

*Discovering  
the  
Mysterious*

**How to listen for, hear, and obey  
God's specific directions  
for individual Christians**

*Joan Royer*

## HOW I CAME TO WRITE THIS BOOK

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This message was sent to me as a response to the first book I wrote. The Lord led me to use this idea for the title of this current book. Les was such a good friend and an encouragement to me when I began writing. I thank God for him and his model of being a Christian leader.

How perfect; you should write this book, and I'll surely look forward to reading it. You are going to give special permission to ministers to use excerpts from your book for sermon illustrations - right? I have the title/subject for the next one: Discovering the Mysterious: How to listen for, hear, and obey God's specific directions for individual Christians. One of the most impressive spiritual gifts you have graciously shared with me and so many others is your clear reception of God's direction/will, both for you individually and for others, etc. I eagerly await both of these books in the near future...no pressure!

*Les Cassil, pastor*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

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**When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God...I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Cor. 2:1, 3-5 NIV)**

In this book I am not coming in superior wisdom or in eloquence, but I am praying for the Holy Spirit's power to invade each word in this book and communicate to each person who reads it exactly what that person needs to hear and understand to grow spiritually.

## MY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT THIS BOOK

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I asked the Lord what I was to put in this new book. Here is what He told me:

*You will list the various stages you went through to meet with Me, hear Me, and obey Me, and give personal examples from your own life about each stage (what you did, were told to do, dreamed, saw in a vision, etc.)*

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## 1 - COMMITTING YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

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**In order to begin *Discovering The Mysterious* you must first become a born-again Christian by giving your life to Christ Jesus, and receiving the gift of His Holy Spirit. Then you begin the wonderful life-long process of developing a personal relationship with Jesus, and He leads you in *Discovering The Mysterious*. Here is a way to do that:**

### HOW TO COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

**The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14 NIV)**

If you are reading this book and find you just don't grasp what is being said or just don't find anything here which encourages you in your inner person, perhaps you need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in that. Or perhaps you have never really invited Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Savior.

If you would like to do that, you may do that right now. If you are not sure whether you have clearly asked Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Savior, you may go through this commitment so you can be absolutely sure you belong to Him and therefore, have His Spirit in you.

I had a time in my life as an adult when I went through a time like that. I had gotten away from the Lord for a period of time early in my adult life. I wasn't attending church, wasn't reading God's Word on a regular basis, and wasn't praying. So, I was not walking in a close, meaningful relationship with Him like I am now. During that time someone helped me realize I needed to recommit my life to Jesus and renew my relationship with Him beyond what I had done as a child. As a child I had followed the light I had at that time and committed my life to Him, but as an adult I had strayed far from that relationship.

So, I went through a time of recommitment, and shared this with a friend. When I did, I felt like I was floating on a cloud of joy! The Spirit renewed our relationship and we became closer and closer day by day in my Quiet Times. I wanted to be re-baptized to symbolize this new death to the old self and the resurrection to the new self in Christ, and eventually I was re-baptized.

Here are steps you can go through to commit your life to Christ:

1. God really loves you

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

2. You need to be saved from sin.  
**For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23)**

3. You cannot save yourself.  
**Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done. (Ephesians 2:9)**

**No one can be made right with God by following the law. (Romans 3:20)**

4. God sent Jesus to save you.  
**For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. (Romans 3:24)**  
**God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8)**

5. You can be saved today!  
**If you use your mouth to say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)**

6. My decision to become a Christian (a simple prayer)

*"Dear God, thank you for loving me. Right now I turn from my sin. I believe Jesus Christ died for me, rose from the dead, and is alive forever. I invite Him to come into my life to be my Savior and Lord and to make me a new person. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

## 2 - MEETING WITH THE LORD

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to recognize that Jesus is with you all the time and you can walk and talk with Him every day as you go through life. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### **I'M NEVER COMPLETELY ALONE ANYMORE**

“I’m never completely alone anymore.”

As I read that statement in a story, it resonated in me as being true of me also.

I always have my Friend, Jesus, with me. He lives in my heart (in my spirit). Because He lives in my spirit, it is now alive (born again). Previously it was dead, but He made it alive.

Jesus wants me to listen to Him through my born-again spirit (heart).

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches.  
(Rev. 3:13 NIV)**

Jesus wants me to speak through my born-again spirit (heart).

**The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart.... For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45 NIV)**

Jesus wants me to let Him (His Spirit) flow through me.

**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. (John 7:38 NIV)**

### **CONNECTION TIME**

My last day of working at my job! I’ve looked toward and past this day for many months now. It’s finally here! Yeah! Much as I have appreciated that job and much as it has been a blessing to me, 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. Hopefully, I will be ready to begin more extended work time on it around Wednesday of the week after I move. 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 Wednesday - 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, My daughter...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. You may want to keep that taping of Joyce Meyer's description of what she does in her "connection time" with Me and listen to it occasionally. I may be reminding you to do that to pull you back onto that road together with Me, holding hands, and letting Me guide you on that pathway.*

*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. And I will not let your work (this book) fall to the ground (as I said about Samuel's words) but will empower it and use it in a mighty way you don't begin to conceive of and don't need to conceive of. That is My plan and you don't need to plan it at all - I will do it. It is good!*

I like that phrase "connection time" with the Lord. I want to use that idea in the book. Once you give your life to the Lord and receive Him into your life, then you need to learn how to establish a "connection time" daily with the Lord. Some people may not even know this is a possibility. Maybe that is one of the purposes of our book --- to make people aware of that. That is what I feel I used to try to do by reading scripture and praying - to establish a "connection" to the Lord. That is what I think Catherine Marshall talked about in one of her books - about having an "encounter" with the Lord in her quiet time.

And this "connection time" then can grow to encompass more and more of your life as you start with it each day and gradually continue to talk with and commune with the Lord throughout the day. This also reminds me of what Brother Lawrence called "practicing the presence of the Lord."

## HE NEEDS OUR AVAILABILITY

“God doesn’t need our strength; He needs our availability. He’s just looking for us to stand in His presence, gaze upon Him, love Him, and fulfill His word when He speaks.” (Secrets of the Secret Place by Bob Sorge, p 166)

I heard John Maxwell preaching on PTL show yesterday afternoon. He talked about two types of people (referencing the feeding of the 5000 and the boy with loaves and fishes): those who had a need God wanted to meet (the 5000) and those whom He wanted to use to meet that need (the boy).

Immediately I felt that I was like the boy with God wanting to use me in writing the book to meet a need in some others’ lives. I wonder what that need is. Right now, I would guess that need is to hear the gospel presented clearly and simply from someone they might receive it through (those who want to read my book). I expect the Holy Spirit will make that clearer as we go forward with this. There is a plan/reason for my writing this book and distributing it. I trust He will show me that reason as we go through the writing/distributing process.

## GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART

My Scripture reading today is Psalm 73. Favorite parts of it:

**24 Yet I am always with you (God); you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.**

**25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

**26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

**28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

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!



## MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

**Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.  
(Micah 4:2)**

*I have things I want to tell you, My daughter. Come up to that place within you that is the mountain of the Lord within you. That's where I live. Come to Me there. I want to be found by you. I want to give you some instructions to guide you next. You have lots of things buzzing around in your mind that you might do. I want to give you clear instructions for "from now on."*

*That's good. Just listen. This is the place where I am, where I dwell. Right here with you, instructing you, teaching you My way for you. In the midst of the noise, you can hear Me for I don't compete with the noise. I am within you. Even though you see things happening around you, you can still hear Me - for I am distinct from all those earthly things going on. This is to be an assurance to you - that you will always be able to hear Me from "within," no matter what is going on "without."*

*This is a good day! It's a good day for you, My daughter. You are right where, exactly where, I want you to be when I want you to be there. You know why? Because you listened to Me and were obedient to My guidance. Otherwise, you might not be here on this day at this time. I want you now to go downstairs and turn on the news.*

First on the news: 70,000 US troops are being shifted from out of Europe and Asia.

This indicates on the natural level what is happening on the spiritual level: strategic shifting of the military forces of America. Seven = complete, rest, all, finished. Thousand = maturity: full stature, full completeness, full rest, fully finished. What does this mean to You, Lord?

