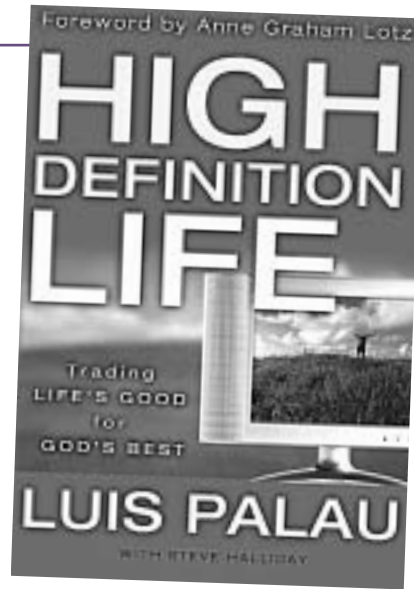


HIGH DEFINITION LIFE:
Trading Life's Good for God's Best

Too often Christians settle for less in life, embracing things that can be good—yet not quite excellent. In them there is a restless spirit, a longing for something more.

In *High Definition Life*, renowned evangelist and Dallas Seminary Board member Luis Palau emphasizes that God wants His followers to choose excellence and shows 10 areas of choices in which Christians can embrace a life more fulfilling than they've dreamed.



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VERITAS

Equipping Christians to live by truth—*veritas*—from God.

Discovering the "Secret" to Overcoming Life's Challenges Day to Day

by Luis Palau

Luis PALAU



Luis Palau is an internationally known evangelist and speaker and the author of numerous books, including

God Is Relevant, *Where Is God When Bad Things Happen?* and *It's a God Thing*. Well-known for his successful festival evangelism ministry, he now sponsors and speaks at six major festivals in the United States and abroad every year. Palau's ministry is based in Portland, Oregon, but his evangelistic outreach is global. He is a recent member of Dallas Theological Seminary's Board of Incorporate Members. This article, in interview format with Dallas Seminary president Dr. Mark Bailey, is adapted from a chapel talk recently given to Dallas Seminary students, faculty, and board members.

DR. MARK BAILEY: I understand that two great men, Dr. Ray Stedman and Major Ian Thomas, made a profound mark on your life. What was it about them that had such a powerful impact on you?

LUIS PALAU: I was brought to this country by Ray Stedman, a DTS grad, who was a great servant of God. I stayed in his home that first summer, and I saw something in the life of Ray Stedman that made me realize, "That's what I'm looking for; this guy has what I need." He was a pastor, a man of God, but he was a *real* man. Men just loved to be

(continued on next page)

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around Ray.

And then I went to Multnomah Bible College. One November day, an Englishman named Ian Thomas spoke in chapel. The whole point of his message that day changed my view of life. His emphasis was Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Then he quoted the next verse from the Amplified Bible, which says, "Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose."

Ian Thomas and Ray Stedman used to quote a phrase that is still valid today, "Any demand made upon me is a demand made upon the One who indwells me; therefore, I am not alone facing the demands of life."

The One who indwells me is

the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory, in all His power, and in all His love. And whatever temptation I have, He feels; whatever challenge I face,

Whatever temptation I have, He feels; whatever challenge I face, He knows it; whatever opportunity I have, He's there with me.

He knows it; whatever opportunity I have, He's there with me. Therefore, it is not I, but Christ living in me (Gal. 2:20).

And the beauty of it is this universal availability, that wherever we go, Jesus Christ never leaves us. We don't have to call Him long-distance. We don't need a cell phone. Wherever we are, the Lord Jesus Christ is forever there.

BAILEY: I understand that you were recently at a conference in the Pacific Northwest where something happened that really caught your attention. Can you briefly describe what took place?

PALAU: I was just at an old-fashioned missionary conference. We had a men's breakfast where I gave a formal

message, before which several men testified.

One fellow got up from a well-known ministry and said, "About eight years ago, my wife and I were in a horrible situation. We were in full-time ministry, but we weren't getting along. I was depressed, I was in trouble, so the mission sent the crisis team and helped me out and straightened us out. Now, three years later, they asked us to join the crisis team to help other people who are in trouble. He said, 'We help salvage marriages of Christian leaders (mostly pastors), rescue them, restore them, and stabilize them.' "

And then I remembered a story I read in a Christian magazine. A group of young couples bought a house, a mansion, somewhere in the Midwest to help fallen, distressed, and depressed pastors and their wives. And I have a banker friend who also bought a farm to take care of distressed, fallen, depressed pastors and their wives.

BAILEY: In my position I often

encounter people in ministry who are going through a personal crisis. Do you sense this is a relatively new problem?

PALAU: No, I perceive this is a problem that has been going on for quite some time. I came to the Lord when I was 12 years old in Argentina, and at age 17 I got really serious about living for God. I went to a very good Bible-teaching church where we evangelized and had all-night prayer meetings.

But something was missing. And I prayed, "Lord, somehow, do something with me," because many of my buddies were dropping out—even the ones who attended the all-night prayer meetings. They felt frustrated, and they didn't understand why we all stumbled so much.

BAILEY: There are several passages of Scripture that address people who have found themselves in this situation and feel discouraged. Do you have any specific passages to which you would direct these people?

