Time went by, and her presence and love in the home grew so strong that my mother adopted her. I like to think that all the kids who came in through that door were adopted into our family. Today I stop and rejoice, knowing that Jesus Christ adopted all of us, too, into His family, no matter the different walks of life, the challenges and circumstances we come from. What a blessing!

As I share my heart with you today, I am broken beyond words. Writing this story is one of the hardest things I have ever put on paper. Through no fault of her own, Desiree was born to natural parents who were heroin-addicted, and because her mother was HIV positive, Desiree was born that way, too. Not once did we make her feel any different in our family. Throughout the years, my sister had her challenges with this sickness in her body, but we rallied together and stood with her through thick and thin, through the ups and downs. From hospital to hospital, we were there with her, cheering her on because she was an overcomer.

We kept pushing forward as the years went by, standing strong for Desiree. We loved, we laughed and we cried. That is what family is all about. One thing I have to say about my sister: Even though HIV was her enemy, many times the doctor's report throughout the years told us that this might be her last year. But Desiree was a fighter in her spirit. Sometimes mani-

festation does not have to be all about demons manifesting to conquer your victory over a satanic plague like HIV.

My sister pushed and fought the good fight and proved the doctor's report to be wrong time after time. We laughed and celebrated those beautiful days, weeks and years. God is good.

To all the foster kids throughout the world, no matter what home you have been placed in, know one thing: The Lord Jesus Christ loves you and knows right where you are, and He has a wonderful plan for you. My sister proved to the medical field that HIV had nothing on her, even to the point that later she had two beautiful daughters of her own. And God is a miracle-working God: Her daughters were born without HIV. What a gift!

My sister shined bright throughout the years and had her moments that were dim, too, but no devil, no hell, no sickness was able to turn off the candle of hope. She stood the test; she took the class and got the passing grade. She lived with her two daughters and was an incredible mother. Oddly enough, even though her natural parents were not role models, our humble home where she grew up became the place where she was nurtured and learned how to be a mother herself, from my own mother. Desiree is a hero.

It is amazing how God works in mysterious ways.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV) says, “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”

One day a couple of years ago my mom called me—my sister was 27 years old—and said, “Desiree is sick, and she’s not doing well. Can you call her and pray for her?” I remember it as if it happened yesterday. I called her up and prayed with her on the phone. At that moment I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to ask her to receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and we said the sinner’s prayer together that day. What a powerful day that was!

In December 2020, my sister got sick again and was rushed to the hospital at four in the morning, leaving her home in a desperate moment, not knowing if she would ever return and see her daughters again. As my sister went to the hospital where she eventually died, the grace of God brought her back again. I prayed my heart out for her to be healed, and I had seasoned intercessors and a few other godly people join me in prayer. Every day we prayed. We stormed heaven; we put on our spiritual-warfare garments and attacked every sickness and premature death off of my sister. On December 31, at 7:09 p.m., my mother sat in the hospital holding her hand. My beautiful sister was only 29 years old. As my mother held her hand, my sister slipped into eternity. She went straight from the hands of a wonderful mother into the hands of Jesus.

My baby sister, Desiree Rivera Ramirez, I am not saying good-bye, but I am saying I will see you later. I love you and will miss you. Thank you for being a gift to my family.

God is good. He kept my sister here for 29 years. Her true purpose was to bless the family with two beautiful girls, HIV free, and to say yes to Jesus and make heaven her home.

To all the foster children in the world, you are a gift from God, just like my sister, Desiree. Say this prayer with me, the same one that Desiree prayed some time ago:

Lord Jesus, I know that I was born a sinner, but I do not have to stay this way because You died on the cross for me. Forgive me for all of my sins, come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. The same way You came into Desiree's life, come into mine, in Jesus' name.

Hey, Desiree, I know you are in heaven, and you can hear me. This is your big brother. When people say this prayer, these souls will belong to you and will be credited to you in heaven.

A Tribute to My Sister, Desiree

Even though when you were alive on the earth you didn't get the opportunity to win souls, now you do. Glory to God! We are going to miss you like crazy!

Your big brother,
John Ramirez

See you again one day.