*It means fully prepared for the war maneuvers to come. You will see how this rearranging of troops is in preparation for what is to come in the U.S. and the same is true of the heavenlies. My troops are being shifted, rearranged, redeployed so they are totally ready for the spiritual heavenly warfare coming soon. I am in charge of them. I sent them where they need to be - and I have been, and will be doing that. You are where you need to be, and many others are also. I have been moving them a lot lately, have you noticed?*

## **IN THE GARDEN**

*You see, My daughter, 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.*

### 3 - HEARING THE LORD

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One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to pay attention to what you hear the Lord speak into your heart and thoughts as you read His Word, the Bible. I suggest you write in a journal what you ask the Lord in prayer, and what He answers you as you read His Word. Here are some examples from my journal:

#### PAY ATTENTION TO THE LORD

See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.... Pay attention to him and listen to what he says.... Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. (Exodus 23:20-25 NIV)

*I give you this promise this day as My Word to you, My daughter, and to Beth also. I sent an angel ahead of her to her new home and prepared all the way for her transition, and I am doing the same for you too. EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. KNOW THIS!*

Thank You, Lord!

*You're welcome, My child. I am with you and will never forsake you. I will continue guiding you along this pathway of moving to Lee's Summit. If something seems to not be working out, then it means I am guiding you through that into a different way of going. I may choose to give you some "moving" money in this way, so accept it from Me with gratitude.*

You had the widow to whom You gave oil to go sell the oil to pay her debts. Perhaps this will help me pay some of my moving costs.

*(The Lord answered this prayer for the moving costs, and provided the total needed!)*

#### HEARING I WAS A PLANTER

**"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may**

**be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” (John 4:34-38)**

When I read this scripture, the Lord told me I was a planter. He said I planted with my prayers and with my writing. He said:

*Do not feel you are of no use to My kingdom, for you are of use. You are a planter and not a harvester. I take the seed (prayers and writing) you distribute for Me, and I place them where I want them to be planted. Trust Me to do this. I will bring about the harvest through others, but you will get equal reward.*

### **WHAT TO DO IF IN TROUBLE**

**My enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before you. (Psalm 9:3)**

*When you find yourself in trouble, call out My Name and I will appear. Then your enemies will retreat as they did for David in Psalm 9:3. Just call out My Name, and I will come, along with My many angels, to rescue you. Depend on Me. Trust your life to Me. You are safe when you are in My hands.*

### **THE LIFE I HAVE CALLED YOU TO**

*I have called you to a monastic life and you are now to live it out. You are living that life here at Beth’s house. It is the life I have called you to, and I want you to continue in for the rest of your earthly life. I want you to read and study the books I lead you to each day, as I have much to teach you. I am training you, not only for this earthly life, but for the eternal life you will continue in after you leave this earth.*

### **THE BEST OF THE BEST**

*This is the grand climax of your life, Joan, sitting here day after day, seeking Me, finding Me, learning from Me. It is the best of the best. It is the purpose and goal of all your life and work. That is why I don’t want you to exchange if for anything else.*

## THE GREATEST ANCHOR

**We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:19)**

**But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16)**

*The greatest anchor for your life is to sit in My Presence each day and listen to Me. When you have the "Mind of Christ," I am able to put My thoughts into your mind and heart as dreams and revelations and vision.*

## CREATIVITY

*You see, daughter, how you are creative as you come closer to Me, and you must express that creativity. The book (you and I are writing) expresses your creativity, and through it you and I have fellowship together.*

*As you sit and listen to Me each day you are expressing the creativity I give you. Your way to express it is in writing. Some express it in singing, some in preaching, some in teaching, you in writing.*

*The more you write (for Me) the more you express what I created you to be and do - your own creativity. This is where you come closest to Me--when you are writing and listening for what to write. I made you this way. I have a reason for that. You will understand this more as you follow Me along the path of writing what I lead you to write.*

*This is just now being harvested - what I trained you for all these years. Your dreams (many) about being in a place of learning shows you a picture of this ...sitting and learning from Me, and writing it down - as a student in My classroom of life.*

That's why you've given me skills in editing, proofreading, punctuating, grammar, formatting, organizing, etc. isn't it? And given me interest in creative writing since I was a small child. I have a freedom to be me when I am writing down my thoughts. That's why I want often to express myself to someone else by writing rather than speaking. The words come much more easily and without conflict or fear when I am writing.

## THE LAST BATTLE

*It will be the last battle, Joan, for the church on the earth. It will be a battle between good and evil, and it has already begun. While this battle goes on, many will be won to My kingdom and become part of My bride. When all who will*

*come, come to Me, then the battle will have been won by My warriors, and I will take My bride out.*

*After that comes the tribulation which is a battle which My people, Israel, will fight, and I will return with all My saints to win it at the final fight.*

*Then will come the prophesied peace on earth, good will to men which was given at My birth time.*

### **LIKE A FIRE IN YOUR BONES**

*It will be like fire in your bones that must be expressed, Joan, like a pressure inside which must come out. And this will flow primarily in your writing, but sometimes by speaking it too...like at your LIFE group in prayer time.*

*I've started you out with a few words, and you have been faithful to speak those few words. Now, later, I will increase what I cause to flow through you. Look for that, but don't "make any up" on your own, just speak what I put in you, whether it is one word, or a whole flow of words. When I stop giving you words, then you stop speaking them, ok?*

## 4 - OBEYING THE LORD

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to obey what the Lord guides you to do. In this section I acted on the guidance the Lord gave me to quit my job, pack up my home, and move from Columbia, MO to Lees Summit, MO. I had to obey His guidance, after careful prayer, and trust I would understand later why and how that was best for me. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### ALL TRUTH

Yeah! It's July! The month I get to finish the move to Lee's Summit, MO. I ask you, Lord, to be with me and guide me throughout the whole month of July as I complete the preparation for moving from here in Columbia, as I say goodbye to many friends here, and as I go forward in obedience to what you have planned for me in this next season of my life.

Guide me to and through all those things I need to "finish" so I can close the door here and open a new door with You July 23 in Lee's Summit. One Scripture You brought to me this week:

**But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you in all truth...  
(John 16:13)**

That's what I pray today...guide me in all truth, Holy Spirit. I know, if I follow Your guidance, You will guide me in what is God's best for me. Thank You!

### BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW

**Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your**

clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land - a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. (Deuteronomy 8:1-18 NIV)

### **IF YOU DILIGENTLY OBEY THE LORD**

Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God...all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)

*Notice - overtake you. That is what these blessings are now doing - overtaking you. They have been "piling up" in My storehouse waiting for this time for them to come upon you and overtake you. That time is now. Declare it.*

*Yes, I am with you, My child. I love you and love to be with you. I have come to bring you these blessings, My joy, and My peace - all of it in the midst of a troubled world. You will receive MUCH blessing in the midst of all this - all that*



*is happening in the world. I saved the blessings up for You so I could display My glory in you and through you at this season of time. You will be blessed more than you can even ask or imagine. Don't try to figure it out; just receive it from Me with joy.*

## 5 - *WHAT I DID*

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to pay attention to your relationship with the Lord and keep yourself in right relationship with Him. This may involve forgiveness, repentance, confession, worship, prayer, etc. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### **FORGIVENESS**

Notes on forgiveness from Joyce Meyer's book: *Bitterness, Resentment and Forgiveness*

Why do we need to forgive?

1. Because God said to
2. Because your faith won't work if you don't forgive
3. Because unforgiveness is spiritual filthiness in your inner man
4. Because unforgiveness causes torture in your own life
5. Because unforgiveness blocks your personal relationship with God
6. Because you cannot love properly without being able to forgive those who have hurt you.
7. Because if you don't, you open a big door for the devil in your life.

### **IN THE RIGHT PLACE DOING THE RIGHT THING**

I didn't seem able to hear from Him. I did lots of other things but they didn't satisfy me. I read some of *WASTED ON JESUS* by Jim Goll, but that didn't satisfy me. I began to read *THE BLESSING OF FAVOR* by Kate McVeigh and that didn't satisfy me. They were both good books, but I couldn't stay with them for long.

Then I started reading *THE TORCH AND THE SWORD* by Rick Joyner. Beth has bought the book and I am so glad she did. I had been frightened by the title and didn't want to read it...but because she had it here and I picked it up, I started to read it. And **THIS** was what I was supposed to be reading!

It tells of Jesus bringing Rick a torch (in a vision) and how that torch is the Presence of Jesus. We can hold that torch only so long as we stay close to Him. If we get too far away it becomes too heavy and we lay it down. And the Lord began to speak lots to me as I

read. So that is a sign I was doing the right thing (in this case reading the right book) and His torch was again near, and I could hear Him speaking as I read.

So, I came to the computer to record these matters so I can read them again later when I might need reminding of them.

