

MY  
BOOK  
OF  
ANSWERED  
PRAYER

By  
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## DECLARE HIS GLORY

Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples. (Psalm 96:3)

## I AM

*I am your Rock that you stand on.*

*I am your Anchor that holds you in place and steady in the time of storms and turbulence.*

*I am the One who covers you with My wings and protects you.*

*I am your Refuge, your Fortress, your Covering, your Protection.*

*I am your Light to light the way, your Counselor, your Wisdom.*

*I am your Understanding, your Knowledge.*

*I am the Mighty One with all power to help you on the way.*

*I am the narrow Door leading to salvation and hope.*

*I am your Love, your Kindness, your Joy, your Hope.*

*I am Everything you need. Count on Me and lean on Me.*

*I want you to do this.*

*That's Who I Am and Who I want to be for you.*

## PROMISES

**I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Joshua 1:5)**

**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee. (Isaiah 26:3 KJV)**

**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)**

**For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. (Isaiah 41:13)**

**But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (Isaiah 43:1-2)**

**For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:4-5)**

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. (Ps 34:4)**

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)**

**When I am afraid, I will trust in you. (Psalm 56:3)**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)**

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)**

**I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the**

**peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)**

**The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry. (Psalm 34:15)**

**Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. (Psalm 34:9)**

**You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7)**

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)**

**The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him. (Psalm 32:10b)**

**Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)**

## PROTECTION

Does God really protect us? I can only say "yes" to that question because I have had so many experiences where He has protected me. I'll start off with a story that happened one cold rainy day in February 1974 in Indianapolis, Indiana:

## TROUBLE ON THE HIGHWAY

"God, help me!" I shouted as my car slid out of control on the slippery Indiana highway on that cold rainy day in February. I instinctively shut my eyes as my car careened down into the ditch on the right side of the road and into a field. I "felt" the car

moving for awhile as I sat braced for an impact or whatever might happen. I was totally out of control of the steering of the car. The car gradually slowed down enough for me to open my eyes and discover I was almost back on the highway! I was approaching the same roadside ditch I had just driven through, but this time from the field side of it! I accelerated the car trying to return to the road, but got stuck in the ditch.

As I sat in my car along the highway trying to grasp what had just happened, I began to see an amazing picture of what God had just done for me.....

The day began with plans to fly our private plane from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Columbia, Missouri, for a job interview for my husband. I was busily packing the clothes for our two daughters so we could make a stopover at my sister's home in Marion, Indiana, and leave the girls there while we visited Columbia. I anxiously watched the cold rain and low clouds, wondering if they would hinder our flight and make us late for our appointment that evening.

Just then my husband called saying the weather was too bad to fly privately and we would need to catch a commercial flight very soon. Would I make the trip by car to Marion? Would I drop off the girls at my sister's home, and return to Indianapolis in time to catch the commercial flight? There was just barely enough time if all went perfectly!

Driving at a high speed, I quickly made the trip, but I learned that the cold rain in Indianapolis changed to freezing rain and snow as I went north toward Marion. Cautiously I arrived at my sister's home, left the girls, and began the return trip - knowing I would not make the commercial flight on time unless I drove fast.

As I drove too fast for the icy road, God and His angels were watching over me, even in my unwise choice of speed. All of a sudden I realized the car was sliding, and it was totally out of my control! As I shut my eyes with the approaching danger and yelled,

"God, help me!" God took over. When I looked around as the car came to a stop in the ditch, I knew He had taken over, because I could see where His angels had steered the car - off the road, through a ditch, into a large open field, around a tree in a U-shaped turn, then back up to the edge of the road where the car stalled in the ditch. The car and I were totally uninjured, not even scratched!

I walked to the nearest farmhouse where I used their telephone to call an AAA service truck to pull my car from the ditch. Needless to say, we missed our commercial flight and had to postpone our visit to Columbia until the next day.

I knew, as I pondered the event, that an angel had guided my car that day because my eyes had been shut, and a car does not steer itself where my car went!

Some weeks later, as I drove along that same Indiana highway, I noticed something, which again caused me amazement about God's guiding hand. I noticed that "my field" with the tree in the middle was the only open area for a long ways that was without buildings, fences, or signs which my car could have hit!

What could have been a tragedy turned out to be an enduring memory of His Marvelous Deeds!

**To the Lord I cry aloud  
and he answers me from his holy hill.  
Psalm 3:4**

## ANGELS

**The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. (Psalm 34:7)**

So I KNOW God protects us at times, because He did this for me that day. I knew I wasn't steering that car off the road, around a tree in a U-turn, and back up to the

edge of the highway. How could that have happened except God did it. And He uses His angels to help those who belong to Him, as it says in Psalm 34:7

**For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
(Psalm 91:11)**

## ANOTHER STORY OF PROTECTION

Want to hear another story where God's protection was very evident? This one took place in Central Indiana, near the town of Marion, in a twin engine plane my husband was piloting. We were just approaching the airport in Marion when this happened...

### I WILL RESCUE HIM

"Oh, God, help us!" I began to pray as my husband and I flew in a twin engine plane toward the airport at Marion, Indiana. "We need You right now, Lord! This plane is having engine trouble! Help my husband land this plane safely!" I prayed hard and fast, over and over, as we descended toward the landing strip. Engine trouble was evident but we didn't know why.

The plane which my husband was piloting suddenly had one of the two engines quit working as we were in mid-air. Even though he had had training in what to do if this should ever happen, this had never happened to us before! He navigated the plane with his attention riveted on the instrument panel trying to keep the plane level with power coming from one side only. This was very difficult! While his attention was riveted on the instrument panel, my attention was riveted on the Lord. We needed Him right now!

Joyce, my sister, was standing outside the small airport building at Marion with our two young daughters watching for our plane to

appear. Kim and Beth were excitedly watching for their Mom and Dad to come and get them after their trip. They loved to visit Aunt Joyce and Uncle Edd, but they also missed Mom and Dad. Their eyes repeatedly looked across the sky to see the first sign of the arriving plane.

As they watched, a plane did indeed come into view off at a distance, but there was something strange about that plane. It had a long trail of gray-white smoke coming from one of its engines - an ominous-looking trail! They began to wonder and ask Aunt Joyce if this could be their parents' plane.

Joyce, suspecting the worst, knew this probably was! But she did not want the girls to see it coming in and watch what might happen! So she skillfully took them back into the airport building and tried to divert their attention...all the while wondering what was happening outside. She was a praying Christian woman, so she also was calling on the Lord in her heart as much as she could while entertaining Kim and Beth.

Gradually, in what seemed a long period of time, my husband maneuvered the plane toward the runway - closer and closer - while I watched breathlessly and prayed all the way. Was there a fire? We could not see it if there was! Would we be able to land, get out of the plane, and get away from it in time? Unanswered questions assailed my mind in those moments before landing.

God was right there with us in those moments of desperate prayers. We landed safely, got out of the plane, and saw the reason for our engine loss as we watched the smoke coming from it. The smoke was being blown behind us as we flew, so we could not see it while in the cockpit. We did get away from the plane quickly and it did not catch totally on fire. But it did ruin that one engine. We had to have repair work done so we had to leave the plane at that airport for many days until that was finished. But we were thankful nothing worse happened!



We had an extra thankful and joyful reunion with our loved ones in that airport that day! God had spared our lives from the danger near us and kept us for His purposes. He had revealed Himself as our protector and deliverer. He had truly performed one of His Marvelous Deeds!

As I reflect back on this event etched vividly in my memory, I am reminded that God kept us safe from a possible fuel tank explosion from that burning engine. And I am also reminded that the engine loss could have taken place over a large city or over the countryside instead of near the airport of our destination. God was, indeed, watching over us even before I started praying!

**“Because he loves me,” says the Lord,  
I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.  
He will call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.  
With long life will I satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”  
(Psalm 91:14-16)**

## CLEANSING

This is a story where the Lord began a great cleansing process in my life. And that cleansing process has continued to this very day. This was a lesson for a lifetime.

## NAILED TO THE CROSS

One of the Lord's marvelous deeds is giving us the opportunity to become clean before Him through Jesus' work on the cross. There was a day in my life when He took me through a giant step

in the process of becoming clean from past grudges, hurts, and unforgiven circumstances. It all began at the very last meeting of the conference...

The conference I was attending in North Carolina was on "Prayer for Spiritual Awakening." One thing I learned is that if you want spiritual awakening you need to pray, but I also learned that effective prayer must come from a cleansed vessel. God began a process of cleansing in me that day. He started to clean me from past experiences.

I sat listening intently as the speaker shared a fresh experience of God's work in his personal life - an experience only two weeks old. I thank God for this man who was willing to be vulnerable enough to share how God revealed his own needs for cleansing and how God taught him to be free from the bondage of past events in his life. He shared how he took each revealed memory of past hurts, grudges, and unforgiven events to the cross, confessed his part in those events, asked forgiveness, and then nailed those sins to the cross in his imagination as he accepted in his heart Christ's finished work of paying the penalty for them.

I knew deep down inside God was calling me to do the same. I felt like the conference was just beginning for me because there was so much inner work I wanted to do before returning home.

But the conference was over. Even so, my heart was filled with the intense desire to be alone with God and let Him do that cleansing work in me also. Oh, how I wanted to stay!

We packed the van with our luggage and began the 1 and 1/2-day trip back to Missouri. The drawing by God to come apart with Him and begin that cleansing work was so real I could not escape it, nor did I want to. However God knew what to do with all those travel hours!

As the miles flew by and people became quieter, I began looking out the window and drawing apart in my mind to communicate with

the Lord. "Lord, please show me those areas in my life that need cleansing! Take me back, Lord, in my memory to times and events which I need to confess before You."

And He did! The first event He brought to my mind seemed so insignificant to me, I would not have considered it if He had not shown it to me from His viewpoint. He reminded me of a time when I was six years old and my mother was in bed recovering from the delivery at our home of my baby brother. My aunt was taking care of our family until my mother was able again. I had injured myself and wanted a bandage on the wound, but she would not give me one. I went to my mother and asked for one, and she let me have it.

The Lord began to show me I had never forgiven my aunt for not understanding the need of a small child, not just for a bandage, but for the love and concern that mother gave with that bandage. I had held a grudge against her ever since that day and did not even know it!

First the Lord had me confess my sin of holding a grudge, then forgive my aunt for not helping me. As the speaker taught us, I pictured myself taking my sin to the cross and nailing it there. Christ had already paid the price for it and I accepted that payment and thanked Him for it.

What a wonderful cleansing followed! All the way home, for hour after hour on the van, the Lord took me back in my memory and worked cleansing from past events. The prayer Jesus taught became very real to me: "*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors!*" As I forgave others, He worked cleansing in me of my debts. Those debts got nailed to Jesus' cross all the way across the country from North Carolina to Missouri as God worked one of His Marvelous Deeds in my life!

**For if you forgive men when they sin against you,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

**But if you do not forgive men their sins,  
your Father will not forgive your sins.  
(Matthew 6:14-15)**

## FORGIVING

One of the people in my life I went through a long process of forgiving was my father. He was a pretty harsh disciplinarian and was rather distant from me when I was a child. This affected me a lot in my feelings about myself and my self-worth. But the Lord lead me to forgive him each time something came into my mind about the way he had treated me. I gradually found my attitude toward him softening and becoming more loving. In light of that background I want to share a story about that relationship toward the end of my father's life.