Why I Want You to Read This Book

I dedicate this book to the brothers and sisters who have been spiritually wounded. I promise one thing—that your spiritual wounds are not your destination but rather are preparing and equipping you for a deeper place in God. You will have the last laugh against the enemy of your soul. I know that in the past, you have seen the goodness of God upon your life. As you look back—something the enemy does not want you or me to do—the Holy Spirit wants you not only to remember the amazing things He did in your past, but also to expect in the present the things that our Lord Jesus Christ has predestined for you. Things He did in the past will be outdone only by what He has promised to do for you and me in these precious times.

God has a plan for you. Yes, believe it. And it is a big one, an amazing and perfect plan. The powers of darkness, the devil and his army, do not want your God-ordained purpose and destiny to be fulfilled in your life. In this very hour, he has mobilized his demons, both his generals and satanic spirits—and even human agents of the devil that are doing his bidding—to launch the most ferocious attack against you and me and every human being because we are made in the very image of God.

The world has seen up to this point what is coming down the pipeline against believers and nonbelievers alike, straight from the pits of hell. We have seen satanic strategies on every level. But I have good news for you. The true servants of Jesus Christ will be prayed up and filled with the Word of God to withstand and be more than conquerors—soldiers who have been enlisted in the army of the Lord and deployed into the battlefield behind enemy lines, like never before.

It is time we pick up the weapons of our warfare and bring them to the devil—instead of just talking about it—if we want to experience the type of victory Jesus already purchased for us through the finished work of the cross. Wake up, Church, from your slumber. One thing I know about the enemy, after spending 25 years in the devil’s camp, is that he is strong and relentless. He is swift and experienced in the battle. But there is a power he cannot break or destroy. He does not have any authority against the true believer in Christ; he cannot overthrow this power. There is a name and power that is above every other name and every other power of the satanic world, in this world and in the world to come, and that all-powerful name is *Jesus Christ*. I am going to shout my hallelujah!

I believe in my heart that in every generation God calls a person to move on His behalf. I thank God that in 1999, when I lived in a neighborhood with 179 buildings, out of all those dwellings in the burnt-out Bronx He knew my address that night, and I answered the call of spiritual warfare. I am moved in my spirit to equip the saints of God for such a time as this, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to overthrow the powers of the demonic world—the devil, his principalities and every satanic warlock and witch serving as agent of the kingdom of darkness—to break curses and satanic manipulation and control over our lives, our homes, our marriages, our children, our finances, our relationships, our ministries, our churches, our careers, our

health and our purpose and destiny. I pray that we be equipped to destroy every hindering, blocking, robbing spirit, and every assignment of the devil, every dark area, whether it is from a generational curse or from a door we opened that gave the devil legal rights. It is time to bring them down once and for all as you take this journey with me through *Conquer Your Deliverance: How to Live a Life of Total Freedom*.

As you engage the enemy and pray the powerful prayer points in this book, pray them with Holy Spirit fire, full of faith and expecting that your prayers will destroy the satanic powers of the devil and his cronies, in the spirit realm, at the very moment you release the arsenals of heaven upon their heads. I declare and decree that your prayers will carry the power of the almighty God. The Holy Spirit will lead you into the battlefield of your life, and He will lead you into total victory. I guarantee you mighty victory in Jesus' name.

Get ready for the battle! Put on your armor, pick up your spiritual weapons and begin to confront what is in front of you, using the prayers of war that are deep down in your spirit. Release them now in the unmatched name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Introduction

A fable is told about an eagle who grew up thinking he was a chicken. When he was just an eaglet, he fell from his nest, and a chicken farmer, wanting to save his life, brought him home and raised him on his chicken farm. The eagle grew up learning how to live like a chicken, believing he was a chicken.

A naturalist came to the farm to see this “eagle turned chicken.” He knew eagles were beautiful creatures, kings of the sky. To his wonder, the eagle was indeed strutting around the chicken coop, pecking at the ground, acting like a chicken. The naturalist knew that being born an eagle, he had the heart of an eagle and nothing, not even how he was raised, could change that. Picking up the eagle, he placed him on the fence surrounding the chicken coop and encouraged him to “stretch forth his wings and fly.”