PALAU: There are several passages to which I would point people. They are the very ones God used in my own life. The first one is John 17:20–23, where Jesus says, “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

The word I just want to emphasize is “one,” which is mentioned at least three times in this passage of the New International Version. So, it’s *union* with the Father and the Son.

Second, Romans 5:10. Every theologian’s Bible should be really worn out at this verse. Ian Thomas used to use this verse a

lot, and it touched my heart, theologically, on this secret. “For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his *life!*”

And 1 Corinthians 3:16–17 says, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit *lives* in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and *you are that temple*” (italics added).

Finally, 2 Corinthians 4:6–9, “God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned.” And finally, verse 16: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet

inwardly we are being renewed day by day” (italics added).

Perhaps we miss it because it’s so simple!

It isn’t a great mystery, although it’s *called* a mystery: Christ in you, the hope of glory. But it’s not a mystery that hasn’t been revealed. That is the “secret.” It is the core of the New Covenant.

The New Covenant, of course, is based on the cross, on the blood, on the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. *But the heart of it is the fact that God chose to come to indwell you and me.* And that we are the temple of God. We are this treasure in earthen vessels. We were created to contain Him, and we do so by the grace of God. All the spiritual resources that you’ll ever need are in the indwelling Jesus Christ.

Now I know it is a simple truth, but I really do believe that that is the key to forever

being renewed. Even though we are “outwardly wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed, day after day after day” (v. 16). And that is the secret that enables us to live a cheerful, godly, positive, fruitful, light-filled life. The sooner we grasp this, the better for the long-range ministry for the glory of God.

Any demand made on you is a demand made on Him who indwells you. You are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is welded to you, and you are one spirit with Him. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own” (1 Cor. 6:19). Live in that power.

The secret is the indwelling Jesus Christ. The point is to pray, “Lord Jesus, alone I can’t do it, but You are there.” Like the eight-year-old girl who said, “When Satan comes knocking, I

We were created to contain Him, and we do so by the grace of God. All the spiritual resources that you’ll ever need are in the indwelling Jesus Christ.

send Jesus to answer the door.”

The fact is, when temptations come, we are not alone. Send Jesus to the door. Pray, “Lord Jesus, I can’t cope with this. Please chase them away.” The Holy Spirit will do it. The Lord Jesus will do it.

BAILEY: Luis, in closing our time together, would you pray for Dallas Seminary?

PALAU: *God, our Father; how truly grateful we are for the founder of this seminary, Lewis Sperry Chafer; who obviously knew what it was to walk in the Spirit, to walk in the power of Your Son, the resurrected one, whose life indwells us, who lives in us, with whom we’re united, never to be separated, whose temple we are, sacred, filled with glory, with light, with life, with power, and with all these glorious truths.*

Thank You for Your precious blood, Lord Jesus, that keeps on cleansing us year after year:

Thank You, even as much or more, that You chose to come and indwell us, unworthy jars

of clay.

And yet, Lord, You live within us.

Bless the faculty, God, with their yearly chores, and give them joy and energy as they do them.

Bless every one of the students, that they may go out of here under the indwelling power of the indwelling risen Lord Jesus. And all the rest of us, Lord, who have been around for a long time, we want to finish the race victoriously, joyfully, cheerfully, honoring You, Lord, fruitful to the very end. Because we rely not on ourselves but on Him who indwells us.

To You be all the glory, heavenly Father. To You be all the thanks, Lord Jesus, and glory to You, Holy Spirit, for staying with us even though we dishonor You so often. Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Intellect or Power—the False Question.

In the dialogue with evangelist Luis Palau in this *Veritas*, the discussion centers on spiritual power—a much-abused topic in today’s Christian world. Many Christians today are fixated on power alone. For them, miracles, signs and wonders, instant wealth, and spectacular manifestations of the supernatural define the Christian life.

Those of us who reject such an emphasis on theological grounds are exercising discernment to avoid such a trap, but in doing so we must be careful not to fall into a trap of our own. That trap is seeing the Christian life as solely an intellectual mechanism.

Yes, Paul says to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). But the absolutely essential element of sound doctrine and daily exposure to the Word is the means to an end: the unleashing of God’s power, the strengthening of the “inner man” for the daily supernatural manifestation of godly living by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

So we must be seekers of God’s power.

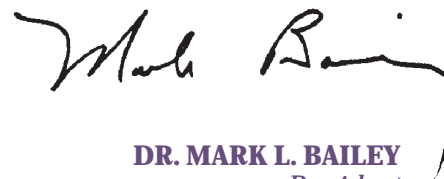
Allowing God’s power—His very life itself—to work in our lives and indeed to be our very lives is the point of being a Christian in this world. As Luis Palau said, we were created and redeemed to contain His life and experience His power.

I’m so grateful for Luis’s reminder of that dynamic. I’m grateful for the way he models it in his own life.

I’m also thankful for his service on the Dallas Seminary Board, further strengthening our impact as we train Spirit-led, doctrinally trustworthy leaders for Christ’s Church.

I commend Luis’s new book, *High Definition Life*, to you, and I am happy to make it available to those who are thirsty for living above the mediocrity level in their Christian experience (see the back cover for more details).

May God bless you as you pursue the power only His life in you can bring.



DR. MARK L. BAILEY
President
Dallas Theological Seminary