## I LOVE YOU

It was the last day I could visit my father in the hospital. He had a stroke and we did not know how long he would live. We also did not know what his condition would be if he did live.

When I heard of his stroke I made the ten-hour trip from Missouri to Indiana to see him. After spending several days there, it was now time to return to Missouri...return without knowing the outcome of this stroke.

I did not look forward to this last visit to the hospital, knowing it could be the last time I might see my father alive. What do you say at such a time?

My father and I had never been close. He was not the type of person to be affectionate or share his feelings with others. We did not communicate much except about surface things. I wanted to be close to my father, but somehow it was not easy to feel close to him. I had never heard him tell any person, "I love you."

And as a child it would have made such a difference in my life to hear those words!

Now, as an adult, I could see that Dad had loved me "in his way" by taking care of my material needs along with those of our family. But, as a child, I did not perceive that. I needed, as a child, to be told and shown that I was loved. Therefore, I grew up thinking he really did not care much about me.

And now the time had arrived to say good-bye. I dreaded this moment. What should I say? I leaned over his bed to hug him and said, "Dad, I have to leave now. I have to go back to Missouri....I love you, Dad."

And he said the words I had waited all my life to hear: "I love you, too."

As my sister and I left his room and walked down the hospital corridor, she said with tears in her eyes, "That is the first time I ever heard Dad say 'I love you' to anyone in my whole life!"

I knew it was one of life's rare and touching moments... and that God gave that moment as one of His Marvelous Deeds!

Oh, that we could turn aside  
from all our pride and pain  
and take the risk to tell someone  
"I love you" - what great gain!

Take the time to tell someone  
of the caring in your heart,  
before the opportunity is past,  
before you have to part.

## EMOTIONAL HEALING

Here is another story of a great healing emotionally for me.

## LIKE A LITTLE CHILD

As an adult I have often been guided by the Lord to look back into my past and remember an event which needs to be worked through. Sometimes I need to forgive someone, sometimes I need to ask the Lord to forgive me, sometimes I need to be freed from a wrong attitude, and sometimes I need healing. This story involves both forgiveness and emotional healing for something, which happened to me as a young child.

I do not remember why, but my father was angry with me. In the process of dealing with me in his anger, he sent me outside our home to stand by myself on our front porch in the dark. I was very afraid of the dark, so that was a dreadful punishment for me. But there was also a feeling of rejection and fear during that event...enough that it continued as a very painful memory for many years.

As an adult I brought that memory to the surface under the Lord's guidance one day. I had to forgive my father for treating me that way. It was easy enough to say, "I forgive him" to the Lord because I now had children of my own and could understand how irritating they could be at times. Perhaps I had been that way.

But somehow the Lord was not finished with that memory. I did not have a sense of peace about the memory, and it kept returning to my mind. So I asked the Lord how to be free from the pain of that memory. Then I began to see that the feeling of being unwanted and rejected was still there and needed to be healed. "How could I be healed?" I asked Him. Then He performed one of His Marvelous Deeds in my life to bring healing to me.

He had me bring back and review in my mind the picture of myself standing on that porch as a little child. Then He reminded me that He was always with me, and that I could imagine Him

there on that porch with me - because He really was. So, in my imagination, I pictured Him standing there with me. And, somehow, it was not dark anymore when He was there, and I was not afraid.

In my imagination He took my hand and we walked together down the steps off the porch and into a grassy area beside the house. His presence blessed me and freed me to be the child I was. We took hands and danced around in circles as children do. Then He stooped down and waited and watched as I danced and ran around in the grass full of joy and delight in being with Him.

This was so healing to me that now it is a pleasure to go back to that memory. When I do, I remember, not pain, but Jesus being with me and accepting me for being a child and acting like a child...and just loving me as a child. My earthly father could not accept me acting like a child, but my Heavenly Father loved me that way!

**He (Jesus) said to them, "Let the little children  
come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive  
the kingdom of God like a little child  
will never enter it."**

**And he took the children in his arms,  
put his hands on them and blessed them.**

**Mark 10:14-16**

## HEALING

There was a time in my life when I desperately needed healing, and God answered my prayer for that. This is that story.

## GOD'S THERAPY

It was Friday...the day for chemotherapy again! How I dreaded those days! Twice a month for four months I had been taking treatments in that therapy room with other cancer patients. Some had much worse stories to tell than my story, so I learned to appreciate how well God was taking care of me even through the mastectomy and chemotherapy I had to endure. God was with me - and how much I needed Him! Especially today!

It all started with a routine mammogram, which I did not want to have, but thought I should. Then came the letter saying something looked suspicious in the X-ray. Next came surgical biopsy day with many of my dear, dear Christian friends waiting and praying with me for a report of "no cancer." Finally came the telephone call telling me there was definitely cancer, and I broke down and cried and secluded myself for the rest of that day as the news took on reality for me.

But God was with me. He brought my daughters and Christian friends to comfort me in my grief. I praise God for them!

During the next two months I went through the mastectomy and surgical recovery period with a love blanket of support from my daughters, my church family, and my friends who gave me food, flowers, cards, love, and prayers, as well as much appreciated visits and telephone calls. I did not know how much those things meant until I needed them myself!

But now that time was past. And today I had to face another chemotherapy treatment. I would show up at the treatment room where the male nurse would insert a needle into my left arm to begin an IV setup. He would draw blood samples to test to see if my system was strong enough to take the treatment. Then I would wait for an hour or two until approval was given and drugs were sent to the therapy room for me. After that the drugs



would be dripped into my veins for several hours - first the anti-nausea drugs, then the chemotherapy drugs selected by my doctor and me. Then I would wait...and pray.

Before I began chemotherapy I had asked the Lord how to pray about taking this therapy, and He instructed me to bind the bad effects of the drugs, and loose the good effects, so I did that day by day. I especially prayed not to lose my hair. I heard some stories from those that did lose theirs, and kept praying to be spared from that. God answered that prayer, and I was so thankful for that blessing!

But today this therapy day was different than the others. In my instructions I had been told to report any intestinal problems I developed. Well, they had been developing, but I had not yet told the doctor about them. Today I knew I must because I was getting sick for one to two hours at a time more and more frequently. I never knew when or where the sickness would hit me. As I reported this the word came that I did not want to hear: "We may have to postpone your therapy treatments."

One of my greatest desires at that time was to finish those treatments as soon as possible! I certainly did not want to postpone them. So that evening I cried out to the Lord, "What do I do about this, Lord? How do I handle this? How do I pray? I do not want to postpone these treatments! I want to get them finished and get on with my life again! Please help me!"

And my wonderful God, in His still small voice, said, "*You can ask Me to heal you, and I will.*"

Well, I asked! And He did! After four months of times of sickness coming with increasing frequency, for the next two months of therapy I had no more sickness!

As I write this story many years later, I still have no sign of cancer in my body! So I share this story with you to "*declare His glory*" and tell of His Marvelous Deeds!

**And my God will meet all your needs  
according to his glorious riches  
in Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 4:19)**

## CALLING ON GOD

Another day in my Quiet Time I read this Scripture -

**Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and  
unsearchable things you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)**

After reading that I began to write to God (a prayer) about how I had been feeling recently, and then I wrote His response...

## CALL TO ME

I have been restless for days, Lord.  
Nothing seems to satisfy me.  
I have called and called to You to learn what is happening.  
You have led me to this Scripture,  
and now I am waiting upon You.

I feel so restless and non-directed.  
Perhaps I should go back to old things,  
things which brought satisfaction.  
But I do not really believe that is where You are leading me.

Where are you leading me, Lord?  
Where do You want me to go?

You say, "I will show you great and unsearchable things"...  
What do You want to show me, Lord?

I read that when I pray, seeking Your will,  
there are two things You want to show me.  
The first is Yourself,  
and the second is what You are able to do.

Show me Yourself, Lord;  
Show me what you are able to do.

Then He replied, and I wrote...

*I want to do that!  
I want to prove who I am so all will know.*

*I want you to know this ahead of time  
and to receive it from me...  
Revival WILL break out.*

*As I prove Myself to your people  
then they will proclaim Me and ask Me to move among them.  
They will allow Me free reign as they have not before.  
Then the fire of My Holy Spirit will come, and burn, and clean.*

*Look for this.  
Pray for this.*

*I will come first with healing,  
then with many manifestations of My Spirit.*

*Keep coming to Me.  
I am making you restless.  
I have much to say to you.*

## EXPECTATION

This is something He taught me as I prayed one day. It is about the attitude with which I come in prayer.

## COME EXPECTING ME

I will teach you, and lead you  
into more understanding of prayer  
as you pray.  
That is really the way to learn.

Pray, and let Me teach you  
step by step.  
Set yourself apart unto this ministry.  
Make yourself available.

Expect Me to come to the prayer closet with you -  
to anoint you,  
and meet you there.

I will always have something  
for you to pray.

I may have you wait awhile  
on some days,  
but wait quietly for Me.

Do not be afraid to sit  
and wait for Me,  
just as you would sit and wait  
for a person with whom  
you have an appointment.

My timing will be right.  
I will come.

I will speak and you will pray.  
We will talk, and I will show you  
“great and unsearchable things  
which you do not know.”

Come expecting Me!

## RELINQUISHMENT

Another way God has lead me is through relinquishing what I wanted very badly and letting God decide the situation the way He knew best. A difficult experience took place when I became pregnant in the fall of 1970. Previously I had not been able to have children and we were blessed to be able to adopt our first daughter in 1969. But in the fall of 1970 I became pregnant. We were excited about this and, as soon as it was verified, we began telling our family members at our annual Thanksgiving gathering.

But the day after Thanksgiving I went to the hospital when I started the process of miscarriage. After a week of observation in the hospital, I was told to go home and told to stay off my feet for the rest of the pregnancy period. God was really with me during that time. I felt this prayer rising up within me - that if this baby was not right in some way, or if there was some reason it was better for this baby not to be born, then it was ok with me if God took that baby to be with Him. And that is what happened. The miscarriage was completed after a day or two at home.

I expect to meet that child someday in heaven along with my baby sister, who died (at about 1 year old) before I was born.

## CHANGE OF INTEREST

Another way the Lord has lead me in the past, happened because I lost interest in something which had previously been very interesting to me. I had gone through a year of being in Bible Study Fellowship in Indianapolis and just loved it. I looked forward to the new program beginning that coming fall.

But when fall came, my interest just wasn't as keen as it had previously been, and I was disappointed and wondered why.

Then I began to understand, through a suggestion from my sister, that sometimes God might decrease our interest in something because He has a change coming in our lives and is preparing us for it.

And that proved to be so true! I didn't know it at the time (but God did) but I would be moving away soon after that to another state. He lovingly took away my interest in what might have held me back from a good attitude toward the move.

## PRAISE

We are told many times in the Bible to praise the Lord. This is a story of one time when God taught me that lesson. It says in Hebrews:

**Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually  
offer to God a sacrifice of praise--  
the fruit of lips that confess his name.  
(Hebrews 13:15)**

## THE PRAISE LESSON

Into the lower level of my house came that flood of water. I could not keep up with it as I mopped and mopped. No matter how long I soaked it up, it just kept coming! My back started hurting from the mopping. My discouragement increased.

