

Explore Article 3--Joyce Meyer: God Spoke to Me

If you Google Joyce Meyer, you may be overwhelmed by the number of ministries associated with her: videos, podcasts, Bible study, books, world ministries, private prayer requests, daily inspirational quotations, daily devotionals, and opportunities to see her in person. Regarded as one of the few female pastors to reach the levels of success she has, Joyce has made a definitive name for herself in the American Charismatic Christian community, especially among women.

Best known as a Christian speaker and author, Joyce's net worth is estimated to be between \$8-\$10 million. In 2005, she was listed among "25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America" by *TIME Magazine*. In 2003, she and her husband started a television ministry which still airs today.



Pauline Joyce Hutchison was born on June 4, 1943, in St. Louis, Missouri. Joyce's mother was a homemaker who took care of her and her brother while her husband served in the Army. Her father had been drafted into the armed forces the day after she was born. Discharged three years later, he returned "bitter, angry, and addicted to alcohol." He began to abuse his daughter as soon as he returned home. The abuse continued until she left home at age 18. Joyce later learned that he had abused other girls as well.

Marked by abuse, challenges, and hardships, her childhood was marred by the absence of a nurturing environment. The year she left home, she married "the first young man who showed an interest in me." He was a fifth-grade dropout and part-time car salesman. They were married for five years before she and their son left him and returned home in 1966 to her mother and father.

Shortly after her divorce from her first husband, Joyce married Dave Meyer in 1967. They were married for several years before she experienced the connection with God that changed their lives. Driving to work in 1976, she claims to have received a personal message from God. She came home "drunk with the Spirit of God."

As a result of her new-found connection with God, Joyce and Dave began their religious journey together. First joining a Lutheran church, she began to lead an early-morning Bible class for women. She became associate pastor, and soon the church became the leading charismatic church in St. Louis. From there, she started her own ministry and very quickly became known nationally.

Initially, she hosted a 15-minute radio program and a face-to-face ministry that included a service in which she cast out demons. People drove for miles for assistance with their personal demons. She continues today to talk about demonic presence in people's lives. She draws large crowds and reiterates the concept of demonic possession in her daily conversations and broadcasts. Dave plays a supportive role in Joyce's life and ministry, and their partnership has been a cornerstone of her work.

In 1985, Joyce and Dave established a nonprofit church, *Life in the Word*, which struggled until 1993 when the direction of their ministry changed. Dave suggested they start a television ministry, which led to the launch of their TV program under the name *Life in the Word*. The program, later renamed *Enjoying Everyday Life*, is still on the air and has gained a broad audience. By 1998, Joyce's video ministry was broadcast on 600 radio and TV stations, seven cable networks, and seven satellite networks. As a Christian scholar and lecturer, Joyce has garnered a global following. She has been called a "beacon of hope and inspiration for those seeking solace, guidance, and a deeper understanding of their faith."

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Joyce has authored over 90 self-help non-fiction books and a handful of fiction books with over 20 million copies purchased by Christians globally. In 2002, Hachette Books paid Joyce over \$10 million for the rights to her backlist of independently released books. In addition to her writing and preaching, cassette and video recordings are also sold worldwide for inspiration. The 82-year-old inspires the world through her powerful quotations and is rated among the most prominent evangelists across the globe. In 2005, *Time* magazine listed her as “one of twenty-five most influential evangelicals in America.”

Joyce lives a comfortable life. She wears designer clothes and expensive jewelry. She has a full-time hairdresser on her payroll. She has stated that she sees no reason to live a simple life. But she has been criticized for her excessive lifestyle. She has purchased homes for each of her four children that cost up to \$2 million each, and a \$107,000 silver Mercedes sedan for her husband. She drives a \$50,000 Lexus sports car. The ministry's \$20 million headquarters in Eureka, Missouri, is furnished with \$5.7 million worth of religious artifacts and furnishings. She owns a \$10-million private Gulfstream IV jet with a cruising speed of Mach 0.85. It has room for two pilots and nineteen passengers. Joyce's arriving at international conferences on her private jet has generated some criticism. Today, her net worth is estimated at between \$8 and \$25 million; her husband's wealth is estimated to be between \$1 and \$8 million. She believes that “there is no need for us to apologize for being so blessed.” She is recognized as one of the wealthiest female pastors in the United States.

Following the adverse publicity about her lifestyle and an IRS probe, Joyce announced plans in 2004 to take a salary reduction from the \$900,000 per year she had been receiving from Joyce Meyer Ministries (in addition to the \$450,000 her husband received). Instead, she would keep more of the royalties from her outside book sales, which had previously been donated back to the Ministry. She now retains royalties on books sold outside the ministry. She continues to donate royalties from books sold through her conferences, catalogues, website, and television programs to the Ministry. This arrangement has resulted in a sizable increase in the personal compensation of Joyce Meyer, but reduced revenues for the ministry. Her wealth is derived from book sales, speaking engagements, media productions, ministry donations, and product sales.

Joyce says on her webpage:

The truth is, any time you follow a dream God puts in your heart, you have a part to play in seeing it happen. You'll have to plan. You'll have to make sacrifices. You'll need to persevere on days when you feel like quitting. . . . But God will never ask you to do something without giving you the ability to do it. And the good news is when your power seems insufficient, God's power IS sufficient.

Resources

Meyer, Joyce. (n.d.). Asking God for bigger. Video. YouTube. <https://joycemeyer.org/>

Meyer, Joyce. (n.d.). Dare to Dream. Daily inspiration. [Dare to Dream](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqw7x5Twi64t)

Meyer, Joyce. (n.d.). The reward of forgiving your parents. Video. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqw7x5Twi64t>

Meyer, Joyce. (n.d.). Healing from abuse. Daystar Video. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLRgqmebuyU>

Meyer, Joyce. (n.d.) Motivation in life's difficult times. YouTube.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=joyce+meyer+ministries&mid=45B8724E4986791FD26B45B8724E4986791FD26B&FORM=VIRE>