



By aligning your life choices under God’s Word and pursuing an intimate relationship with Him, you can experience the abundant life Jesus has for you.

You get to choose whether or not you want that. If you do, you will see how God can reverse the negative consequences of decisions you’ve made.

Bestselling author and renowned preacher Tony Evans concludes his series of books about God’s direction over our lives. In “U Turns,” Dr. Evans shows readers the reality of human freedom, the consequences that come from negative choices, and the way to reverse those consequences.

Book information

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Why Dr. Evans?

- According to a 2020 study conducted by LifeWay Research, “A quarter of U.S. adults (25%) believe God is unconcerned with their day-to-day decisions.” “U-Turns” shows readers that decisions really do matter and it’s these small choices that lead to freedom or captivity.

Publicity requests: Please direct media requests for Dr. Evans to Jenaye White, Jenaye.white@lifeway.com, who can provide high-resolution images and other publicity assets and discuss interview availability and content ideas.

- Dr. Tony Evans is one of the country’s most respected leaders in evangelical circles.
- For the past 40 years, Dr. Evans has served as the senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, a church with more than 10,000 members and over 100 ministries.
- In time of immense uncertainty, Dr. Evans points readers to the most trustworthy roadmap to navigate these times: God’s word.
- Dr. Evans has written more than 100 books, booklets, and bible studies including the companions to this series on God’s direction: “Detours” and “Pathways.”

About Dr. Evans

Dr. Tony Evans is the founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, is founder and president of The Urban Alternative, served as chaplain of the NBA’s Dallas Mavericks and the NFL’s Dallas Cowboys, and is author of over one hundred 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 average cost. Their vision is to increase biblical literacy and to advance God’s kingdom agenda among lay people and Christian leaders who cannot afford or find the time for formal ongoing education.

Q&A with Dr. Evans

What prompted you to write this book?

“U-Turns” is the third in a series of books that I have written. In “Detours,” we see how God goes around the block to get us where he wants us to be. Then, in “Pathways,” we see the trek that God took Esther on in his providence to save a people. So this is the third book in that trilogy. “U-Turns” shows people who are facing negative circumstances and consequences for past sins how God can take messes and turn them into miracles. God can hit a bull’s eye with a crooked stick, and he can reverse things that have negatively impacted us and still use it for our good and his glory.

Where did the title, “U-Turns,” come from?

People do a U-turn when they discover they’re going in the wrong direction and need to go the other way. They have to turn around and reverse their direction. A need for reversal is where the concept of U-turn came from.

How do you hope this book will speak into people’s lives given what’s been going on the past six months to a year?

We’re facing multiple pandemics—medical, relational, racial, social, judicial, political—one on top of another, and I believe that God has allowed this to get our attention, particularly the attention of the church. He’s calling the church to a reversal. He’s calling the culture to one, but that has to be led by the

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church because God won't skip the church house to fix the White House. So, if we as God's people can do a U-turn, then maybe we will see the culture, likewise, turn to where it's supposed to be.

How has this topic resonated in your own life, and do you have any pivotal moments as an example where you had to make a U-turn?

Yes, I've gone through a great series of losses in my own life with the loss of my father, my mother, my brother, my sister, my sister's husband, two nieces, my daughter's mother-in-law—all of that has happened in a very brief period of time. And so, it has forced me to refocus on life's priorities. In our ministry, we are looking at how to prioritize God's work in light of COVID-19. So, I'm rethinking many things lately because of cultural and personal circumstances.

This book focuses on the life of Moses to teach through U-turns. How do you hope people learn about U-turns through studying the story of Moses?

Moses is a great person to study because he spends the first 40 years of his life living large. He makes a mistake, a miscalculation, and he spends the next 40 years of his life shepherding sheep. So he gets demoted due to a decision that he made. But through an encounter with a burning bush, God reuses him again to set his people free.

So even though you've made bad decisions that have led to extended bad consequences, God still can show you a burning bush and still make use of your life. So, Moses' story gives hope in the midst of crisis, failure and discontentment.

Who did you have in mind when you wrote this book? And can anyone at any point in their life make a U-turn?

Absolutely. I had in mind anybody who is experiencing negative repercussions from past decisions—and there's hardly anybody alive who can't identify with that to some degree. So, this book is for anyone, who, when you look back through the rear-view mirror, you wish you could have a do-over. You can't have a do-over, but what you can do is see God meet you where you are and still make up the years the locusts ate (Joel 2:25).

You also preached a sermon series a couple of years ago on U-turns. What kind of response did you hear from that sermon series and the big things that people got out of that?

A lot of people were just so grateful that they found themselves in one of the topics. They found themselves in situations they regretted, and this let them know that if they're still here and they're still willing to follow God, there's still hope for productivity, usefulness, forgiveness and reconciliation. Their past doesn't have to determine their future.

You can go a long way with hope. Hope is a joyful expectation about the future. So they got a lot of hope out of that sermon series, which the book is based upon. I got hope while I was preaching it, and they got hope while they were hearing it.

What do you hope that readers take away from the book and do you hope for any action steps that they will take after reading it?

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I hope that tears get dried up, regrets get refocused and failures get recalibrated. I hope that now they can see if they choose differently from now on, not only can they have a better tomorrow, but God also has a big enough eraser to stop the past from the way it controls, haunts and defines them. Far too many people have been defined by yesterday when God wants to take them to tomorrow.

In the chapters, you go through specifics of reversing the consequences of addiction, anxiety, emotional consequences, etc. Are there any particular topics in these chapters that you think will really speak into what people are dealing with today?

Anxiety. There's a lot of anxiety. People are worried. They're worried about their income; they're worried about the division. They're worried about their families, their children in school and the direction of the nation. So we're being inundated with things to worry about. So, to be able to face these issues but not have to live in anxiety about them is significant.

Is there anything else you'd like people to know about the book?

If you are looking for hope, you know someone who is or if you want your tomorrow to be better than your yesterday, your future to be better than your past or where you're going to be better than where you came from, then this book will help you get there through whatever category that's affecting you right now.

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