1. When He is speaking to me, it is a sign I am in the right place doing the right thing that He wants me to do then.
2. As I carry the torch of His Presence it will be light to carry as long as I stay close to Him, and will become heavy when I get far from Him. This is a clue as to when I am on the right path or getting off the side of it.

## 6 - WHAT I WAS TOLD TO DO

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to do what the Lord leads you to do, even if it is scary, and even if you don't know all the reasons for doing it. Here are examples from my journal:**

### THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD

Yesterday J and M gave me a farewell card with a \$20.00 bill. I believe the Lord is showing me that \$20.00 bill is to be the start of the fund He is establishing for me to have financial provision so I am free to write after moving to Lee's Summit. I think if any other "extra" money comes to me beyond what I need to move, it is also to be part of that "living expenses fund."

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 its 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.*

This scripture I heard yesterday two times on TBN, and felt perhaps I was to especially note it for my present circumstances:

**Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. (Isa 40:31 NIV)**

## **SPEND LOTS OF TIME WITH ME**

The Lord gave me a vision in which I was encapsulated in a bubble. I could see all that was going on around me, but it didn't touch me. I was protected.

*I want you to think again about that bubble I put you in, in that vision. That is also a prophetic picture of where I will keep you throughout your days. You will see around you what is happening, but you will be encapsulated, protected, unharmed by it. Do you receive that?*

Yes.

*You are now in the main stream of where I want you to be to finish out your time on earth. You will stay here in Lee's Summit for the rest of your days, whether in Beth's house or another.*

*This is our best time - right now. You can be on earth typing, and still be with Me, walking with Me, listening to Me, in the heavenly spiritual realm. Then you can record what I say as we go. That is ok. That is what I want.*

*I am so much greater than what you can think or imagine. And what I do is so much greater than what you think or imagine. I want you to now spend lots of time with Me, before this computer, recording what I teach you, tell you, and show you. Do you understand?*

Yes.

## **I HAVE A UNIQUE WAY FOR EACH PERSON**

*We're going up. You've had dreams about going up ramps and stairs. Those were prophetic dreams showing what I was going to do with you - take you "up" with Me. Remember the dream about Charis and you going up? Charis means gifting. This is a gifting I am giving you - to go up to a "new number" and new place with Me...and it is a beautiful place, a place of rest, a place of light and color. So that dream shows what I am now doing and will continue to do all the rest of your days on earth.*

*And it is ok to be working at the computer as we go. I want you to. I want you to record what I tell you and show you. That is my plan for you, and I have been teaching you this way for many years of your life. It is a good way. It is My way for you right now. Do not seek to find someone else's way, but just to find My way for you.*

*I have a unique way with each person. You do not need to find Todd Bentley's way, or Paul Keith Davis's way, but your own way with Me. You will like it and it is uniquely designed to fulfill you...the way I made you.*

*Think of Me as being Charis beside you, going up together to our special room of light and color and rest. You see, it is not someone else's number you stop at, but just your own - a special number just for you.*

*You and I can move along in the spiritual realm. I will show you what I want you to "see" and "hear", but mostly I just want you to spend the time with Me. Then you are "available."*

*I love you, My child. I love spending time with you. I gave My life for you, so you know how much I care about you.*

*And don't think you have to "get somewhere" to have a successful time with Me. Let Me decide each day where we will go and what we will do, ok?*

Yes, Lord

*Now wait...*

*There are lots of things you are "saved from" and lots of things you are "saved to". Let's get more into what you are "saved to." You are "saved to" be with Me and walk with Me daily "in the garden." Come to My garden, My child, My lovely one, and walk with Me.*

Yes, Lord!

*This is the way we will walk each day after you set yourself apart unto Me after Beth leaves for work Monday through Friday mornings. Give Me your mornings each day M-F for our "walks" together.*

OK, Lord

*Then you can read and listen to study materials in the afternoons.*

OK, Lord

*Do you think I would refuse to give you the money to be free from a job so we could walk together each day? No, I won't refuse you that money. Ask Me for it.*

I asked Him for money each month to be brought to me by the 1st of each month so we could continue these daily walks together...and the rest of what He outlined above.

*And I say "yes" to you, My daughter. This is My idea. It is an easy way to live ONLY if I bring it about. You do not need to go out and "get" the money. I will bring it to you. Just trust in Me to provide. This is another experiment (test) in trusting Me.*

## JUST BE WITH ME

*This is a season of preparation and I want you to go through it and get prepared for what's coming. I will quicken these scriptures to you as you pray and decree through them.*

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

*Do not feel you are nothing, My daughter, for you are something to Me. I love you and I have plans for you - for ministry in My kingdom work, both now and in heaven.*

*I want you to focus on just being with Me - not what I will say, or what you might see. Just be with Me. Just be obedient to what I show you to do each day and watch how I guide you. When you are dependent on Me, not on yourself, it causes Me to be active in your life, with you. You need Me.*

*I am paying your salary, remember? I want your time for Me, for My work. Yes, you may do that request for Lee and Doris. I put your name in their minds in answer to their prayers. I want you to become involved in and be part of the healing ministry here. This is the way I'm pulling you into it.*

## SOAKING

*This is what “soaking” is, My daughter, it is sitting in My presence, it is focusing your attention on Me fully, it is gazing at My beauty (one thing I ask of the Lord), it is stillness before God (be still and know), it is quietness and confidence (is my strength), it is rest in the Lord (wait patiently for Him).*

*It is all these things and more...much more. During soaking I am freer to come to you as there are no interruptions, and you are freer to “come up here” as there is time to come without interruptions. The atmosphere is right, your attitude is right, and there are not interruptions. That is one reason I often come to people at night - it is closer to those conditions.*

*And you are such a private person. A private person means you don't want to be vulnerable to others and allow them to see you as you are. I know why you are as you are, and I will be changing that a little bit at a time. You will “come out of your shell” (as a pearl mentioned in the prophetic words over you) here at CTC but it will come about slowly and gently. It also involves trust which you need to develop toward CTC people and they need to develop towards you.*

*As you soak in My presence more deeply, I will then be able to reveal more to you. And you will have to trust Me to enable you to remember what you have*

*seen and record it later. These times are coming to you. Expect them and greet them with joy. Having you “come up here” is more important than your recording it all in accurate and complete detail. I enabled John to remember what he saw and write Revelation. I have enabled Rick Joyner to remember and record what he has seen. And I will you too.*

*Lots to tell you, lots to write, daughter. You are My listener and writer, remember? This is the way I have gifted you, and trained you, and want to continue to use you, ok?*

OK, Lord.

### **CALL TO ME**

*You see, I AM restoring true life to you. I AM filling you with My presence daily as you come to Me. I give you strength and desire for Me, and joy as you go.*

*Yesterday, when you felt depleted and sensing the enemy wanted you to succumb to depression and futility of life, you needed to call out to Me. I will save you from futility and from depression. As you breath the atmosphere of heaven where I am, you will find new life coming into you. Do you sense it now?*

*Whenever you feel this new life slipping away, call to Me. I will come and renew you.*

*You live in a world which is out of balance and in great turmoil during this transition time of the pouring out of My Spirit and the pouring out of the enemy's terror all at the same time. The two cannot co-exist very long without tearing the person or earth apart.*

*As I pour out My Spirit more and more the turmoil will get worse. You will see it in the weather patterns, the unrest of people as well as unrest and turmoil in earthly things/pursuits. This will cause lots of shaking. You will see the shaking and be amazed at it.*

*You see it in the election process now. That is shaking! But this will continue until I take My Bride away. Then the wrath of God will be poured out on all that's left on the earth - in retribution against those who have rejected Me and My sacrifice.*

### **YOUR DIVINE PRAYERS RUNNING THROUGH ME**

*I want to use you to speak My words, Joan, but first I had to stop you from speaking your own words and making up things yourself that you wanted for that*



*person or situation out of your human reasoning. Now you have shut that down to almost nothing. Now I can begin to pray through you, My way.*

Yes, Lord, that is what I want - not my human prayers, but your divine prayers running through me like a stream of water gushing forth. I want to speak ONLY Your words, Lord.