The water invaded the carpet and I knew that carpet would have to be taken up, dried, and tacked down again. This was not the first time this had happened, so I knew the cost. That was one of my great concerns - the cost. My finances were extremely tight, and I did not want to pay for water damage again.

So, as I continued mopping, experiencing the back pain, and grumbling in my mind, I began weeping. It all seemed so hopeless! As I did this, I started to talk to the Lord about it.

Finally, after pouring out my troubles to Him, I became quiet long enough to hear Him speak. And what I heard was certainly

not what I expected! I heard His still small voice say, "Have you praised Me yet for this?"

Praised Him? For this? I certainly had not! I had not even thought about praising Him for this awful situation! But now I knew He wanted me to do just that!

Slowly I began to speak the words He wanted me to say..."I praise You, Lord, for the flood. I praise You, Lord, for the aching back. I praise You, Lord, for the cost of fixing up my carpet." I didn't FEEL like praising Him, but He did not ask me to feel like it, only to praise Him.

As I did this, He revealed a thought to me, which has remained throughout my life. The thought was that God's purpose was not to save me from the distress and difficulty of the situation, but to teach me something He wanted me to learn in the middle of the situation. In fact He wanted to use that situation for my good! He wanted me to learn to praise Him when things were difficult as well as when they were easy.

At this particular time He did not choose to change the circumstances...He chose to change me! I remember this as one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**Through Jesus  
let us continually offer to God  
a sacrifice of praise.  
(Hebrews 13:15)**

## A LESSON IN RESTING

Another day He gave me a lesson while sitting in Shelter Garden in Columbia, MO near the waterfall and pool. I needed an answer about a very pressing question that was on my mind at that time. As I watched the water in the pool moving along I noticed a leaf that had fallen into the water. The leaf was being carried along by the water, wherever the water took it. The Holy Spirit began to show me that my life was

to be like that leaf, and He was the water carrying me along where He wanted. I was not to tell the water where to carry me - just relax and rest in the water's ability to carry me to the right place for me.

## LOVE

My Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for letting me be near You, for keeping me close to You, at Your right hand. Thank You that You are my refuge. Thank You for guiding me with your counsel and that You will eventually take me into Your glory. Earth has nothing I desire besides You. You are the strength of my heart and my portion forever. I love You, Lord. Thank You for loving me!

*Response of Holy Spirit: I AM with you forever, Joan, and you DO get to come and be with Me in glory when you eventually leave this world. That is the greatest gift of all, and it came because, in My love, I gave My life for you. I took your sins upon Me and died for them so you wouldn't have to die for them and be punished for them. That's how great is My love for you. "Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for a friend." You are My friend!*

## ONE STITCH AT A TIME

I am sitting in my chair looking at the picture, which my mother stitched on canvas for me. It is a lovely picture of a clump of birch trees blowing in the wind. I liked that picture the moment I saw it in the store.

I bought the kit to make it myself, but did not get around to doing it. Then one day my mother saw the kit and volunteered to stitch it for me. At that time in her life she was retired and had time to sew. So, although I had the initial desire to create the picture on canvas, and bought all the materials to do so, it was not completed and framed until another person, my mother,



volunteered to do the actual stitching. Out of that combination came this beautiful picture hanging on my wall.

As I sit here pondering this, the thoughts begin to form in my mind from the Lord about how our lives are similar in relation to Him. He is the One who had the original idea, the initial desire, for our lives. He provided life for us and all the materials needed to stitch a beautiful picture from it. One thing is left for us to do to get the picture completed.

We have to work with Him, using what He has given us, to create that beautiful picture. It must be stitched day by day, one stitch at a time. He will provide the directions for us - as were provided with the picture mother stitched. She just had to follow those to get the picture right. Our directions can be found in His Word, the Bible. If we follow those directions, when we come to the end of the picture, He will put the frame on it, and we can all rejoice in His Marvelous Deeds.

**I will instruct you and teach you  
in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you and watch over you.  
Psalm 32:8**

## ASKING

One day in my Quiet Time I asked this question: “Lord, what do You want us to do...Your people, born of Your Spirit? This is what He put in my mind at that time:

*Listen to My Spirit.  
Seek Me daily,  
For life is a daily walk with Me.*

*I have a way, and I have a plan.*

*You cannot find My way unless you seek Me.*

*I want you to learn how to do that.*

*Listen to me,  
Find My way,  
And walk in it.*

*I'll not give you the wisdom of man.  
I'll give you God's wisdom.  
Which do you want?*

*If you do not seek Me,  
Then I will know which you want,  
And I will let you go man's way  
And into his folly.*

*Seek Me until you find Me.  
Do not give up.  
I want to be found!*

*If you ask the world for advice,  
You will get the world's counsel.  
If you ask Me,  
You will get My counsel.*

*Which do you want, My friends?  
Choose you this day whom you will serve!*

## QUIETNESS

On special occasions you can have your Quiet Time with the Lord in unusual places. For example one day I had a Quiet Time sitting on the outside porch-balcony of a large meeting hall at a church camp I was attending. It was overlooking a beautiful lake scene. It was all quiet and still as I drew away from camp activities to relax and meditate and commune with the Lord. The Scripture it reminded me of is in Isaiah 30:15 where it says: "**In quietness and trust is your strength**". As I meditated, these thoughts came to me and I wrote them down.

## THE REFLECTION

*The quieter the water  
The more perfect  
The reflection.*

*The more you know  
Who you are in Me,  
The quieter your soul is  
Before Me,  
The more perfectly  
You reflect Me!*

Prayer: Lord, quiet my soul before You. Still all the thoughts within me that want to think about worldly things. Focus my thoughts on You. Help me to be a reflection of You to the world, to my friends, and to my family. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT INTO ONE BODY

My husband and I had traveled from Missouri to California for the American Academy of Family Physicians Convention where he was to be initiated as a new member along with hundreds of others who had passed their board exams. The night for the initiation ceremony had arrived and we were preparing to attend.

I was ready to go when, at the last minute, I decided to change clothes - to a red dress. This red dress had pinned to its collar a dove pin, a tiny silver pin, which to me stood for the Holy Spirit. It identified me as a Christian - like the first century Christians used the sign of the fish to identify themselves. But tonight, in my hurry to change clothes, I did not notice that pin. I just followed a sudden urge to change to that red dress.

As my husband and I parted at the huge theater, we made plans to meet after the ceremony by the front entranceway. Then he went to the stage area while I sat in the theater to watch. We did not think when we made those plans about the thousands of people at the convention and how difficult it might be to find someone after such a meeting. But, God had a plan for the waiting time!

After the ceremony I went outside and stood near the entranceway on the sidewalk in front, waiting. I waited and waited, wondering why we had not been more specific in our meeting place. Standing there in my bright red dress, I was easy to see. But it was not the red dress that caught someone's attention, it was the tiny, tiny Holy Spirit pin!

A woman came up to me, introduced herself, said she was from North Carolina, indicated she was a Christian too, and said, "I just wanted to meet my sister in Christ who was wearing that Holy Spirit pin!" With that we hugged, and she disappeared in the crowd.

My heart leaped and joy exploded within me! God lifted up my spirit like a cloud floating above the world! In that moment, I had experienced supernatural instant communion with someone I had never met before - another member of the "Body of Christ".

The joy of that moment returned in memory many times over the years to bring a smile to my thoughts. To me this remains as one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -  
whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -  
and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.  
(1 Corinthians 12:13)**

## THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

There are times we experience things we just do not understand! That's when I like to remind myself of the Scripture from Proverbs 3:5-6 (which is one of my favorite verses). It says:

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.**

Perhaps you have had times also when you experienced things you just didn't understand. When that happens to me, this verse is a comfort to me. It reminds me that my dependency is not to be on my own understanding of a situation, but is to be on God.

What does it mean to "acknowledge Him" in all my ways? To me that means to say to myself and to others that I am in His hands. It also means that I am to look to Him for guidance when I do not know what to do in a situation. I am to thank Him and praise Him each day of my life and acknowledge He is in charge of me.

I am so glad He says in this verse that He will direct our paths. He sees which direction we should go much more clearly than we do. He is all-wise while we know only partly. We can trust in His wisdom and guidance to take us the right way--the best way for us!

## VISION PICTURES

Sometimes the Lord gives me a vision picture that appears before my spiritual eyes. Here are a few examples of those:

## PICTURE OF A PATHWAY

One day He gave me a vision picture of this very thing. In this picture I was walking on a pathway and Jesus was walking backwards ahead of me, facing me, and holding on to my hands. He let me know that, if I would keep my hands in His, He would keep me on the right pathway and keep me from falling off either side of the road.

## PICTURE OF A FAN

Another day I saw a picture of an opened fan looking like a turkey tail. At the top of each fan section an instruction was written. The understanding came to me that different people in the Body of Christ were to respond to these different instructions according to their giftedness and God's leading. As they did this all the instructions could be completed--as each one did his part. The piece of fan given to me had this instruction on it: "Follow Me."

**They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.  
(Revelation 14:4)**

## PICTURE OF A MAZE

I saw in my mind the picture of a maze, as if I was looking down on it from above. I saw myself in this maze, letting the Lord lead me each way it went. The thought came to me: How could He really teach me and test me on following Him if He did not lead me in some ways that were different, not logical to me. If He only led

me in ways I expected, ways He had led me before, that would not really test and grow my ability to follow Him. Even if He said, "Do nothing," I was to follow that. That might be the best for me at that time. Then I wrote these words from Him:

*I am leading you,  
You do not see each turn  
Or see to the side.*

*Just keep following Me  
Moment by moment.*

*It is a lonely path  
But I am always with you.*

*I will always show you  
The way to go.*

## GUIDANCE

A story about God's guiding me came in the event I want to share with you next. It is called "A Tremendous Substitute." Did you know that sometimes we can be fooled into thinking we have God's guidance when an opportunity arises and it seems an answer to our prayers? This story will explain how I learned about that at one time in my life.

## A TREMENDOUS SUBSTITUTE

As I arrived home from church that Sunday evening the Lord spoke to me to turn on the TV. As I did, I heard a pastor in the middle of his sermon say something, which I immediately knew I was to write down. The idea he gave was this: "Just before God is

ready to give you His very best, Satan often offers a tremendous substitute."

The idea of a tremendous substitute was a new one for me, but since that time I have often found those words to be true.

It applied to my life one summer when I knew I needed to find a part-time job by September of that year because part of my financial provision would stop at the end of that month. As I took this need to the Lord in prayer, He gave me a picture of a door set before me. That door was open and behind it was bright light, so bright that I could not see what was there...but I knew it was His provision. He told me to keep walking toward the "door" in September, and He would have something for me at that time.

So I walked, in faith, and kept the picture before me. I had to fight battles with anxiety as the time drew closer and I still did not have the financial provision I needed.

By August I expected the Lord to bring me a job at any moment. Just at that time a friend called and invited me to lunch. She told me of a ministry position open at her church and asked if I would let her submit my name. She knew I had a call to ministry, and this looked good in so many ways! Could this be what the Lord had planned for me? I knew I must pray about it and give it serious consideration.

As I pondered it, there was one thing that bothered me about the job. If I took this job I would have to leave my church "family" of many years duration where I had friendships which were close and meaningful to me. Only with the Lord's help could I do that. So I sought Him in prayer.

