

Darla Rakes has degrees from Missouri State University and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. In 2007, after an encounter with the Holy Spirit, Darla began a platform ministry, speaking weekly to over 2000 congregants. During this time, she pursued and completed a Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership.

She preached in churches, retreats, and conferences and was engaged in a doctoral program at ORU when her daughter, Whitney, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Darla walked away from her scholarly work to provide care while leading hundreds of prayer meetings and continuing to speak regularly. Whitney entered the next reality in 2019. At this time, Darla is completing a Doctor of Ministry at AGTS.

She often teaches about one's true identity in Christ, encouraging her listeners, "You are not your thoughts and things, or self-created or culturally influenced identity. Instead, you are the very image of God, immensely loved and valued, created to reflect His' divine presence on earth."

Darla is a dynamic leader with nearly four decades of ministry experience. In addition to serving as a student pastor in Oklahoma and Missouri, she has held various other positions in Florida churches and, most notably, as a co-lead pastor with her husband in North Carolina. She currently serves as Evangel University's Ambassador to Students and Donors. Her preaching inspires and awakens people to rise up from every false identification and discover the power of their true identity in Christ.