*I know you do and that is why you quit going to prayer meetings where you felt such pressure to say something from your human spirit. I know you can do that, but that is not what I was and am preparing you to do for Me.*

*I want you to speak ONLY from My Spirit directly through your mouth and through your writing. There often isn't enough quiet in your previous prayer meetings to listen to Me and speak only from Me. So, I had you quit going to them. I have My plans and purpose for you if you will "follow Me."*

### **MORE OF HIS HEART**

(From Jim Goll's book *Wasted On Jesus*)

"The more time we spend praying in our "inner room," the more our capacity for prayer will grow. The more of ourselves we yield to the Lord in prayer, the more of His heart He can entrust us with." (Page 90)

*And I do want to share more of My heart with you, Joan. It is time, and you are now ready to receive more. Come to Me, expecting the "more" I have for you.*

*Yesterday I had Pastor Alan and Carol pray for you for a reason. It was time to move you into greater depths of prayer and intercession, even travail at times. All of this is at My instigation, not yours.*

*It is your job to come into My presence as you have been reading about in Jim Goll's book. It is My job to move you in prayer to where I want you to be and what I want you to pray--whatever I lay upon your heart.*

*Sometimes you won't be able to write what I am saying because I will take you deeper than when you can type. But I will enable you to remember what I want you to write, IF I want you to write. Trust Me on this. Just like in dreams I want you to remember and write out.*

### **DEEPER INTERCESSION**

*Deeper intercession: I've just opened it up to you yesterday when Pastor Alan prayed for you. And he was right that you will see more travail - but only*

*when I bring it. Do not try to force it upon yourself. It must come from Me to be true. Save yourself for what I put upon you.*

*Yes, you felt something inside your spirit yesterday wanting to be expressed. Now you are beginning to express it here in this writing and in quietness with Me. It is the expression of “something new” which I placed in you yesterday with the prayers, and imparting, and worshiping in My presence.*

## 7 - *WHAT I DREAMED*

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to pay attention to what you dream, write down your dreams, seek the interpretation of your dreams, and seek the Lord about what they mean. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### **A DREAM ABOUT THE TURMOILS OF MOVING TO A NEW PLACE AND BEGINNING TO WRITE MY FIRST BOOK**

I had a dream in which I was in a car (my life, person, ministry) parked at a town/place something like a drive-in theater (place to see stories dramatized) where other cars were also. A little picture appeared on my windshield in which a cartoon-like character, not a real person, but acting real, that looked like a gumby, (a gumby is a child's toy person that is moldable and bendable into whatever position you bend it) performed something like a cheer – moving his arms back and forth, up in a cheer, etc. He was made to do this by a person who did the movements and the cartoon character's movements did the same thing.

I “knew” that a person was causing this gumby to cheer, and wanted to respond to that person and let him know I was responding. I watched it from inside the car and raised my hands cheering along with him. It felt good, and like something I wanted to do.

(Perhaps this represents taking myself into a separate place and watching and listening to the Lord and learning what He wants me to do...and being moldable and bendable to Him.)

Next, I realized all the other cars were gone, and it was dark, and I wanted to drive back to Manchester (Manchester may represent the place of learning where I go forth into life after I learn something). I didn't know the way to go there. I started the car and started driving but didn't have enough light to see where to go. I tried to put on the brakes but I couldn't get my right foot to move to the brake pedal. I tried to pick up my right foot/leg and move it with my hands, but it wasn't effective enough to stop the car, so I put on the emergency brake. I skidded a bit, but did get stopped.

I looked for signs to show me the way, but only remember seeing a curve or turn arrow pointing right. I thought I would follow other cars back to Manchester, but there were no other cars I could see on the road. I made

some turns onto what seemed like it might be the way I wanted to go. On a merge lane onto a highway on my left I tried to see if other cars were coming, but the position of my car kept me completely blinded to view that highway. I drove onto it anyway, not knowing if any cars were coming.

I went onto a road that got smaller and narrower and was curving. I wanted to stop and ask someone directions to Manchester. I saw several older men (like my father's age) sitting together and stopped to ask them. I couldn't find the place to turn the window down (revealed: truth, prophecy, revelation, understanding, avenue of blessing) then finally found it. They stood by the car and started to tell me about a wreck (strife) they had seen. I didn't want to hear about a wreck, but wanted to quickly get directions to Manchester and drive on. The dream ended there.

Tell me about this dream, Lord. What does it mean? Is it from You or from the enemy?

*What does it SEEM to mean to you, My daughter?*

It seems to mean I don't see well where I am going, and don't know where I'm going, but I am going along anyway. I am unable to stop myself and unable to see well or clearly. I want to reach a place where I learn something, but don't know the way there.

When I ask for directions (open the window for revelation) I get told about a wreck which I don't want to hear about. I wonder if that is a warning of something possibly coming. I seem to be imitating the actions of this moldable, bendable character that is moved by an unseen person, perhaps the Holy Spirit, and I happily cheer along with Him.

This seems to describe my life right now where I am following the directions of the Holy Spirit to go to Lee's Summit and all the unknowns involved in this venture. The "knowledge" I am going toward might be the book I am depending on the Holy Spirit to guide me to write. But it's going into the unknown financially and spiritually to get there, yet I am trying to go.

Later the HS said to me that the spiritual part of me is the gumby; the natural part of me is the person in the car trying to be and do as the gumby does - while trying to find my way through the process of moving, leaving friends, saying goodbyes, closing accounts and records, packing, etc... all these unknown things I need to find my way through. I don't know the roads for doing that (like SSA, Medicare, and insurance)

The "wreck" the men try to tell me about is the strife and conflict involved in such a change process. I am possibly to realize some of that will be involved too. Perhaps it is a warning of more coming - and I don't want to listen to it, but just want to get on to the joyful part (writing the book) portrayed by gumby.

*But you will grow in faith and strength as you walk on through this change process. I will be with you all the way. Do not fear. It will hold some difficulties; as it has already held some difficulties, but you will make it through to your*

*Manchester - the place of learning, writing, getting a degree, graduating from...with distinction as you did at Manchester College. Be encouraged and be aware.*

### **A DREAM ABOUT A BLUE TRACTOR**

I had a dream in which I was plowing a field driving a large blue farm tractor.

*You have a ministry that seems slow to you. It is involved with planting and preparing people for seeds to be sown. I want you to see it IS slow, but powerful, and from Me. Just be faithful each day. I will produce the crops from what you sow for Me. Powerful means full of My Spirit and My Spirit will do the work.*

### **A DREAM ABOUT A MULTIPLYING BIRD**

In this dream I was inside a house looking out a large window (I think in the front of the house). First, I saw a bird outside which looked like a hummingbird but was larger. Its coloring was in greens like a hummingbird. It was about 6-7 ft up above the ground suspended in the air.

Then it became much larger and I saw this huge bird there. Its front looked similar to a stork with a long bill and neck, then it became a huge oval-shaped body, maybe 6 ft long and 2-3 ft wide with a large fluffy multi-feathered plumed tail. Along the top of the body there were many nests, maybe 8-10 nests, and on each nest sat a mature bird. In the tail there were many smaller birds mixed in with the plummy feathers.

I kept exclaiming about this unusual bird and trying to name what kind of bird it was, but I could not think what to call it. I knew it was not an eagle. Later, as I looked at the names of some birds in the dream book, the closest I could come to what its head and beak looked like might be a stork. I don't remember any colors associated with this huge bird.

**Hummingbird:** beautiful bird which can suspend itself in the air and which is enjoyable to watch

**Stork:** expectant: new birth, new baby; new experience; that which is forthcoming. They carry out God's purposes

**"Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons." (Jeremiah 8:7 NIV)**

**Bird:** Spirit: Holy Spirit; message. They can also refer to leaders or messengers

**"A bird of the air may carry your words; and a bird on the wing may report what you say." (Ecclesiastes 10:20 NIV)**

Beth said she thought the big bird may symbolize CTC.

To me this big bird refers to lots of things being birthed from it, lots of mature birds, nests with eggs to be hatched, and growing birds too.

This can refer to my books which are being used by the Lord to hatch and grow what He wants in the lives of many. This also could refer to my church where He is doing that also. It also could refer to the church universal doing the same thing.

This bird will be beautiful like a hummingbird and will be suspended in the air for all to see.

*What the Lord has shown me here is a picture of that which is coming to carry out God's purposes. It will birth God's message and carry it to others.*

The Lord said that this is a "calling" dream.

*Look at it again and I'll show you more.*

As I looked at it again, I felt one meaning of the dream is that I have discipled a whole group of now "mature" Christians who each have a nest of their own that they are birthing and discipling. This may be through Discipleship Training which I used to lead, and it may also be through the books He has given me to write.

I get the thought that the "bird of the air" is the internet.

## 8 - WHAT I SAW

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to watch what the Lord draws your attention to, pay attention to it, ask Him what it means and what He wants you to learn from it. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### NINES AND THREES

Last day of June. Tomorrow starts July - the month I move from Columbia and make the big change in location, home, job, friends, church, doctor, dentist, etc. I've been waiting for July to come for many months now as I have been preparing for this great change.