I have learned over the years that if I really want to hear the Lord's will I must first give up my own. This was very hard to do! I wanted the job the Lord had for me, and I needed the money soon, but I did not find peace about leaving my home church. So I prayed until I could say, "God, whatever You want for my life, that



is what I want too. I am willing to pursue this job if that is what You want."

Then He revealed to me that this job was a "tremendous substitute" which He had warned me about. It had seemed so perfect in many ways. That is often the way a "tremendous substitute" seems - perfect in many ways. It is hard to tell it from the real thing except as you seek God and listen to Him.

I chose not to pursue that job, but to wait longer. One day, in mid-September, two weeks before part of my financial provision ended, I walked into a Christian bookstore to buy a card. As I chatted with the owner, he casually mentioned, "By the way, you don't happen to be looking for a job, do you? I have one available."

With those words the Lord began the process of bringing me the "real thing." For years a desire in my heart had been to work at a Christian bookstore because of my love of reading and sharing Christian books. Now, in the Lord's perfect timing, He fulfilled that desire. In the process He showed me another of His Marvelous Deeds!

The picture of the door with the light on the other side finally became a reality! I walked through it with joy and thanksgiving!

**I am the Lord;  
in its time I will do this swiftly.  
(Isaiah 60:22)**

## OBEDIENT

Here is an example, a story, in my own life where God specifically guided me. After following His guidance, then I saw the wisdom of it. But I had to be obedient to His guidance before I could see it.

## I KNOW THE PLANS

For several months the thought had been slipping quietly into my mind...the thought that someday I would move from the house I owned at that time. I would glance briefly at that thought and then let it slip by, feeling the move would come at least one or two years in the future. I had good reasons why I should wait that long to move...logical reasons.. They made sense to my mind. But that was not the Lord's plan.

It was Friday, June 23, and I was having my Quiet Time. The Lord spoke to me saying He wanted me to place my house up for sale. In spite of all the previous thoughts about this, I was still surprised. I had not given much thought to actually doing it. I wanted to be sure this was really God's will before I acted on that word. That would be a big step for me to take by myself. I had never sold a house before! So I waited.

On Saturday, June 24, He said the same thing to me again in my Quiet Time. Since the word was reinforced, I began to look at it much more seriously.

On Sunday, June 25, as the Lord spoke the same message to me, I was convinced I needed to act on it. So, on Monday morning, in my Quiet Time, I agreed to put my house up for sale. Then, with His guidance, I carefully outlined the steps I would take and the approximate times I wanted to take them.

At first I thought I would place the house on the market in September to give myself preparation time. But He said I should plan so the new family could move in before school started. So I made plans to close on the sale during the third week in August, around the 21st if possible. I planned to begin renting my new home on August 1st so I could have three weeks to move my

things, have a garage sale in the old house, and have time to clean the house I was selling before completing the move.

I believed these plans were from God, and yet, what amazed me was this only allowed one month for God to sell my house! At that time many houses were sitting on the market in our city for 6-12 months without selling!

On Wednesday, June 28, my prayer partner and I prayed about this, and the advice that came was: "Call the Realtor right away and set this up." What Godly advice this turned out to be!

The Realtor and I met on Friday, June 30, one week after the Lord first spoke to me to sell my house. I shared with her about the Lord's instructions, so we were both excited to see what He was going to do!

It was scary to sign my name on that document to sell my house while not knowing what lay ahead. I was agreeing to a huge transition without knowing its far-reaching effects. But what enabled me to sign was the assurance this was from the Lord.

I wanted the multiple listing realtors to tour my home on Wednesday, July 5, during the following week. Therefore my realtor said she would have to put it on the computer on the following Monday, July 3rd. I agreed to that, thinking I would have the 4th of July holiday to thoroughly clean and prepare the house for showing before Wednesday, July 5. Little did I suspect what God was already doing even as I made these plans!

On Monday, July 3rd, my house listing was placed on the computer system. A realtor saw it on the computer and came over that very afternoon. That evening she brought her client to view the house, and they wrote a contract on it that same night. I had not even cleaned it yet! That extra special cleaning was not what the Lord needed to sell my house. He just needed my obedience to list the house at the exact time He told me to. He did the rest!

God knew something, which I did not know when He said I should list my house for sale. He knew there was a buyer who wanted a

house just like mine and wanted it in my neighborhood. He knew she would make an offer on a house just down the street from mine during that first weekend in July just before my listing was put on the computer. He also knew she would miss buying that house because someone else made an offer just prior to hers. She was eager and ready to move as soon as possible. God was already at work in the situation. He just wanted me to join Him in what He was doing!

And guess what! The closing date she wanted was August 21st! In fact, God worked out every detail of the schedule we set that Monday, June 26th, when I said "yes" to His request and we set the plans. He even helped me find a lovely home to rent beginning August 1st as we had planned.

Once again in my life God revealed Himself, His purposes, and His ways by displaying one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**"For I know the plans I have for you,"  
declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."  
(Jeremiah 29:11)**

## THE NAME OF JESUS

**"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14)**

I ask you today, Lord, to give me a revelation concerning the name of Jesus and the power that it holds for every believer. Releasing the power in the name of Jesus requires faith in that name. Please give me that faith, Lord.

I pray in the name of Jesus for this book project He is leading me to do. I pray for my physical health, stamina, desire, and inspiration needed to accomplish it. I pray for all

the financial provision needed for me to live, for the book to be published, and for the distribution of the book to the people He desires to read it. I ask for the peace and quiet and time to listen to Him and receive from Him all He wants to be written in this book.

I also pray for protection for me, and for my children, for our homes and possessions and workplaces, for our lives, each day we live on this earth. I ask, believing this is God's will as He has led me step by step to do this project with Him. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU

My husband and I were returning to Indiana from a trip to Missouri in our small plane. It had been a long day and we were both tired. As we flew through the darkness late that night, the humming sound of the plane began to lull us both to sleep without our realizing it.

The next thing I remember is suddenly awakening. I looked at my husband and saw that he was asleep as I had been. I quickly woke him up!

He immediately looked at the gauges on the instrument panel of the plane and saw that we had dropped about 1000 feet while we slept! Had we continued to sleep, obviously we would have crashed. But, just in time, we had been awakened! God had not been sleeping but watching over us to perform one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**He who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
(Psalm 121:3-4)**

## THINK LIKE HIM

**“Since Jesus went through everything you’re going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you’ll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.” (1 Peter 4:1,2 TMB)**

*Now why didn't I give you word of your provision plan yet? I am testing you to see if you will continue to depend on and trust Me for your provision, as I have instructed you to do, or if you will take things into your own hands and make provision yourself. I do not want you to do that, but it is your choice. You can make provision man's way, or wait for My way where I get the glory and praise. Which do you want?*

I want Your way, Lord. If Your way is for me to search for a job, then that is what I choose and want. If Your way is for me to wait and have You bring my provision some way, then that is what I choose - Your way.

*Just keep going day after day listening to Me and obeying Me and trusting Me to provide everything needed to accomplish My purpose for you (and that includes writing this book, but much more also). I will be with you and I will do it all--if you let Me--by waiting for Me and trusting in Me...faith. Your faith will please Me and I will act in response to it. Keep having faith.*

## PROVISION

**“Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!” (Psalm 66:20)**

The Holy Spirit was saying to me this morning that I should wait and see what provision He brings me. If He doesn't bring me enough to meet my needs THEN I can be free to get a job if I need to. But first I must wait patiently in faith to see what He does to provide for me to be free to write full time.

**“I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:9b-10)**

The Holy Spirit says today that He has already arranged for my financial provision, so I am to believe in it even though I haven’t actually seen it yet. My faith is to be in His present word to me about this. Total provision, Lord?

*Total provision. I do not want you taking a job outside your home. I have things for you to do for Me and for the Kingdom work, so I want you free to do that. So I have made complete provision financially for you to do that.*

Thank You; that’s what I want.

*And I have put that “want” into you. Some people might want to have “control” over their money and it’s source and therefore want a job. You have to give up that control if you want Me to provide your financial resource. Will you?*

Yes, Lord. I give the provision of my finances into Your hands.

*I know this is hard for you because you feel you failed before to believe adequately for your financial provision. I let you fail to humble you. I wanted you moldable in My hands.*

## GOD’S MIRACLE BABY

It was Tuesday afternoon and I was walking up to my sister’s house. I had been invited to come and share something with the prayer group gathered there. This was a moment we had all been waiting for - a long, long time, and it was finally here.

This began several years before when the doctors had done all they knew at the time to help my husband and me to get pregnant. After exhausting their efforts they told us to consider adoption,

so we went through adoption procedures. Through this God brought us a baby girl who was a delight in our lives.

Later, when we moved to another town, a different doctor told us of one more possibility we might try - major surgery. By this time we were so happy with our adopted child we would have been quite content to adopt a second time. But something inside kept saying to me that perhaps I should try this one last possibility. So, in the spring, I had surgery and went through weeks of pain and fatigue to recover.

By Thanksgiving we learned I was pregnant, so we spent the holiday telling our family and friends the good news and we all rejoiced together!

But the day after Thanksgiving, my body began a process of miscarrying that baby. I spent most of the week in the hospital, then was sent home with the instruction to spend the rest of the nine months off my feet to try to save the baby. How do you manage a home and a 22 month old child while in bed?

In the midst of the situation I kept talking to God about it. "God, if You want me to have this baby, that is OK. You know I want to. But if, for some reason, it is not best for this baby to come into the world, I accept that. Please do what You know is best. I leave this in Your hands." And shortly after arriving home, the miscarriage was completed.

Well, that did not stop my sister's prayer group! When I got pregnant again within a few months of the miscarriage, they took this new baby as their prayer project! They prayed for that baby's life and health and for that baby to be able to be born. Since I had miscarried once, and possibly twice, the doctors did not have as much hope for this third time, but that did not deter those prayer warriors. They had faith!

The pregnancy went smoothly! And a beautiful little child was born. She even surprised us by coming three weeks early in time to be a Christmas present! Little Elizabeth was a miracle of God



through prayer - reminding me of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, who had her own miracle birth experience.

So, today, all these thoughts flooded through my mind as I approached the house where these prayer warriors were gathered to see "their miracle baby." Baby Elizabeth and I entered, and we all praised God together! Today was a day to ponder His ways, to look back and see His Marvelous Deeds, and to declare His glory.

**...with God all things are possible.  
(Matthew 19:26)**

## BE WILLING TO GROW

The Holy Spirit is touching me today with these words from Joyce Meyer.

"The name of Jesus is power. No loving parent would release power to a baby, because he knows the child would get hurt if he did. Parents don't withhold power from their children to hurt them, but to help them or to keep them safe. Our heavenly Father is the same way. He tells us what is available to us, and then by His Spirit helps us mature to the point where we can handle what He desires to give us."

"Be willing to grow into new levels of maturity and obedience. Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to reveal to you any areas in your life that are blocking the power of God. Ask Him to show you areas of selfishness and areas of deception. Get serious in your praying, serious about growing up."

Lord, please help me grow to the point where I can handle what You desire to give me!

**"Ask and it will be given to you." (Matthew 7:7)**

## THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS

For many months my husband had been seeking a different job. Each time he was informed of another job possibility we would discuss it, consider that area of the country, look at the job, and try to see if this was the right place for us to move. We wanted a good job for him, but we also wanted a good place to live and raise our children of two and five years old.

The answer seemed to be "no" to each one, until he was contacted by Duke University about a position there. This was different. It had many attractive features and the decision was not an automatic no. But, even so, he was not quite sure.