The eagle looked at the man, then at the farmer, and finally at his coop mates and his comfortable surroundings. He jumped off the fence and continued doing what chickens do. This same scenario continued several more times, and despite the naturalist’s best efforts to convince the eagle he was born for something greater, he continued to remain content in the chicken coop.

Asking the farmer if he could try one more time, the naturalist took the eagle and the farmer far away from the chicken coop, to the foot of a high mountain. No one could see the farm or coop from this distance, at which point the farmer held the eagle on his arm and pointed up in the sky toward the sun.

“Eagle, thou art an eagle! Thou dost belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch forth thy wings and fly.”

This time the eagle straightened his large body, stretched his massive wings and—moving slowly at first, but with steadily increasing strength—flew away with a screech. He had finally believed what the naturalist knew all along: He was an eagle and destined for so much more than scratching and pecking at the ground like a chicken.

Every person who is “born again” is automatically born into a royal priesthood. He or she is now the heavenly Father’s son or daughter, adopted into His family. But, similar to the eagle in the fable above, Christians have a choice to make. They can either stay chained up in the chicken coop, pecking, whining and complaining about their circumstances, or choose to soar to great heights as the eagles God designed them to be.

Chicken-coop Christians do not seek growth. They rely on others to fight for them, refusing to learn the skills needed for battle. They stay weak, young and immature.

Eagles, however, are amazing creatures. They were created with two sets of eyelids, and, while flying, they close one set to help with vision by keeping dust and debris away.

God created His children to be eagle Christians. We are going to go through battles in life; Jesus tells His disciples this: “In this world you will have trouble” (John 16:33 NIV). Eagle Christians are those who close their eyes to the flesh (first eyelids) but keep their spiritual eyes open (second eyelids), asking God to equip them for the battles ahead and praising Him for the strength He will provide to gain victory.

I have been asked multiple times, “How, John, how do I do that?” *Conquer Your Deliverance* is an in-depth look at the key components to maturing from a chicken-coop-Christian perspective to someone who soars to great heights as an eagle, above the defeat of the enemy. You will be surprised at how easy it is to fly when you are equipped with the right perspective.

So the question is, How do we become eagle Christians? Those who will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace? Because we are certain that trials, temptations and battles will come. Jesus Himself told us that fact. But He also told us to be prepared, and how to get ready. In this book I will come alongside you and show you how to mature in your faith, not only to gain the victory but to be better prepared for your next encounter with the enemy.



1

Getting Off Gilligan's Island

In the 1960s TV show *Gilligan's Island*, Skipper and Gilligan and their five passengers sailed off in a charter boat under blue skies in crystal-blue waters. No one anticipated the typhoon ahead, the storm that would shipwreck them on an unknown Pacific island and change their lives forever. Each week the castaways devised a plan to get off the island. Not one worked.

Gilligan's Island is a metaphor for the Church at large today. So many believers are stuck on an island and cannot get off because somehow what started as a sunny day, receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior—the most beautiful thing that can happen to any human being in a lifetime—turned dark. The sun disappeared, the clouds came out, the weather changed and before they knew it, reality hit. They became shipwrecked on their own islands, just like the castaways, unable to devise a plan of escape.

What is the name of your island? Despair, torment, unforgiveness, rejection, molestation, rape, generational curses, witchcraft, infirmity? The list is endless. You find no lasting breakthrough, healing or deliverance.

There are three voices that speak to us: our own voice of reason, the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the devil. Which one has your attention? Conquering your deliverance requires you to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit to learn how to maintain the spiritual freedom Jesus purchased for you on the cross.

Now is the time to accept that gift and use your weapons: the power of the Holy Spirit, declarations and decrees partnered with targeted prayers, and the faith deposited in your own heart. This threefold combination, a God-given strategy, is His plan to set you free once and for all.

It is time to get off the island.

Castaways No More

For 25 years, the name of my island was “Devil’s Island,” and on this island lived rejection. I had no love from my father, had a mother who was beat up all the time, lived in poverty and cried oceans of tears. Thanks be to God that in 1999 I got off my island because Jesus Christ showed up in His boat.