The Lord has been drawing to my attention recently to nines and threes - especially on the odometer as I am going to work. Like it was something like 36393 (all those numbers are made of 3's). And the clock where it was 9:39 (again, numbers all made of 3's). I felt led to look up 9 and 3 for meaning.

Nine refers to harvest, fruit, fruitfulness, fruition. Three refers to conform, obey, likeness, imitate. The thought I have is that now is the time I get to, by obedience and conforming to the Holy Spirit leading, have the harvest of writing the book He and I are working on writing together. The book is the fruit or harvest of all He has taught me over my lifetime.

### ANGELS WITH TRUMPETS

(This vision came to me during worship time at a Christian camp I attended:)

The worship leader was leading us in praise and worship songs and we were singing before God. As I shut my eyes while singing one song, suddenly I "saw" this scene:

In the scene, Jesus was standing before the congregation holding out His hands in blessing over them. They were all bowing their heads like in prayer before Him. It didn't seem as if anyone was aware of His presence but me.

The meeting area was shaped with the stage down at the front of the room and the seats sloping upward from there, with the highest seats toward the back. I was standing in the upper left-hand corner of the back part of the room.

As this event took place, I looked at Jesus and He looked at me. It was like our eyes met.

Then I looked up to my right and saw high up on the right wall of the room three angels holding long trumpets to their mouths. The trumpets were pointed downward toward the people.

The scene ended, and I opened my eyes, and was aware of the congregation singing the worship song. I was amazed at what had just happened!

Then the worship leader led us in another song. I closed my eyes, and, again, I saw the same scene. Jesus was standing in front of the group with His hands out in blessing over them as their heads were bowed. I was standing in the same spot as before and looking at Jesus. I saw the three angels again; but this time they were holding their trumpets in a straight-out position. When I opened my eyes, we began singing another song.

For the third time I closed my eyes while worshipping and saw the same scene. The only change in this scene was in the position the angels were holding their trumpets. This third time they held the trumpets in an upward position pointed toward the sky. When this happened for the third time, I was just stunned by what had happened.

I was touched by the vision and was never the same after that. It kept coming into my memory and I pondered what it meant and whether I was to do something about it.

Over time I asked the Lord to show me the meaning of the vision repeated three times. I think now I was seeing into the spiritual realm which exists all the time but which we seldom have eyes to see.

I came to realize this represented three time periods in my life under three different authority arrangements:

1. The time I was in my home growing up under my father's authority.
2. The time I was married and under the authority of my husband.
3. The time I was single again and under God's authority.

I came to realize the vision represented that I would see Jesus as real and personal and with my spiritual eyes. And this has proven very true over years of time since that vision.

I believe it was given three times to especially emphasize that the times were "set" and would not change, and that this would be a reality over the rest of my life.

I am now in the third "trumpets held up high" stage which, I believe, also represents the end times, and that the coming of Jesus for His bride (with the sound of the trumpet as in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52) in the rapture is not far away.

**Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)**



*Remember the vision I gave you at camp where you watched Me as I blessed the people? I gave you the ability to “gaze upon Me” then, and forever after then.*

*That was a message to you that you would be given the ability to “gaze upon Me” even as your Pastor had visions of what I had ahead for him in his life.*

*You, My child, know that is what I have ahead for you – more and more – to see Me, to watch what I am doing, to know My Presence is near, to know I am watching you and aware of you.*

*And you can know from this vision that My angels are always standing guard over and beside you through all the stages of your life – to the very end of your earth life. Know this.*

### **A PICTURE OF THE WORLD**

The Lord gave me a mental picture of the world surrounded completely by stars. He said He would take my books out to my children (those stars) all around the world.

### **A SPECIAL “AUTOMATIC” PEN**

*This pen dream shows you what your ministry/service is for Me. It is to seek Me daily, write what I share with you, and give that writing back to Me to use as I choose to share it with others.*

### **A VISION OF A BALL OF FIRE**

(Quotes from *THE TORCH AND THE SWORD* by Rick Joyner)

Jesus: “However, you cannot be like him (Enoch) until you have walked with Me as he has. That is your whole purpose now--to walk closer to Me each day.”

Jesus: “I created man to be the torchbearer for all of creation. All men have this calling, and were created to walk with Me and carry the light of life.... You must now go and find those who have persevered to become My chosen ones.”

“You will know these chosen ones by the fire that already burns in them. They will never be content with religious practices, for they yearn for Me and the reality of this realm. Because they seek Me, I will be found by them. I will give them their heart’s desire--My fellowship. I will be their inheritance.

“I will also give them greater authority than I have yet entrusted to men on the earth. They will receive this because they will have the wisdom and humility to use it. When the Day of Judgment comes, their testimony will be that they walked with Me and their fire did not dim. These are My messengers that the whole creation has been waiting and travailing for. It is time for them to awaken.” (Page 46)

*You are one of My torchbearers, My daughter. That is why I had you write the book - to spread the fire that you have to others who will also pick it up.*

*Yes, you must publish the book. And I will bring that about in the right way at the right time. You see, it is like fire igniting fire in others who are being prepared for it.*

*It is like the vision you saw of that ball of fire touching others here and there. I am that ball of fire, but so are you as you are a part of Me. You have awakened, and I am now sending you out to others.*

*Wisdom and humility are keys in being prepared to share this fire which is in you. Remember the vision I gave you of fire in people's chests? The chest represents the heart, and the fire is in the heart. You will “see” this again in some people I will show you later.*

## 9 - *WHAT I SPOKE*

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**One way of *Discovering The Mysterious* is to watch what you speak. Be careful to speak only what is pleasing to the Lord. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### **WHAT HE GAVE ME TO SHARE WAS LIKE A GIFT**

Last night Beth and I attended the LIFE group. Walter 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 mentioned October as being significant. 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 a time of this he asked if any still had a weight he wanted prayer for. Tony 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." Two people (Steven and Walter) moved back like they were hit by something when I said it.

Then we prayed for Steven 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, Diane, was at a crossroads in her life and wanted prayer. She was advised by Walter 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. Beth asked me what I said, and I told her. Then Beth said basically God not only loved her but he really LIKED her too. Later Beth 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 to LS and CTC 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.

### **SPEAKING THE TRUTH OF THE WORD**

It occurred to me that my words had taken root and grown during the years since they were spoken. Once the words were said, it was like they took root and grew in a direction not necessarily true to what originally happened (perhaps even without any knowledge of the event which sparked the words originally), but whatever direction various people took them.

That’s what gossip does: takes root and grows in directions not true to the actual event. It forms lies, untruth based on partial truth. And isn’t that Satan’s way--to distort the truth using only partial truth. Since the truth sets you free, then gossip does the opposite -- it binds you with its lie. I imagine that’s one reason gossip/slander is talked against so much in the Bible.

*Everything you say and do is a seed planted. You may ask for, and receive, forgiveness for seed planted that is not of the “fruit of the spirit,” but that seed still keeps growing in other people’s mouths and minds. Remember that when Satan deceived Eve it was through distorted untruthful words (or only partial truth mixed with lies) that took root and grew in her. If she had countered that untruth immediately with the truth of My Word, it wouldn’t have taken root and grown in her as it did. That’s why speaking the truth of the Word is so powerful as a weapon. It stops the untruth from taking root and growing in you. It gets your mind focused on what is true.*

**The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts. (Prov 18:8 NIV)**

**Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. (Prov 26:20 NIV)**

**Do not go about spreading slander among your people. (Lev. 19:16 NIV)**

**Remind the people...to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate... (Titus 3:2 NIV)**

## 10 - WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT

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**One way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to be careful what you think about. Be aware of what your thoughts are and take every thought captive unto the Lord. Remember what the Bible says about thoughts: “Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others” - 1 Timothy 4:16. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### ALL GRACE

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

I love you, Lord. I give You all my days. My days are Yours, Lord, to bring forth all Your praise - Your praise within me that is to honor You. This is my prayer as I begin this book:

*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, My daughter...by My word in your mouth and heart and mind—putting that down on paper and printing it. 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, and what to put at the end, how to finish it. I will proofread it with you and tell you when it is finished as I want it.*

**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. As it is written: “he has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” (Psalm 112:9 NIV)**

### THE THOUGHTS OF A MAN

**O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. (Psalm 139:1)**

*Yes, I perceive your thoughts, Joan. I know each thought you have before you even know it yourself. I know if your thoughts are pure or not. I know your heart, and out of the heart come your thoughts. Look that up today.*

**It is with your heart that you believe and are justified. (Romans 10:10)**

*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified. I know everyone's heart, and I know who really believes and is justified, and therefore who really belongs to Me.*

**The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart. (Luke 6:45)**

*You see, you are a "good man" Joan. And a good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart. So that means you have lots of "good" stored up in your heart, and you bring out those "good things" every day as you follow Me and follow My leading. I lead you to write those "good things" in your books which we write together.*

**Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:34)**

**The Lord knows the thoughts of a man. (Psalm 94:11)**

*I know every thought, whether it is pure or impure.*

**For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. (1 Chronicles 28:9)**

*I not only know your thoughts, but I know every motive behind those thoughts, even if you don't know the motive. So, you may pray for Me to purify your motives also, besides purifying your thoughts.*

**The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)**

**As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. (Proverbs 27:19)**

## **YOUR THOUGHTS RUN YOUR LIFE**

"Your thoughts run your life." I read that this morning in Proverbs 4:23 NCV. So, I am looking up more scriptures today about my thoughts and what the Word of God says about thoughts.

**Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life. - Proverbs 4:23 NCV**

**For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. (1 Chronicles 28:9)**

**O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. (Psalm 139:1-2, 4)**

**The Lord knows the thoughts of a man; he knows that they are futile. (Psalm 94:11)**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. - Psalm 139:23-24**

**Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? - Matthew 9:4**

It is clear from scriptures that You know our thoughts, Lord. I ask You to change me so that I think like You think and act like You act. Change me, Lord, so that I become like You.

**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. - 1 Corinthians 13:11**

**For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12**

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." - Isaiah 55:8-9**

**How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. - Psalm 139:17-18**

*My daughter, it is I who is causing you to even THINK about your thoughts. I want you to think about them because it is very important WHAT you think about. That scripture in Proverbs 4:23 is correct. You do go in the direction you think. Your thoughts DO run your life. So, you can see that it is extremely important WHAT your thoughts are.*

*Do you want to follow Me? Then you must carry My thoughts and My way of thinking in your heart - and not be swayed from that.*



*Remember that Joyce Meyer wrote a whole book on THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND. It is true that the mind of a man is the battlefield where Satan tries to pull mankind away from God's thinking into his way of thinking.*

*So, cover your mind with My thoughts which are expressed in My word. Read and renew your mind every day on My word. Memorize My word. Think about it. Meditate on it every day.*

*Remember what I told Joshua:*

**Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. - Joshua 1:8**

11 - *WHAT I BELIEVED*

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**One way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in His Word, the Bible. Here is an encounter which I had where the Lord taught me about that:**

**BELIEVE MY WORD**

*That's My Word for you today...Believe and trust and obey.*

**How foolish you are** (He said to me gently and in a loving voice) **and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.** (Luke 24:25 NIV)

*All the writers of the Bible were prophets who spoke and wrote My Word. Believe My Word.*

**The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.** (1 Peter 1:24-25 NIV)

**And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.** (2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV)

## 12 - MEETING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

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**One way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to meet in fellowship with other believers. Here are some encounters with other believers which I personally experienced:**

### LIFE GROUP

Tonight, I attended Walter and Kathleen's LIFE group for the first time. In Walter's teaching he said God is serious about what we are each asking Him to do in us and that he will require changes after we leave tonight. He said we should keep our eyes ahead on the promise given us rather than on the problems that need to be overcome to get to that promise.

I got in the line for prayer for the provision of all needed to fulfill the call to do the book. Linda (hostess) prayed for me and especially for God to light the pathway and overshadow me, and kept praying for the book to be a love letter from God to the people who read it - that all who read the book will experience God's love as they do.

Then Tracey and Steven came and said they heard I wanted a confirmation about something. (No person told them this that I know of. Beth said she didn't). They prayed for me after I told them about the book and believing for the financial provision. One thing Steven said was that I would get 3 confirmations, not just one. And he said one confirmation was that the Holy Spirit, God's presence, would be with me as I go through this time of doing the book. They prayed for the faith needed.

As I talked later with Steven and asked him if he wanted prayer for something he said he wanted to keep the close relationship with God he had been having for about the last month (when he gave himself completely over to what God wanted him to do) and that relationship seemed to have deteriorated on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week. He didn't want to "go back" to what life had been like before the recent closeness with God and wanted prayer for that. I suggested having a daily quiet time and reading the Word. He said he didn't read well. I'm thinking now that I might offer him my Bible on cassettes for him to listen to. He said he was a prophetic intercessor and was called to be an evangelist.

After the prayer time Walter said to me that I was freer now than I had ever been before. I see that as very true!

## NOTES FROM LIFE GROUP

Last night at Walter and Kathleen's 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, etc. And then how he found out it was ok to be as he was, that the Lord made him as he was.

Linda 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. I still have in me the feeling that those things are what bring 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 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.

We were given the homework of finding three Scriptures which give 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:

**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. – Revelation 3:7-8** (Jesus opens a door before me that no one can shut even though I have little strength.)

**Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. – Psalm 23:6** (I have goodness and mercy following me all my life)

**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. – Psalm 27:4** (I dwell in the house of the Lord and look upon Him)

**You knit me together in my mother’s womb. – Psalm 139:13** (He made me.)

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21** (I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus)

**In quietness and confidence is your strength. – Isaiah 30:15** (I am quiet and confident)

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. – Psalm 8:32** (I am being instructed and taught, counseled and watched over)

**And Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. – Matthew 28:20** (Jesus is always with me)

**But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. – Luke 2:19** (I keep things and ponder them)

**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.” – Jeremiah 1:5** (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.)

**“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.” – Habakkuk 2:2** (I am to write down what He instructs me and it will come at the appointed time)

**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** (I am to trust in Him and He will direct my path)

**He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. – Psalm 91:1** (I dwell in the secret place and abide under His shadow)

**They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. – Revelation 14:4** (I follow Jesus wherever He goes)

**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. – Isaiah 50:4** (The Lord gives me words that help others and enables me to listen as He teaches me.)

What these Scriptures say to me:

- (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 in the house of the Lord and look upon 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 with the Lord and look upon Him, see Him)
- (I dwell in the secret place 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.)

What scriptures/ideas do You want to give me, Lord?

*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.*

Last night Kathleen came over and spoke words to me about my future. That I would go to people and speak something to them or do something for them which would bless them.

Steven came over to me and told me what a blessing the Bible on Tapes were, that he had been listening to them about 3 hours a day, and he excitedly told some of the things he was hearing from Jesus and Paul. He said that I thought I came to be with Beth, but really, I came to bless him. He said (in regard to the book) that some people might rebuke me at first when they read it, but later they would bless me for helping them. And he talked about all the crowns I would get for all the people I would help and there would be many through the book.

### COME INTO UNITY

*That is one reason I brought you to CTC...to join the multiplied authority and power of others with mantles also, and to come into unity together with them here. You felt this unity the very first time you visited here and it caused you to weep. That wasn't a coincidence. The yearning to hurry and come was no coincidence. That is because you felt and knew a unity with Pastor Alan and others here at CTC and it fulfilled a great need you had to "connect" with such people.*

*That is why you needed to wait until you came here and joined this unity of mantles to write the book - and why it came together so quickly. Yes, I do have more writing for you to do, and this is part of it, what you are writing right now...this understanding of coming together with others who also bear the torch and mantles from past generations who laid them down for you all to pick up. Many at CTC have mantles which they have picked up from past generations.*

*That explains the dream I gave you where you were alive, but many behind you had gone before you and were looking to you, the person alive now, to continue the work out in "that field" under the singing of the Holy Spirit. The singing of the Holy Spirit represents the anointing. He comes often through*

*music...heavenly music. Satan knows this and he uses music to come to his own,  
as I use music to come to My own.*



13 - *READING THE BIBLE DAILY*

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**One way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to read the Bible daily. Set apart time daily to worship the Lord, read His Word, pray, and write in a journal what He says to you. Here is an example from my journal:**

**WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE**

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

This scripture brought to my mind that even while I am unaware of it taking place, God is bringing to me the finances that are needed in this next stage or season of my life.

Today I looked up silver and gold in the dream book. Silver stands for **knowledge**, knowledge of God. Gold stands for **wisdom**, glory.

Then, when I got to work the Scripture on my calendar was:

**Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? (Job 12:12 NIV)**

It was like God was emphasizing and reconfirming to me that I now have the wisdom and knowledge He wants to put together in this new book that I wasn't fully ready for before. He has impressed me how this book is the harvest or fruition of all I've learned from Him for all these years. Guide me in this, Holy Spirit, so the book will say all You want in it and will omit all You don't want in it.