He asked his contact person at Duke to allow him until the end of that month of December to make his decision. All during that month the answer did not come with peace to him. He wanted an assurance inside that this was the right step to take before giving up his old job and moving our family.

At the end of December, with no answer clear, he asked for the month of January to finish making the decision, and was granted that request. In spite of all his efforts to come to an understanding of what to do, the answer did not come! It was so frustrating! On the one hand, it was a good job with people he liked. But, on the other hand, he did not feel a clear direction to take that job.

By the last day in January, he knew he had to make a decision one way or the other. So he told me he would go ahead and accept the job even without a sureness within himself. But God had a different plan!

At 4:30 on the afternoon of January 31st he called the contact person at Duke University to say he would accept the job. But that person's secretary said he had just left to go to Europe just shortly before the phone call, and he would not be back for nine

days. She really wanted to know my husband's answer, but he said he would wait to talk to the contact person.

During those nine days, he was contacted about a job in another state and went to look at it. And this job was just what he wanted! There was no hesitating or waiting. He knew this was the right place for him! So, in God's perfect timing, he accepted the right job and we moved our family to Columbia, Missouri, which proved to be an excellent place to live and raise our family.

God had picked the best place for us! But not only that, he had kept us from making the wrong decision until the right job came!

Not only did God have the right job for my husband, but our children were able to attend the Columbia Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and also graduate from the University of Missouri in Columbia. When Columbia was selected by Money Magazine as the second best city in which to live in the United States one year, it only affirmed the decision God helped us make in 1974 when we moved there. In my opinion God had truly performed one of His Marvelous Deeds for us!

**“In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps.”  
(Proverbs 16:9)**

## APUZZLING SCRIPTURE

**“Even while you sleep among the campfires, the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold.” (Psalm 68:13)**

This is a puzzling Scripture I read this morning. I wonder what it means. I wonder how it pertains to me. It is Psalm 68:13... I asked the Lord to help me understand it.

*And what does My dove represent?*

It represents You, Holy Spirit.

*Now read it again. "The wings of my dove (Me) are sheathed with silver, its feathers with gold." I am covered with silver and gold. I bring silver and gold with Me when I come to you - even while you sleep.*

*When you sleep, then you are not aware of what I am doing, but it is being done while you are unaware. That is My message to you today. That is why that Scripture passage intrigued you so. I wanted you to stop and ponder it so I could use it to bring you this message:*

***I am bringing silver and gold to you even while you are unaware of it.***

## WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR ME

**"Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me." (Psalm 66:16)**

## SEEK THE GIVER

I was at a Christian Conference with many wonderful people, great speakers, and blessed music. I had come to the conference with an unspoken question in my heart that I wanted answered...unspoken to people, that is. God knew the question in my heart. I hoped I could find the answer at this conference. But there were only two days left and I still did not have it.

The question was about a teaching which I had been hearing and reading...a teaching which said I should seek a specific gift of the Spirit. According to this teaching, if I did not have this particular gift, I was missing something important which God had for me. It seemed I was not "complete" until I received that gift. My

question was: "What about that, Lord? Do You want me to ask for and receive that particular gift?"

One afternoon I was planning to attend a session offered at 4:00. But around 2:00 a friend injured herself and needed transportation to the local hospital. So I volunteered, hoping I would still be able to make the session at 4:00. We were finished at the hospital just in time to return to the conference and walk directly to the 4:00 session. As I walked in, the speaker entered with me.

As she began to share with the group, the answer to my question began coming from her! I sat there in amazement! She said, in essence, that we should not seek any particular gift, but seek the Giver of the gifts and let Him decide what He wants to give each of us. I knew that was my answer! And I had not even told her my question!

I had a great peace about that! I was to seek Jesus, and if He wanted me to have that particular gift, He would give it to me. The gift was not to come before my relationship with Him!

Later, as I shared with the speaker how God had used her to answer my question, she surprised me even further by telling me this: she had sought the Lord about what she should share at the 4:00 session. She did not get an answer, so she left for the session not knowing. She said as we walked in at the last minute God spoke to her about what to say! She and I both knew that it was specifically for me. She felt God waited to tell her what to share to see if I would make it back in time and attend the session. We could both agree this was one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**"The Lord searches every heart  
and understands every motive behind the thoughts.  
If you seek him, he will be found by you."  
(1 Chronicles 28:9)**

## FAITH

**“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)**

These are words I have read that teach me about faith and what it is. For years I have been asking God to teach me more about what faith really is. I want to have faith in my life. I believe it is a gift from God, but it is also something I want to cultivate so it will grow.

“Faith is the mirror of the heart that reflects the realities of an unseen world--the actual substance of His Kingdom. Through the prayer of faith we are able to pull the reality of His world into this one. That is the function of faith.”

“Faith has its anchor in the unseen realm. It lives *from* the invisible *toward* the visible. Faith actualizes what it realizes. Faith provides eyes for the heart.”

“We are born again by grace through faith. The born again experience enables us to see from the heart. A heart that doesn't see is a hard heart.”

“Faith is born of the Spirit in the hearts of mankind. Faith is neither intellectual nor anti-intellectual. It is superior to the intellect. The Bible does not say, *with the mind man believes!* Through faith, man is able to come into agreement with the mind of God. When we submit the mind of man to the things of God, we end up with faith and a renewed mind.”

## SOMETHING NEW

**“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)**

I look forward, Lord, to the “something new” which You have for me and You've given me a taste of - writing our book together. Please keep me focused on it, Lord, and keep it primary in my life and thoughts.

*I will, My child, and more. I will be a blessing to you all during this moving time, and I will be your peace, as you have asked Me, and I will bring you to*

*our day to begin longer times together working on our book. You will be distributing this book to many of your friends with joy in our accomplishment together. It must be together to have My anointing on it - and have the power to transform lives which you and I both want it to do. It will. I will see to that.*

Good, because I can't give it Your anointing and give it power to transform lives. Only You can do that. But I commit myself to work with you, Holy Spirit, to do this book together. That is one of the major purposes of my move.

*Yes, and there will be other purposes which I have in mind which I will accomplish in your life also, purposes which I already have set in place for you, and you will gradually see take place. Yes, they are good!*

*Do this each morning - sit before Me and with Me and tell Me of your love for Me. We will bond together for all that you need for that day. It will be fun. You will enjoy it---this next season of your life (our lives together) and it will bring you much joy and peace. And you will receive much satisfaction and contentment in knowing you have finished the work I've given you to do, and created you for, and trained you for all these years.*

## SAWMILL

God sometimes shows His Marvelous Deeds in our lives when we are in great need and we cry out to Him for help. That is what happened in the lives of Jean and Jack at the stressful time of a job change, which involved a move to a strange city. Jack had just gotten a new job near Columbus, Ohio, which was a much larger city than where they lived in Indiana. At the time of this story Jack was already in Columbus and Jean was preparing to drive there to meet him. Together they planned to choose a house to buy so the whole family could move.

Jean felt overwhelmed with the task before them. How were they to find a house in that large city which was just right for their family? The day before her departure to drive alone to Columbus, she was especially concerned with what lay ahead - the

decision about the right house. Jean was a Christian and knew God could help her. So, in her need, she cried out to Him, "God, will You show me a sign to help find our house?"

That night as Jean slept, God gave her a dream. Although she awoke not remembering exactly what she dreamed, she did remember a strange thing about that dream...the word *Sawmill* kept being repeated in the dream. When she got up she did not think too much about the word *Sawmill* because it did not mean anything to her. But - it did to God!

She started out on her trip to Columbus and things went along quietly for her. As she neared Columbus she began to look for the exit she was to take to meet Jack and the Realtor. Her thoughts were about where to turn off the highway.

As Jean says: "Then all at once I saw it!...a sign along the highway said *SAWMILL!!!* Immediately bells started ringing in my head, and I praised the Lord for His sign to me!"

When she finished her journey and met with Jack and the Realtor, she told them about all this. The Realtor was really surprised because one of the homes she was going to show them was in *Olde Sawmill Addition!*

Yes, they did buy that special house in *Olde Sawmill* and they knew they had the house the Lord had chosen for them! God had just performed another of His Marvelous Deeds in their lives!

**I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.  
(Psalm 16:7)**

## BEGINNING TO WRITE THE BOOK

**"The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." (Deuteronomy 30:14)**



Today I am beginning to write the book *Thoughts And Stories: On a Life God Leads, Guides, and Protects*. This is my prayer as I begin: “Let Your praises pour forth in this book, Lord, as you and I write it together. Let it be Your love letter to those who read the book. And let them encounter You as a Person as they read this book...a Person who loves them and wants to meet with them also, as You do with me. Let this book give them a spiritual pathway to follow on their own personal journey to know You, Jesus, and hear from You, and encounter You in a close, living, and loving relationship.

*And this is the way you will write your book...by My word in your mouth and heart and mind--putting that down on paper and printing it...as the books of the Bible were written. We will do this together--the same thing as we have been doing by bits and pieces in your journals. And I will show you how to start, and what to put in the middle, what to put at the end, and how to finish it. I will proofread it with you and tell you when it is finished as I want it.*

## FOLLOW MY LEAD

**“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)**

Are You with me, Lord? Am I doing what You want me to do with my time?

*Yes, I am with you, and I will always be with you while you are on this earth. I will write this book with you, and it is going fine. You are doing just exactly what I want you to do so far. I will surely put a check on you if you start to do something on the book which I don't want - as this is My book too, you know. I am writing it with you. Just follow my lead as you have been doing.*

Anything You want to say to me today?

*Yes, I am with you and I want you to go right to working on our book. It is going well and I am pleased. Are you?*

Yes, I am, Lord. You are showing me the way, and giving me interest and enthusiasm, and joy in doing this. Thank You.

*You are welcome, My child. I am enjoying it too as I know the whole book, the whole plan, and I am guiding you to fulfill that plan, that book. It is fun to do this with you, together.*

## THE TRAIN TRACKS

John was driving his car home one day along a country road which had little traffic at that time. He had driven along this road many times and felt comfortable knowing what to expect. He was coming upon a railroad track that he had crossed many times before.

This railroad track was one of those lines which probably used to have trains along it regularly, but now was seldom used, any if at all. It was the kind of track where you seldom stopped and looked because you had been over it so many times without seeing a train. John certainly was not accustomed to seeing trains on it!

But this day a very strange event took place as John approached those country train tracks. Just before reaching them, he suddenly saw flashing red warning lights signaling an approaching train. He was so surprised by this he had to slam on his brakes to stop in time. Just as he screeched to a stop at the edge of the tracks, a train passed by immediately in front of his car!

He was visibly shaken by the incident! He went home afterwards and shared this mysterious event with his family.

*You see, there were no electric signal lights at that crossing!*

This has been remembered and discussed for years in our family. It is one of those mysterious ways of God, which we cannot explain, but at which we marvel. It was truly one of His Marvelous Deeds!

**I warned you when you felt secure...  
(Jeremiah 22:21)**

## KEEP ASKING

**Ask [and keep on asking] and it will be given to you; seek [and keep on seeking] and you will find; knock [and keep on knocking] and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)**

After having prayer for healing of my left eye (which had distorted vision) I asked the Lord...Do You want me to continue with this seeing distortion, Lord? Do You want me to have it?

