

# The Quarterly Journal



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## Joyce Mired in Psychobabble

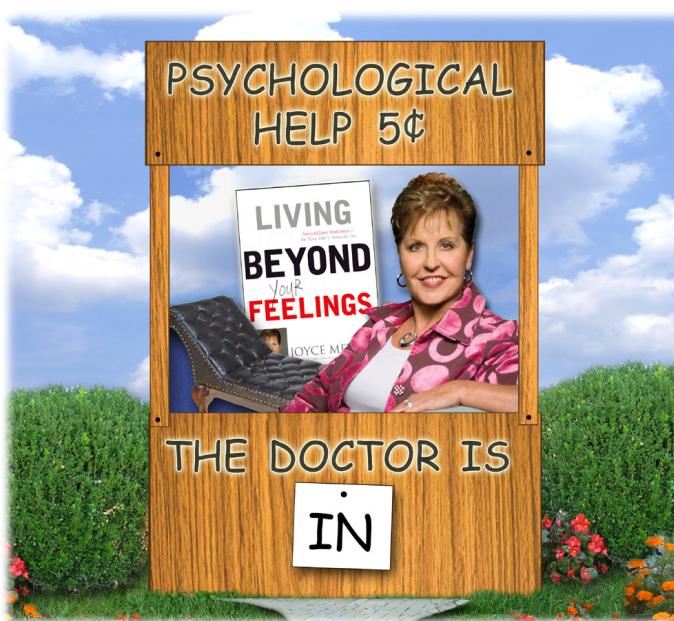
### The “Smart-Aleck Preacher” Tells Us How to Live Beyond Our Feelings

by G. Richard Fisher  
with M. Kurt Goedelman

Some might suggest that with such a prideful, sinful attitude, the godly response would be to step aside for

After years of ministry and writing books, televangelist Joyce Meyer told her readers that she was “frustrated and felt unfulfilled.”<sup>1</sup> This is quite an admission from the one who is touted as “America’s most popular woman minister [who] is teaching thousands how to overcome stress, fear and discouragement.”<sup>2</sup> Even more alarming is another confession:

“For years, I was an obnoxious, smart-aleck preacher who would mouth off to my husband at home and then walk up to the pulpit thinking I was a great woman of God. I did not know how to treat people well. I was impatient; everybody had to do things my way or I was going to get upset. Nobody could correct me; nobody could tell me anything; nobody could have any input into my life because I was ‘the woman of God’ — the president of what we then called ‘Life in the Word.’”<sup>3</sup>



serious introspection and repentance. After all, it is the course that pastor and ministry leader C.J. Mahaney embraced last July when he acknowledged and then desired to harness his own sinful pride.<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the demands of Meyer’s ministry prohibited such a move. Then again, that admission just may be a tactic to add to her mystique, appeal, and success by giving her followers an appearance of vulnerability and transparency. Despite such a serious disclosure, the mission and ministry of “America’s most popular woman minister” continued unabated. Her radio and television programs fill the airwaves and her books and other resources are incessantly marketed — most

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