*I will, My child, I will do that!*

14 - *LOVING THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART*

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**Loving the Lord with all your heart will lead you into *Discovering the Mysterious*. One reason is because if you truly love Him you will choose to spend time with Him, get to know Him, and believe what He speaks to you in His Word, the Bible. And you will worship Him, and seek His counsel, and obey Him each day. Here are some scriptures about loving God.**

**SCRIPTURES ABOUT LOVING GOD**

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

**Deuteronomy 10:12**

**And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

**Deuteronomy 11:1**

**Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.**

**Deuteronomy 13:3b NLT**

**The Lord your God is testing you to see if you truly love him with all your heart and soul.**

**Joshua 22:5**

**But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.**

**Nehemiah 1:5**

**O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands.**

**Psalms 31:25**

**Love the Lord, all his saints!**

**Psalms 145:20**

**The Lord watches over all who love him.**

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

**No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.**

**1 Corinthians 8:3**

**But the man who loves God is known by God.**

15 - *THANKING, PRAISING, AND WORSHIPING*

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**You keep *Discovering the Mysterious* as you lead a life of thanking, praising and worshiping the Lord every day of your life. Here is an example from my journal:**

**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD**

**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 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 at church and for Nikki 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 Beth here.
- Thank You, Lord, for Christ Triumphant Church, for the Pastors and staff, for the friendly people, for Your presence there.
- Thank You, Lord, for the coming strategic prayer initiative, and for the Harvest International Ministries conference coming.
- Thank You, Lord, for the book, *THOUGHTS AND STORIES* that 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!

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**Another way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to learn from mature believers who can mentor you. This may come person to person, or may come through hearing or reading teachings from others. Here are some examples from my journal:**

### THE LORD SPOKE TO ME AS I READ A BOOK

(Quotes from Rick Joyner's book: *THE TORCH AND THE SWORD*)

"Even so, we are completely dependent on the Lord's willingness to show us something before we can understand it the way it is intended. Fortunately, one of the greatest of His promises is that if we seek Him, we will find Him. (Page 8)

"I was beginning to understand that even though God had called me to the ministry I was attempting, I had confused His calling with His commissioning. Because of this, I started in the ministry prematurely. The Lord had been revealed "to me," but not "in me" which Paul explained had to happen before he went forth to preach. (Page 9)

"All of this combined.... compelling me to resign from the ministry.... until I felt the Lord had truly been revealed "in me." (Page 10)

*The Lord says my first book (THOUGHTS AND STORIES) begins His being revealed "in me." for others to see. I am to allow others to see Him revealed "in me."*

"Bob called and gave me words, or shared dreams which were incredibly specific and detailed, and then they would come to pass in the most amazing ways. This was more wonderful than can be described, imparting to me a sense of being in the will of the Lord like I never felt before in my life. Every day became an amazing and wonderful adventure. I was convinced this was the way the Christian life was supposed to be!

"I received a word from the Lord that I had become too busy, and I was already five months behind in what He had given me to do that year.... He also reminded me that it was five months since the promised visitation, and this was the reason I had not received the commission yet. He said, if I would repent and go home, He would visit me." (Page 14)

*I've given him (Rick) what he needed for his ministry (the power surge when Jesus laid hands on him 5 times) and I will and am giving you what you need for the ministry I have for you - listening and writing.*

“What the Lord had imparted to me was a commission to help release the five equipping ministries listed in Ephesians Four to the church, which are essential for her to fulfill her last day ministry.” (Page 17)

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

### **BY WISDOM AND HUMILITY**

(Quotes from Rick Joyner’s book: *THE TORCH AND THE SWORD*)

Jesus: “When you return, this will all seem like a dream to you. The earth is under a shroud of fear and doubt which is growing thicker and darker. Even so, this realm is more real than the earth. But those in your time who break through the fear and doubt to walk in the power of life here will exhibit the greatest faith, and they will be trusted with the greatest authority.

“You may only vaguely remember what you see and feel here. Even so, the yearning for what you are now experiencing has been imparted to you, and this yearning will not go away. It is real and will lead you to reality.

“You can have all that you experience here again, but you too must grow up into it as you walk with Me on the earth. Only by this will you be wise and humble enough to be trusted on earth with the authority and power that you feel here. Wisdom and humility are more important than the power. Without them the power will corrupt you, and you will be used for evil. It is by your wisdom and humility that you will be able to help My messengers along their way.” (Page 45)

*You see, My child, even as you read My words to Rick Joyner My words impart to you such a yearning for that closeness with Me which he had. This realm becomes real to you as you read. This yearning will help lead you to come to Me more often and experience Me greater. I am leading/teaching you to be wise and humble enough so you can be trusted with the authority and power I want to give you. I am doing this, not you. In its time I will do it swiftly.*

### **THE LORD SPOKE TO ME THROUGH A PROPHET**

(Words given to me by the teacher of a prophecy class I attended)

- He said I am an intercessor (saw light around me)

- He saw prophecy (clear window, blue)
- He saw angels going up and down over me – like at Bethel
- He said the Word and intimacy and intercession all go together
- He said God writes a letter on my heart and it comes back out to others
- He said I had the seer anointing
- He saw precious jewels in me, a real deposit of wisdom
- He said I yield myself to the Lord in such a way that I allow Him to flow through me
- He said what I've battled before has given me a key of authority
- He said Beth and I are a real team ministering together
- He said I've been called to be a key to open doors for others
- He said I am walking through the valley of death
- He said I have a well within me to share with others
- He said dreams impart deposits in me
- He saw me with goggles on as a welder putting things together
- He saw a thick cloud of the Lord's presence over Beth and me connecting us together
- He saw at least twelve books behind us and a river flowing through them
- He saw God giving Beth and me new sandals. He'll take us on a new path/life
- He saw fire going into Beth – and me handing her the fire (with intercession)
- He saw a blue thread for me – a garment/anointing handed down through generations and getting stronger
- He saw wind chimes, meaning very sensitive to the Spirit, even as a child
- He said my mother, or someone, spoke prophecy over me as a child
- He saw rainbows forming over our heads: promise of peace and rest in the midst of a storm

17 - *STANDING ON HIS PROMISES*

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**Another way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to stand on the promises the Lord affirms to you when you read His Word, the Bible. Here is an example from my journal:**

**I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU**

**No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life.  
(Joshua 1:5)**

*This is because I will ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, and GIVE MY ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, therefore no one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. You may FEEL afraid and fearful, but they still won't be able to stand up against you – BECAUSE I will take care of you, protect you, watch over you, and keep you safe from ALL evil and harm all the days of your life, Joan. I love you that much!*



18 - *KNOWING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST*

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**Another way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is to know who you are in Christ. It is very encouraging to read through this list regularly. You might want to write these scriptures on cards and carry them with you to review often.**

**SCRIPTURES ON WHO I AM IN CHRIST**

(Scriptures in NIV unless other indicated)

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105 KJV)**

**1. I am a new creation in Christ.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:17)

**2. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:21)

**3. I am the salt of the earth.**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” (Matt. 5:13)

**4. I am the light of the world.**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14)

**5. What I say in faith without doubt, I get.**

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11: 22-24)

**6. I ask and receive; I seek and find; I knock and the door is opened to me.**

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock 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.” (Luke 11:9-10)

**7. I have eternal life.**

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)

**8. I have passed from death into life.**

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24)

**9. Streams of living water flow from within me.**

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” (John 7:38)

**10. The truth has set me free.**

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

**11. If I ask anything in Jesus’ name, He will do it.**

“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)

**12. I am in Christ, and Christ is in me.**

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” (John 14:20)

**13. I have peace.**

“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)

**14. I will bear much fruit.**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

**15. I am loved by Jesus.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.” (John 15:9)

**16. I am loved by the Father.**

“The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.” (John 16:27)

**17. I belong to God.**

“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.” (John 17:9)

**18. I have the full joy of Jesus.**

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.” (John 17:13)

**19. I am protected from the evil one.**

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” (John 17:15)

**20. I am sanctified in the truth of God's Word.**

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

**21. I have been sent into the world.**

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18)

**22. I have God's glory.**

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one...”  
(John 17:22)

**23. I have forgiveness of sins through Christ.**

Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (Acts 13:38)

**24. I have been freed from all sins.**

Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:39)

**25. I am among the called of Jesus Christ.**

And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:6)