*Yes, for right now. I have a time and place when I will heal you. Until then you will continue to have it. I want to use it for My glory at a specific time. That is why I keep letting it stay when you get prayer for healing it.*

*Do not be discouraged and think I can't or won't heal you. I will at the precise time I want to - to bring Me the glory I want in front of certain people, and to affirm healing signs. It's not that you don't believe, because you do. You have the faith for it or you wouldn't be asking all these people. Keep asking when I lead you to.*

## GIVE THANKS

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.” (1 Chronicles 16:8-9)**

Thank You, Lord, for watching over my daughter, Kim, when her car was hit last Thursday. Thank you for keeping her safe and for giving Your angels charge over her in the midst of that.

Thank You, Lord, for the New Member Class and for a friend offering to pick me up and take me there.

Thank You, Lord, for this lovely new home you have brought me to live in right now, and for the companionship of my daughter, Beth, here.

Thank You, Lord, for my church, for the pastors and staff, for the friendly people, and for Your presence there.

Thank You, Lord, for the coming strategic prayer initiative, and for the conference coming soon.

Thank You, Lord, for the book, *Thoughts And Stories: On a Life God Leads, Guides, and Protects* which You have written along beside me, and for what You are going to do next in getting it illustrated, published, and distributed. I trust You will show me the way.

I love You, Lord!

## COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE

From the time I was a child I knew there was a spiritual realm which we did not ordinarily see or experience in our daily lives. I knew this because of a story my mother used to tell me about her sister, Fern...

Fern was pregnant and the time of birthing was near. Even as she waited for this event, her mother, my grandmother, was very ill and near death. However the news of the graveness of her mother's illness was being kept from Fern because the family did not want her to deal with this until after the baby was born.

Then her mother died. The family did not tell Fern, but waited. The delivery time came and the new baby arrived into this world. Sometime after the delivery, the family gathered at Fern's bedside to tell her the news about her mother.

As they walked in they were surprised when Fern said she knew why they had come! She said, "You have come to tell me Mom's dead, haven't you?" As they questioned her about how she knew, she told them this incredible story:

She and the new baby were lying in their room when she saw her mother walk into the room. Her mother walked over to the baby's bed, looked at her, and said, "I just wanted to see the baby before I go." So Fern knew her mother was "leaving" and told the family this with peace in her heart. It was as if her mother had come to tell her good-bye.

The family all knew that their mother had not visited Fern in her physical body!

As this story was shared with me as a child, I saw God's hand in this situation, and knew there was a supernatural spiritual realm not usually visible with our natural eyes, which had appeared at that time. God, in His mysterious ways, and for His own reasons, had performed one of His Marvelous Deeds which brought comfort to their whole family and especially to Fern!

**There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born  
and a time to die.  
(Eccl. 3:1-2)**

## JESUS REVEALED IN ME

**“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)**

The Lord says the first book I wrote began His being revealed “in me” for others to see. I am to allow others to see Him revealed “in me.”

*I will and am giving you what you need for the ministry I have for you - listening and writing.*

*I will be releasing one of those equipping ministries to you soon - prophecy. I will have one of My servants, release that in you. It is already in you, as he told you, but it still needs to be released. And the LIFE group will also help by giving you a place to begin releasing it in an accepting atmosphere and surrounding. Do not fear it, just release it from inside you when I guide you to do that.*

## HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES

**“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7 KJV)**

Last night at LIFE group the focus was on how we see ourselves, and how that affects what we do. They showed us a veggie tales video about one who wanted to dance but thought he would be laughed at, and not do it right. And then how he found out it was ok to be as he was, that the Lord made him as he was.

One woman gave a testimony about a breakthrough in her life this past week which freed her up to do dancing (especially prophetic dance) which she had in her but was afraid to do. The Lord gave her a picture/vision of being with Him and walking in a river where she was splashing water and they were laughing.

It reminded me of the vision He gave me of dancing with Him as a little child. It seems I was taught as a child to be stiff, formal, quiet, behaved, not to talk, not to make noise, not to cough, not to show my emotions.....all this to get the approval of my parents, especially my father. I still have in me the feeling that those things are what brings approval from others. It is hard to break out of that inhibited mode and believe it is ok to speak, move, dance, laugh, show my emotions, etc.

I grew up afraid of making mistakes, and afraid of receiving disapproval for that. The fear of making mistakes was very, very strong, so strong it probably caused me to make them, (especially in musical solo performances) and I condemned myself for them, even before making them. It was miserable facing performances and the fear of not being perfect.

At LIFE group we were given the homework of finding three Scriptures which gave us a picture of who we really are in Christ that we can hold before us. So today I am seeking these Scriptures. These are the ones that come into my mind:

**Revelation 3:7-8**

**“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”** (Jesus opens a door before me that no one can shut even though I have little strength.)

**Psalm 23:6**

**“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”** (I have goodness and mercy following me all my life)

**Psalm 27:4**

**“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”** (I dwell with the Lord, look upon Him, and see Him)

**Psalm 139:13**

**“You knit me together in my mother’s womb.”** (He made me.)

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

**“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** (I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus)

**Isaiah 30:15**

**“In quietness and confidence is your strength.”** (I am quiet and confident)

**Psalm 8:32**

**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”** (I am being instructed and taught, counseled and watched over)

**Matthew 28:20**

**“And Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”** (Jesus is always with me)

**Luke 2:19**

**“But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”** (I keep things and ponder them)

**Jeremiah 1:5**

**“The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.’**

**“‘Ah, Sovereign Lord,’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.’**

**“But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a child.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,’ declares the Lord.**

**“Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘Now, I have put my words in your mouth.’”** (I was known before I was born and was set apart for the Lord’s calling. I am to do what He leads me to do and not be afraid. He will be with me.)

**Habakkuk 2:2**

**“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”** (I am to write down what He instructs me and it will come at the appointed time)

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.”** (I am to trust in Him and He will direct my path)

**Psalms 91:1**

**“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”** (I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under His shadow)

**Revelation 14:4**

**“They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.”** (I follow Jesus wherever He goes)



### **Isaiah 50:4**

**“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.”** (The Lord gives me words that help others and enables me to listen as He teaches me.)

This is what the Holy Spirit is telling me about who I am in Christ through these Scriptures:

- Jesus opens a door before me that no one can shut even though I have little strength.
- I have goodness and mercy following me all my life
- I dwell with the Lord and look upon Him, and see Him
- He made me.
- I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus
- I am quiet and confident
- I am being instructed and taught, counseled and watched over
- Jesus is always with me
- I keep things in my heart and ponder them
- I was known before I was born and was set apart for the Lord’s calling. I am to do what He leads me to do and not be afraid. He will be with me.
- I am to write down what He instructs me and it will come at the appointed time
- I am to trust in Him and He will direct my path
- I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under His shadow
- I follow Jesus wherever He goes
- The Lord gives me words that help others and enables me to listen as He teaches me.

*You are My child and precious in My sight. You are perfect before Me. You delight Me with being just the way you are, the way I made you. I love you, and want you to spend all your time with Me.*

## UNKNOWN DANGER

My ears were hurting from the air pressure change as our small plane circled and prepared to land at the airport at Vientiane, Laos. We were about to visit the third city on our two-week tour through Southeast Asia. Having traveled from the huge city of Tokyo, Japan, where we lived at that time, to the bustling city of Hong Kong, and then to Saigon, Vietnam, we were not quite prepared for the sparseness and bleakness of the countryside in the Vientiane area. As we landed and began exploring the city, our amazement increased as we saw practically no stores, only one stoplight in the whole city, and very little traffic on the streets. We had a lot to learn about Laos from the person we were visiting.

Our host shared with us about the country, and in the process mentioned a short trip, which possibly could be arranged, to visit the ancient capital of Laos called Luang Prabang. It could be reached at that time by joining a pilot who flew a small plane there on special occasions and stopped at a mountain village along the route to deliver rice. This sounded intriguing to us two young explorers wanting to experience all we could during this rare opportunity to visit Laos.

It was arranged. We were told to be at the airport the next day and be ready for a short flight into the mountain village, then another short flight north to the old capital. We also were told we would have about two hours to explore the capital, and then we would have to return to the airport. We were warned not to be late because the pilot would not wait for us. When he was ready to leave, he would leave, with or without us.

The next day when we boarded the plane we found ourselves the only two passengers on a small plane with jump seats along the walls facing the middle. Along with the supplies, we took off for the village in the mountains. This was quite different from a commercial flight!

To get to the village we had to fly low between two mountains and wind our way down quickly into a small valley. As we landed on the edge of the village, we got out of the plane to stretch while the pilot took care of his business there. It was raining, so we stood under the high wing of the plane and began to look around. People began to gather near the plane - just as interested in looking at us as we were at them. They stooped down and just stared while we waited. As I watched them I remembered the description I had read of Khmer people of the Laos mountain area, and these people looked just like the description.

The pilot returned and we took off again, this time to land in Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Laos, in the early afternoon. My husband and I quickly began to walk through as much of the city as we could cover in our two-hour time limit. We believed that as we traveled we got a better feel for the place we visited if we spent time walking there. Actually I do not remember seeing any type of transportation we could have used anyway. We discovered that this city had a beauty that made one wish it could still be the capital city instead of the bleak Vientiane.

Believe me, we took no chances on missing our plane back! So we were at the airport at the designated time, not wanting to be left in northern Laos by ourselves. As we waited for the pilot to arrive we sat on boxes sitting in the airport area - boxes of explosives. We could hear shooting in the distance so we knew fighting was not too far away. It was spring of 1962, and there was warfare in northern Laos at that time. Uneasily we waited, and were relieved when the pilot returned and we took off for our return flight to Vientiane.

That night, after we returned, our host discussed our trip with us. When we finished, he remarked, "I did not want to worry you before you left so I did not tell you this...but two weeks ago as that plane flew into the same small mountain village to deliver rice, it was shot at from the mountains on the sides!"

We were shocked! We had no idea it was that dangerous! But God did! How many times He protects us when we are unaware of it. I believe He was performing another of His Marvelous Deeds in protecting us during that whole trip!

**If I go up to the heavens, you are there...  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
(Psalm 139:8-10)**

## FINANCES

**“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)**

I wanted the Lord to give prayer for finances this Sunday morning at church since I am looking for the financial provision for next month. Then at church this morning there was not only prayer for our finances, but the whole sermon was a teaching about finances...and they had planned this teaching about 1 month ago. So God knew! Some of the highlights from that sermon:

We need to get a revelation personally about God’s rules/principles for our financial giving. We need this revelation so we won’t give reluctantly or under compulsion.

**“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)**

**“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that**

**you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor 9:10-11)**

One principle we were taught was tithing, and tithing would work according to Malachi 3:8-12 which says:

**“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.**

**“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’**

**“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:8-10)**

If we are in right relationship with God in our giving then He will keep the devourer from us. But we must know His Word about the devourer and declare it over ourselves and our provisions to keep him from stealing from us. This means the work that I do will not be devoured (eaten up, taken away from me). What I grow will produce what it is supposed to produce, and it will not fall off and be non-useful.

The giving of offerings is beyond the tithe and these are what are multiplied. So I am to be giving offerings into other ministries. Now I am to continue sowing into a ministry as an offering, and give my tithe of what I get to live on to the church.