Many good brothers and sisters come to Jesus but never get off their islands. On *Gilligan’s Island*, the castaways tried every trick in the book to get off the island, on every episode, whether building a raft or throwing a bottle with a message into the lagoon—you name it. Every human effort and man-made invention made it look as if they were going to get off the island once and for all. Many of us were cheering them on, and somehow we thought that that was the episode in which they would finally be set free, only to realize that we would tune in the following week to see the same situation play all over again. We experienced the happy and sad moments along with the castaways, the hope and expectation, the emotional highs and lows with every show, but they were still stuck on the island.

This sounds so much like the Church today. In our weekly gatherings, we have incredible worship and good preaching, but at the end of the service many of us are still in the same place spiritually, still on the same old island, just like Gilligan. There is no sign of total freedom.

The Church is depleted the same way Israel was in the days of Nehemiah: The walls are down, and the people are spiritually bankrupt, defeated almost to the point of being destroyed with hopelessness and discouragement.

Leaders today need to take a page from Nehemiah's life, one man seeking God with fasting and prayer and the spirit of anguish. Instead, many leaders today are busy fulfilling the flesh and seeking the inventions of man instead of seeking God to help people get off the island.

The castaways on *Gilligan's Island* heard many voices sharing ideas, but no one had the right idea. Today in the Church at large, we have failed to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit for God's people. I get fifteen thousand email messages a year, and I call them the cries of the Church. Sometimes I feel like Nehemiah, with a spirit of anguish for God's people who are my brothers and sisters that I truly love with all my heart. As the Lord bears witness in my life, I am on Zoom meetings scheduled for two hours that end up being six or seven hours because I hear the heartbeat of brothers and sisters wanting deliverance in order to be set free, and of other brothers and sisters who want to know how to conquer their deliverance and stay free. The Bible says, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6 NIV).

We leaders need to "man up" and hold ourselves accountable, including myself, to be our brothers' keepers. Instead, we all keep living on this island that we call "the church"; no one is getting off spiritually. Week after week, month after month and year after year, in our midweek services and Sunday services,

we see the same pattern: no breakthrough, no healing, no deliverance, no spiritual maturity. We are in the same condition as the Israelites in the book of Numbers. They started their journey, but after forty years they grew old but never grew up—they ended up being spiritual corpses. Only two people out of an estimated three million, Joshua and Caleb, were of a “different spirit” and conquered their Promised Land. Many believers today are stuck on the island they call “the church,” and only a few conquer their deliverance and move on to the life of total freedom that God preordained for us before the foundations of the world.

The Face of God

In Numbers 6:25 (BSB) we read these astounding words: “May the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.”

I believe that most of us in the Church have the right intentions, but we have let the devil sidetrack us, because while we may be seeking God’s way, we are not seeking His face. We will never get off the island because instead of seeking Him, we have created a religion with a New Age Jesus, a powerless Jesus.

Second Corinthians 11:4 (NLT) says, “You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.”

Conquering your deliverance means maintaining the opportunity of spiritual freedom that our Lord Jesus Christ paid for in full. He has given us something priceless. It is like walking into a classroom and sitting down, and hearing the teacher or professor tell you on the first day, “I’m going to give you an A.” In other words, the day you say yes to Jesus, “Come into my

life and be my Lord and Savior,” He gives you an A. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in partnership with Him, our job is to maintain that A. This is what you call conquering your deliverance.

If your A has decreased to a B, C, D or F, it is time to get back to the will of God, of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you struggle with generational curses or besetting sins (things you think have gone away but keep coming back) or gateways and portals you have opened, giving the enemy of your soul legal rights to your A, it is time to get off Gilligan’s Island. We are going to come into agreement and declare and decree these powerful prayers, in the power of the Holy Spirit and with the faith that our Lord Jesus Christ has already deposited in our hearts. We are going to mix these together, and you will be set free.

Prayer to Be Armed and Dangerous

Say this with me with now:

I decree right now, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Devil, I put you on notice that the Pharaoh I see today in your army of demons, I will see no more. I am seated with Jesus Christ in the third heaven, and I am attacking you, devil, from my place of authority over the spiritual realm and the kingdom of darkness. The Lord has made me armed and dangerous through the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus’ name.