**26. I am loved by God, a saint.**

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints. (Romans 1:7)

**27. I have been justified by faith and I have peace with God.**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

**28. I have grace through faith.**

(Jesus Christ) ...through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. (Romans 5:2)

**29. I have perseverance, character, and hope.**

We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4)

**30. The love of God has been poured out in my heart through the Holy Spirit.**

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:5)

**31. I have been justified by His blood and saved from the wrath of God.**

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5:9)

**32. I reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.**

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)

**33. I have been made righteous through the obedience of Christ.**

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

**34. I have died to sin.**

We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:2)

**35. I have been baptized into Christ's death.**

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)

**36. I have been raised from the dead to walk in newness of life.**

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

**37. I am no longer a slave of sin.**

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:6)

**38. I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

**39. I am not under law, but under grace.**

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

**40. I am a slave of righteousness.**

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6:18)

**41. I have now no condemnation.**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

**42. I have been set free from the law of sin and of death.**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

**43. I have life in my mortal body through His Spirit who dwells in me.**

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (Romans 8:11)

**44. I am a child of God.**

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)

**45. I am an heir of God and fellow heir with Christ.**

Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:17)

**46. All things are working together for my good.**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

**47. I have all things.**

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

**48. No power can separate me from the love of God.**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

**49. I have a measure of faith.**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3)

**50. I have been given gifts.**

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:6)

**51. Whether I live or die, I am the Lord's.**

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14:8)

**52. I am full of goodness and filled with all knowledge.**

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. (Romans 15:14)

**53. I am sanctified in Jesus Christ.**

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy... (1 Corinthians 1:2)

**54. I have been given the grace of God in Christ Jesus.**

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

**55. I do not lack any spiritual gift.**

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Corinthians 1:7)

**56. I am called into fellowship with Jesus Christ my Lord.**

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

**57. I have the mind of Christ.**

But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16)



**58. I am God's fellow-worker; I am God's field, God's building.**

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:9)

**59. I am a temple of God in which the Spirit of God dwells.**

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

**60. I have been bought with a price.**

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**61. I will be raised from the dead imperishable and put on immortality.**

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

**62. I am comforted by God so I can comfort others.**

...God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

**63. I am delivered from the peril of death.**

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. (2 Corinthians 1:10)

**64. I am sealed in Christ, and have been given his Spirit as a deposit.**

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

**65. I am being transformed into the likeness of the Lord.**

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**66. My inner man is being renewed day by day.**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

**67. I have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. (2 Corinthians 5:1)

**68. I walk by faith, not by sight.**

We live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**69. I am a new creation in Christ, old things have gone, the new has come.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**70. I have the ministry of reconciliation.**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

**71. I am an ambassador for Christ.**

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

**72. I have all sufficiency in everything.**

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 9:8)

**73. I am crucified with Christ.**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:20)

**74. I have the fruit of the Spirit.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:23)

**75. I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

**76. I am chosen in Him, holy and blameless before Him.**

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4)

**77. I am a son through Jesus Christ.**

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will... (Ephesians 1:5)

**78. I have been raised up and seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)

**79. I am saved by grace through faith.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8)

**80. I have a power source within me which is able to do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine.**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20)

**81. I am confident that He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion.**

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

**82. God is at work in me to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:13)

**83. The peace of God guards my heart and mind.**

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

**84. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

**85. God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

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

**86. I have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son.**

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13)

**87. All my sin debt was paid in full at the cross.**

He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)

**88. I will meet the Lord in the air.**

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

**89. God has not given me a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline.**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

**90. I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him.**

I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)

**91. The Lord has laid up for me the crown of righteousness.**

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8)

**92. Angels have been sent out to minister to me.**

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)

**93. As I enter God's rest I rest from my own work.**

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:9-10)

**94. I have a high priest who can sympathize with my weaknesses.**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

**95. I have a great cloud of witnesses surrounding me.**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

**96. God disciplines me for my good that I may share His holiness.**

God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. (Hebrews 12:10)

**97. I have received a kingdom which cannot be shaken.**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful... (Hebrews 12:28)

**98. God will never leave me or forsake me.**

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

**99. I am a chosen person, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, belonging to God.**

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

**100. I am a part of the family of God and I have received mercy.**

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

**101. By His wounds I am healed.**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

**102. I am an overcomer because the one who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.**

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

**103. I have confidence before Him if I ask anything according to His will.**

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

**104. He is able to keep me from falling and to present me before his presence.**

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- (Jude 24)

## 19 - MYSTERIOUS STORIES AND EVENTS

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**Another way of *Discovering the Mysterious* is through stories and events that take place in the lives of people. We are told in Psalm 96:3 to “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” Here are a few examples from my life:**

### *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 which 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 it was seldom used any, if at all. John certainly was not accustomed to seeing trains on it. It was the kind of tracks where you seldom stopped and looked because you had been over it so many times without seeing a train.

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 on 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! There was no ‘natural’ reason for him to see flashing lights!

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!

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

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### *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 happened. 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 - but from the field side of it this time. 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. Could I make it by car to Marion, 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 opened my eyes as the car came to a stop, 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 a 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 way 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**

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### *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 which 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**

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### ***THE LESSON***

Do you want to know what the Lord is like? I do! And as I go through life, I have found that He gives me "lessons" through which He teaches me about Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

One day He taught me a lesson which I have remembered ever since. It all started with the rain which came...and came...and came.

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!*

***In everything give thanks:  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

**1 Thess. 5:18**

\* \* \*

***DADDY***

We stood and thanked the judge, then made our way from the legal office to our car. God had just answered a desire of my heart which had taken many years to unfold.

It started many years ago before I had any children. I had just returned from Indiana University Medical Center where the doctor had recommended that it was time to consider adoption.

We had been married for nine years and had spent the last three years going through every type of procedure and test recommended by the specialists to help us get pregnant. Nothing had helped. We did not understand at the time why this was happening to us, but I now realize God had a unique plan to bring to us our first child - a very special baby girl He picked just for us - by adoption.

It was an exciting time once the decision was made! For ten months we filled out paperwork, received visits from the social worker...and waited. The waiting experience is one I will never forget because every day took on an adventurous excitement! Would today be the day of *THE IMPORTANT TELEPHONE CALL?*

Every time the phone rang, the thought went through my mind, "Will this be the call saying they have a baby for us?" Every plan we made was contingent upon "when the baby comes."

Then one day it actually happened! The call came! They had a baby girl for us! The excitement I felt at the time cannot be put into words. Life would be different for us from this moment on - forever - because we had a baby.... a little girl!

We experienced a whole year of the delight of seeing the world through the wondering eyes of a child. And now, today was the day to look back and reflect about what God had done in our lives by bringing Kim to us. This morning we made the trip to meet with the judge for the procedure to legally adopt Kim. We would have done this a year earlier if the law would have allowed. Now the day had finally arrived! After a year of having the silent concern that something might happen to take Kim from us, that concern was finally put to rest.

The judge finished all the questions and paperwork necessary, then relaxed as he addressed Kim for the first time. At one year old she did not understand the significance of what was happening, but she knew this was a stranger talking to her.

"Well, Kim, is there something you want to say about this?" questioned the judge in a friendly manner.

"Daddy!" she said, as she snuggled up in her father's lap for security in this strange circumstance. And we all laughed!

"I guess that expresses your answer pretty well!" laughed the judge. For, indeed, that day she legally had a "Daddy" in a way she did not comprehend until later in life. She had a family. And we had the child God meant for us. God had just performed another of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS!*

***Delight yourself in the Lord  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.***

**Psalm 37:4**

\* \* \*

### ***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 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. 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**

\* \* \*

## *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 me and my doctor. 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 who 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 words 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 two 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.***

**Phil. 4:19**

\* \* \*

***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 have heard 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.

\* \* \*

## *CHARGE OVER THEE*

My sister, Lois, 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...one which 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 which 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 Lois got the door on her side open, 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 road 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 told us 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 an emergency room, they had Lois 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 conference group 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**

\* \* \*

### ***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**

\* \* \*

### ***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**

\* \* \*

### ***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**

(In Hebrew custom, blessing was the act of a father.)

\* \* \*



## ***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 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, 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 Cor. 12:13**

\* \* \*

## *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**

\* \* \*

### ***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**

\* \* \*

### *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**

\* \* \*

## ***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, 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 which 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**

\* \* \*

### ***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**

\* \* \*

### ***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 Your 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.

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, and 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 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**

\* \* \*

### ***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 Chron. 28:9**

\* \* \*

## ***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**

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### ***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**

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