## CONTEND IN WARFARE

**“Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:16-17)**

We need to contend in warfare so the devourer doesn't steal our finances. As I drove home from church Sunday the Spirit was showing me that I have on the 4 pieces of

spiritual armor (of salvation, righteousness, truth, and peace), and I am to use the other two pieces (of the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God), to hold in my hands to fight this warfare. But first I needed a teaching revelation that I needed to do this. I saw the devourer steal my provisions many times and didn't know how to fight against it or that I was supposed to.

For example, when I was saving money toward moving expenses, I got such a terrible pain in my side that I went to the doctor for help. The appointments (2) plus all the tests, the hospital fees for those tests, the medicine prescribed, etc. took close to \$500 which I had to pay completely myself since my insurance was \$500 deductible. I surely felt my money was being "stolen" by this severe disease....and it was. That happened to me many times in the past when something unexpected or extra came up that took the money I wanted to use elsewhere - a car expense, medical needs, etc.

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)**

*And see, that's where your heart is now. It is with Me and I am your treasure. No thief can break in and steal this treasure. I will not allow it.*

## AGLOW WITH THE SPIRIT

The airline stewardess was staying at the Hotel Denver while she had layover time between flights. This was her usual place to stay, but little did she know how different this particular visit would be!

While she was in her hotel room that evening she looked out the hotel window and saw the Denver Convention Center. This was not unusual, but what was shocking that particular night was what she saw coming from the top of that Convention Center. She saw

flames covering it! As she watched in awe, she realized the building was not being consumed!

She said to herself, "I must find out what is going on over there!"

The next morning while riding down in the elevator she began conversing with a group of ladies from Indiana who were in the elevator with her. After finding out they were attending meetings at the Convention Center, she told them what she saw the night before. So they invited her to come to their meetings that day - meetings of the Women's Aglow organization holding their annual National Convention.

The stewardess did attend those meetings and left at the end of the day very impressed! She was a Christian, but had never heard of Aglow before. She said she must get involved in Aglow back home. It turned out the headquarters were right near her house.

God performed one of His Marvelous Deeds for her at that time. We do not know why, but perhaps He was calling her into a deeper walk with Himself. What we do know is that while those Aglow women were praying and praising the Lord, God touched the life of this woman through a supernatural sign. In the process, He also gave a visible sign of encouragement to all of those women at the Aglow Convention!

**Jesus said...**

**"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth,  
will draw all men to myself."**

**John 12:32**

## GETTING A BREAKTHROUGH IN FINANCES

**“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (mammon).”**

**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or eat or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?**

**“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:24-33)**

Getting a breakthrough in my finances takes spiritual warfare. That is because the spirit behind money and the world's finance system is the spirit of mammon. And we are to live according to God's system of finances, not mammon's. We were taught that mammon was a god they worshipped (I think in Syria) and it was the spirit behind the world's finances. But Jesus taught us to not live by that system.

*And you won't serve both God and mammon. I am calling you to be completely under My system now. You tried before but you didn't understand how to contend for it and believe for it. Now you do. It is by those two pieces of armor in your hands--the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit...the Word of God. These words you have written down in this article are quite sufficient...just send them by faith, by your speaking them, to fight the battle. Remember My Word is alive and active and sharper than any two edged sword.*



*No, your time wasn't wasted during those 9 1/2 years of being a church secretary. I taught you a lot during that time, and together we paid off your debts. Now we will pay off your debts again, but quickly this time...debts of the car and hospital and doctors. After that you will have a lot to be generous with--as I know you want to be and I have given you a heart to be.*

*I am not speaking to you of no avail...I am speaking to you of what WILL avail, what will prevail over the world's system of provision. That is My system of provision. It is a higher system and VERY REAL. As I am greater than Satan, my provision system is greater than the world's (his). He tries to rule people through mammon's provision system (which came under the curse). He tries to rule through the curse and through his ruling power in the world. But there is a spiritual system of financial (and other) provision, which is greater. That is where I have called you to live now.*

*And this spiritual system, which is greater than the world's or Satan's, includes finances, health, provision, love, caring, fellowship, instruction, homes, jobs, friends, food--everything you need in life. Remember, it includes health too.*

*It is also that way in the spiritual realm. You and your daughter have a house of righteousness here and I will maintain it from the spiritual realm (from My kingdom realm) and you both as you live together here. That is one reason I brought you both under one house for now.*

## DECLARE THE WORD

**You will also declare a thing and it will be established for you.” (Job 22:28)**

I think I am to declare the Word over myself, and my work and finances each day. So what shall I declare? These are some of the declarations I can make:

1. **“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8)** *(God is making all grace abound to me, so that in all things at all times, having all that I need, I will abound in every good work.)*

2. **“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor. 9:10-11)** *(God is supplying seed for me to sow and bread for me to eat. He is making me rich in every way so I can be generous on every occasion.)*
  
3. **“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)** *(My God will meet all my needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.)*
  
4. **“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:29-31)** *(I am storing up for myself treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. This is where my heart is - with my treasure in heaven.)*
  
5. **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)** *(I am seeking first God’s kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things I need shall be given to me as well.)*
  
6. **“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (mammon).” (Matthew 6:24)** *(I am serving God and not mammon in my finances. Therefore I am following God’s rules for finances, not the world’s.)*
  
7. **“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.” (Eccl. 5:10)** *(I have enough money and am satisfied with what God brings me.)*
  
8. **“Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.” (Isaiah 5:2)** *(I am listening to God, and eating His Word. This satisfies me, and I am delighting in the richest of fare.)*
  
9. **“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)** *(I have the wisdom of God about my finances because I ask for it.)*

10. **“But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Cor. 2:16)** *(I have the mind of Christ.)*

11. **“See that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Cor. 8:7)** *(I am excelling in the grace of giving.)*

12. **“Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:1-4)** *(I am doing my acts of righteousness in secret, not before men (like giving to the needy) and my reward will be from my Heavenly Father.)*

13. **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:9-11)** *(God is giving me this day my daily bread.)*

14. **“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed. The crops of your land and the young of your livestock... Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out...the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you... The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people...The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity...The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail...You will always be at the top, never at the bottom.” (Deut. 28:1-14)**

*(I am blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out.)*

*(The enemies who rise up against me will be defeated before me.)*

*(The Lord is blessing my barns and everything I put my hand to. He is blessing the land He is giving me.)*

*(The Lord is granting me abundant prosperity in this land He has given me.)*

*(The Lord is opening the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on my land in season and to bless all the work of my hands.)*

*(I will lend to many but borrow from none.)*

*(The Lord is making me the head, not the tail; I am at the top, not the bottom.)*

## HELP ALONG THE ROAD

It started out as just another routine day for Harold. He and a partner were to deliver cars from Columbia, Missouri, to Effingham, Illinois, and they were just getting underway. Little did Harold realize that today God was going to display one of His Marvelous Deeds in his life - one he would never forget! As Harold tells the story:

We started our trip from Columbia, but somehow got separated from each other along the way. It suddenly dawned on me that I knew the town to which we were going, but did not know the name of the car dealer. I did not know if my partner was ahead or behind me on the road. I was in a quandary as to what to do!

"Lord, I need Your help!" I prayed as I stopped along the side of I-70 east of Columbia. I spotted a telephone not too far away, but was afraid I might miss my partner if I left my car to use it. What should I do?

About that time a car pulled off the road in front of me and started backing up. As I approached the car a stranger said, "Could I be of any help?" As I explained my situation and reluctance to leave my car to telephone, he said, "That is no problem. I have got a phone in my car."

The stranger proceeded to call my sales manager in Columbia and learn the name of the dealer I was to contact in Effingham. I felt immensely comforted to learn that information.

As we chatted a bit I said to him, "I do not know where you stand in your religious life, but I want to share something with

you. I was standing out here along the road, and I was really in a quandary. Finally I thought about the Lord and I said, 'Lord, I need Your help!' And about that time you pulled off the side of the road. It really proved to me that the good Lord can take care of us!"

The stranger kind of grinned and said, "Well, I think you are right!" And he shared with me that he was a Baptist minister from near Atlanta, Georgia, and was traveling from Kansas City where he had just visited his mother. He even said he had been to Columbia before and had sung at my own church in Columbia some years ago! Then, wishing me well, he drove on.

Later I was surprised when stopping at a rest stop in Wentzville to find my minister friend there, so we got to talk some more. Even so I made it to Effingham to the right place only about fifteen minutes behind my partner.

Sometime later I received a letter from my newfound brother in Christ from along I-70 which said:

*Dear Harold,*

*It was good to meet you by the side of the road last week. I am sorry it was under such circumstances, and I hope everything worked out the rest of your trip.*

*Oftentimes in my travels I have needed help along the road, and the Lord sent me the person I needed at the time. I appreciate your testimony to me that you prayed and I showed up. It was no inconvenience to me, and it was a delight to meet you.*

*May the Lord richly bless you in all things, and if you are ever in Atlanta, give me a call.*

*Awaiting the shout!*

*Bill*

What started out for Harold as a perplexing situation leaving him troubled and uncertain as to what to do, turned out to be a testimony of God's care, and a display of His Marvelous Deeds!

**The Lord will hear when I call to him.**

**(Psalm 4:3)**

## KEEP DWELLING IN THE SECRET PLACE

**“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1 KJV)**

Lord, what do You have in mind? I want Your wisdom and ask for Your guidance about my living expenses needed right now. You said, in regard to the lilies of the field, how much more would your Heavenly Father provide for you than them...oh you of little faith.

*It's all working just right, coming together in My perfect timing, My perfect plans for you. I haven't revealed them to you yet because it is not yet My time to do that, but I am giving you something to ponder. What you will do this day, and this month, is wait and see what I do - then join Me in it. Remember? I WILL show you the way to walk on the path I have for you. Keep your hands in Mine. That is where you are safe and secure. Keep dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and you shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*You ARE abiding there right now, and that is where I want you every day and every hour of every day. Be there right now. I will show you the way. Do not worry or fret - just watch and see what I am doing and join Me, ok?*

Lord, I ask You if we should take the trip we are contemplating.

*I know you want and need to know that. I will show you both the way on that too. Trust Me in this and wait for My answer. You think you must go at a certain time, but that is not true. There are other options that you don't know of, or aren't considering. If I want you to go I will bring about tickets and a place to stay. Do not fret. It will be ok.*

## YOUR DOMAIN IS YOUR GARDEN

**“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.” (Genesis 2:8)**

In Rick Joyner's book: (Enoch says): "The purpose of every movement on earth is to compel men to do what I did--to walk with God until they are more at home in the heavenly realm than on earth. Man was created to dwell on the earth with his body while his spirit soared into the heavens.....Now you must learn to walk with endurance. You must resolve to walk each day in the domain over which the Lord has given you to rule. He has given you authority, but you must walk with Him in your domain. Only then will you be fruitful and multiply as you are called to be. Your domain is your garden."

*You see, why I made that song (In The Garden) so meaningful and important to you? It is because I want you to walk "in the garden" with Me every day. Your way of doing this is coming into My presence, as you did today, and listening and writing for Me. We do this together. In this way you fulfill the creativity I put in you and the way I want to express Myself through you to others. For some it's speaking; for you it's writing what you hear from Me. Through doing this daily, or as I lead, you will be strengthened through the life which flows from Me into you daily. Writing is your domain over which I have given you rule.*

## CHARGE OVER THEE

My sister and I were driving along a highway in Indiana heading toward Fort Wayne. She had just received word that a friend of hers needed her immediately so she dropped everything to go. As she left she asked if I wanted to ride along to keep her company. So, together we left the Christian Conference we were attending telling friends we would return the next day.

As we traveled along the two-lane highway, we came upon a large semi-truck and began to pass it. When we were about half way around it, the driver of the truck, apparently not seeing us in his side view mirror, began pulling into the passing lane where we were.

The next thing I knew we were careening off the left side of the highway with our car turning completely over and finally

coming to a stop in a cornfield! It was the strangest sensation turning over in a car...a sensation I hope I will never feel again!

My eyes were shut as we went over, but I was quite aware of every sensation. I felt all the bumps and jolts, but at the same time became aware of a stinging pain in my finger! I pulled my hand back from the pain thinking I must be receiving a cut from broken glass in the windshield. My strangely calm thought was: "This must be what it is like to turn over in a car."

As we thudded to a stop, right side up (Praise the Lord!), I opened my eyes and began to look around. There was dust or smoke all around the car. At once I realized the car could catch on fire! I said we should get out immediately in case the car caught on fire. We assured each other we were OK as we hunted for her glasses that had been thrown off her face.

Then we tried to open the doors. They would not open! At that moment I began to feel panic! I began to pound on the door frantically. But it would not open!

Just then she got the door open on her side, and we realized we could get out, so the panic stopped immediately.

As soon as we got out we walked away from the car through the field to the side of the highway, where we sat down a moment to try to grasp what had just happened and what to do next. Then we heard people yelling at us to come across the highway away from the wires hanging near us. We had not yet noticed them!

After we crossed the highway to those friendly voices calling to us, we sat down again in our shocked state and began to listen to them speak. They said, "We never expected anyone to come out of that car alive!" They said that we had hit a pole and broken it in two so that the wires were hanging down around the car. My side door, which I had frantically tried to open, was lodged against the pole we hit. Thank the Lord I could not get it open, because I might have walked into live wires before realizing it.



After the ambulance got us to a small emergency room they had my sister lie down because she had a headache. When the nurse asked me if I was hurt, all I had to report was a cut finger - the pain I felt while the car was turning over. A little later I overheard the nurse quietly tell someone that our blood pressures were "sky high!" She immediately had me also lie down when she discovered that.

Due to the high blood pressure they asked us to be admitted overnight for observation even though we were not hurt. As we lay in our hospital beds we called back to the Christian Conference we had just left, and the whole group at the conference stopped and prayed for us immediately.

We rested in our beds, bathed in prayer, thanking God for His protection. He had just performed one of His Marvelous Deeds in our lives as He kept us safe through the accident.

**For he shall give his angels  
charge over thee,  
to keep thee in all thy ways.  
(Psalm 91:11 KJV)**

## CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD

**"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you." (Psalm 55:22)**

Thank You, Lord, for this holiday to rest and that I get to spend it with You. Thank you for the beautiful cool breeze and sunshine after last night's storm. I love You, Lord!

I ask for Your mind, Your thoughts, on the situation regarding going to Chicago. Please give me the right attitude about this and show it to me from Your perspective. I want to do what is right.

*You will, My child, as you keep seeking Me. Seek Me before you email your answer. These options are what I counseled you about. It just didn't include your staying here where you wanted to be.*

These are my cares I am casting on You this morning, Lord...That You would provide the finances needed for this month, and show me and provide for the financial needs in the coming months. That You would guide me as to what to do with each day, what ministry to commit to, whether to be involved in the women's ministry, and whether to visit the Friday night spiritual gifts nurturing ministry.

*Yes, I want you to be part of the spiritual gifts nurture group. That will come about gradually. Be patient. And I WILL show you what to do each day.*

I ask that You would guide me in writing each day, and in publishing just what You want published with the publishing group You want to use, in exactly the timing You purpose for it to be done.

*This is good and I say "yes" and "amen" to your prayers listed here. I will do all of that and more - in My timing. Wait patiently for Me, My child. I love you and care for you and I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. That is My Word and that is the truth. I will do it. Just watch to see what I am doing, and join Me.*

## GIVE OUT LIFE

**"I am the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6)**

Last night we attended a LIFE group. The speaker gave a marvelous talk about how we have Life inside us, and how we are to give it out through our mouths by speaking Life to others throughout our days. What we speak causes a reaction in them, which they can accept or reject. He asked each of us to answer the question: Why did you come here tonight?

Toward the end he asked us to join in a standing circle for prayer and think about any weight we might have on us at this time that we want lifted. We were to pray about that weight, and physically act out taking it off and putting it into a tub in the middle of the circle.

After this he asked if any still had a weight he wanted prayer for. T. said yes and explained what his weight was - a darkness he always was dealing with because of the way he was treated as a child. Darkness was spoken to him by mentally ill parents, and he would be shut in a closet, etc. So we prayed for that darkness to leave him. The word the Lord gave me to speak was: "I speak Light to him in Jesus' name." When I said it two people moved like they were hit by something.

Then we prayed for S. who needed to have more love for people as he was dealing with many people bugging him with their actions and attitudes. As we prayed the simple words came to me to speak: "The Spirit reminds me that Jesus came to baptize us with fire, so I speak the baptism of fire of the love of Jesus to you."

The third person, D. was at a crossroads in her life and wanted prayer. She was advised by the leader not to tell us what was going on, but just to let us pray. No words came to me for a long time, but eventually the words: "God loves you" came, and I spoke them in her ear. My daughter asked me what I said and I told her, then she said basically to D. that God not only loved her but he really *liked* her too. Later my daughter told me she had been wondering if she should say that thought which was in her mind, and when she heard what I said, she was encouraged to go ahead and say it.

The Holy Spirit shows me today that He gave "pieces" of what He wanted ministered to her to each of us, and only as each spoke what He gave them would the "whole" be ministered to her. He also kept telling me that what He gave me to share was like a "gift" that I could give to the person being prayed for. I could keep that gift or give that gift. He kept putting in my mind the thought: "Aren't you going to give them the gift I gave you?"

I've not participated in something quite like this group before, and I am thrilled to get to be part of it. Thank You, Lord, for bringing me here and connecting me into this group!

I'm learning I must "push past" the hesitancy to speak out what is being given to me, and speak it, even if it is only a few words, and not a long prayer. A few words spoken in the power of the Spirit may be as good or better. Maybe longer prayers will come later and maybe not. Whatever He gives me to speak is what I am to speak.

## A DREAM ABOUT GIVING MY PIANO STUDENTS CANDLES TO LIGHT

In this dream I prepared 2 small candles to give to each of my piano students to light. The candles were long and narrow and encased in metal. If you crossed the 2, they made the shape of the cross and could be lit like that. I also prepared some flowers to give the students at the same time. It seemed I wanted to give them out at some special celebration day.

Interpretation:

What does this dream mean, Lord?

*What do you think, Joan?*

I was the only one participating in this dream that I remember. So this is likely about me, or something I am being guided to do. What I am to do, perhaps, is become like a candle in the shape of a cross...and then light that. The lighting wasn't done in the dream, but the preparation for that lighting was being done. The candles and the flowers were being prepared to be given as gifts to others who were students learning worship of God, ministering in the gifts of the Spirit, something that proceeds from the heart. The two gifts can represent the light of God and the fragrance of God on a small individual scale. But the lighting of the candle is in the shape of a cross (or has the possibility of being that).

This process of what is done with the 2 candles shows me co-laboring with the Spirit. I can either burn the candles without putting them in the shape of a cross, or I can burn them in the shape of a cross. Perhaps this represents my going on in my life as a person shaped like the cross or not. Perhaps it refers to whether I am willing to give up my "self" completely to God, or whether I will hold some of my "self" back, not submitted. How do I want my own candle to burn? My hope is in the cross of Christ. So I want to burn, be ignited, by the cross and my relationship to it visible to others as I shine forth Christ's light and fragrance to others.

Are You showing me in this dream that it's time to make a decision, Lord? Do I give up all of my "self" and let it be crucified on Your cross?

*Is that what you want to do, Joan?*

Yes, that is what I want to do. I want to be further "divided" (2) out, separated out, unto You, Lord. Can You get me there?

*Yes, I can get you there if that is what you want. And I can do it in a quiet and peaceful way if that is what you want.*

**Luke 9:23 If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.**

*Ok, we'll work on this daily, Joan, you and I together. I'll show you the way. I AM the way, remember?*

Ok, Lord, show me the way. I choose to follow You daily - deny myself, take up my cross, and follow you.

*And that's the lesson of this dream. That's why I wanted you to write it down. That's why I gave it to you, and gave you time to write it out this morning. It's time to do this. This will show the light to others that I give you (as I am the light of the world), and the fragrance to others that I give you. It is a gift to those who learn from you, and what you do, and who you are in Me.*

Will You show me *where* You want me to deny myself, and *how* you want me to deny myself, and even *when* I am exerting my "self" instead of following You?

*Yes, you will need discernment and wisdom and understanding from Me to do this. You cannot do it on your own (in the flesh). I will need to give you revelation knowledge to help you do this. Do you want that?*

Yes, Lord. Please give me discernment, wisdom, understanding, and revelation knowledge so we can work this work in me together.

*I will. We will begin/start today...and follow on each day of the rest of your life. That's one of the jobs you can only do on this earth. It's one of the reasons I bring you to earth - to work on this and accomplish whatever you can on this - giving up yourself to follow Me exclusively.*

On 8-12-08 the Lord helped me to understand this as a "transition" that was prophesied in a dream on 8-3-08 when I saw myself going through a tunnel with Jesus. I see this as happening partly through reading Derek Prince's book *Prophetic Guide to the End Times* and pondering what is taught in it.

## IN QUIETNESS AND CONFIDENCE

*In quietness and in confidence  
Is your strength, My child.*

*Face each day and each moment  
With quietness and confidence,  
Knowing I am with you always,  
And have an answer for  
Every question, every decision.*

*I am your quietness.  
I am your confidence.  
I am your God.  
I am your Lord.*

*I am your all in all.*

*I am your provider.  
I am your source.  
I am your sufficiency.  
I am your power.  
I am your strength.*

*I am all you ever need.*

## OTHER TIMES OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

I have put some more events on a list here. There are many, many more ways my prayers have been answered by the Lord. They are countless. I praise the Lord for His faithfulness and kindness in hearing and answering my prayers.

Safe flight on plane to Denver when hit turbulence

Safe flight from New Orleans in bad weather

Safe flight from Ft. Wayne to Indianapolis when the clouds lowered and we had to land in a strange place without landing lights

Safe flight into KC in bad weather with storms around

Safe flight into Columbia when later learned there had been fire or burning in engine

Safe travel in SE Asia in all kinds of small planes and other vehicles

Guidance to CBC when looking for right church

Guidance to apartment on Millbrook Dr. and the unusual events surrounding that

Guidance to find right job as church secretary and the struggles involved

Teaching me to know Him and having me stop many church activities to spend time drawing closer to Him

Right house in Columbia, which included a fire in first house

Right schools for my children and the perfect neighborhood and friends

Provision all my life

Guidance to CFO camp

Protection over Beth during her trip to Africa

Protection over Kim on her trip to Sacramento

Right husband for Kim

Safe moves for Kim and John to Hawaii and back

Finding my house on Fairview Rd.

How the Lord provided a car and paid for it