

ENCOURAGING  
WORDS  
Book 7

TO REVIEW  
FOR STRENGTHENING

By Joan Royer

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

A special thank you to my daughter, B,  
for inviting me to stay in her lovely quiet home  
during the months of writing this book,  
for letting me use her computer and printer,  
for putting this book on the internet,  
and for being such encouraging company.  
Thanks, B!

## **INTRODUCTION**

This book contains bits and pieces of encouraging words I have received from the Lord directly to me personally (*which will be in blue italics*), from the Bible, and through the writings of others. There are times when I need to review these encouraging words to strengthen me. Therefore, I offer them to you, the reader, to strengthen you also. You may wish to begin your own book of encouraging words the Lord gives you personally, from the Bible, and from others to keep for your own re-viewing and re-strengthening.

~ 1 ~

## A DREAM ABOUT MAKING THE TRIP HOME

A group of us were making a trip home together from someplace (maybe camp) where we were. I was working to help get stuff loaded in the vehicles and was to keep track of my hours. I learned I was to get double credit for my work hours.

Interpretation: the trip home is from life on earth to heaven. I must work to get all prepared for that trip and will be rewarded double for my time/work. I didn't have a vehicle to get me home, but I had to depend on someone else (the Holy Spirit or an angel) to transport me.

~ 2 ~

## SHARING WITH OTHERS ABOUT GOD AND JESUS

From Bill Hybels' book *Just Walk Across The Room* page 135-145 illustrations:

### THE BRIDGE

The Bridge--God loved you so much that he asked his Son to serve as a bridge to span the chasm that separated you from him.

Draw 4 pictures:

1. Us and God separated by a chasm
2. Write death due to sin in the chasm in between us
3. Christ came to earth to be our bridge (put cross between us and God, cross out death)
4. Draw arrow from us to God with cross in between



The Bible says that each one of us will face death. It's inevitable. But as Christ-followers know, death is just the stepping-over into eternal union with God, if we so choose. (John 3:16) When the appropriate time comes, I'm convinced you're going to grab that friend...and begin inching your way through the explanation of the great chasm that exists between people and God...the access, called grace, is available to anyone who will accept it and walk across God's bridge. The choice is theirs.

## DO VERSUS DONE

Do versus Done--You don't have to earn your way into God's favor; the work that Christ accomplished on the cross declared payment for your sin "done."

Write: DO/DONE

I tell people who are on the Earning-Grace Plan that "religion" is spelled D-O. At the end of the day, it's all about whether you *do* enough right things to earn God's favor. To get in God's good graces, the thinking goes, you have to *do* this and *do* that and strive and sacrifice and clean up your act and make all sorts of promises.

"But *Christianity*, on the other hand," I say to people, "is spelled D-O-N-E. the Bible says that what Christ did on the cross is *enough*. He did what you could never do--he uniquely satisfied God's requirement for a perfect sacrifice to take care of our past, present, and future sin--and if you receive what he accomplished, then not only will you be 'in God's good graces,' but your life will be made brand new. Because of what Christ did on the cross, your sins can be forgiven and you can find favor in God's eyes right here, right now."

## THE MORALITY LADDER

The Morality Ladder--Despite how good you are, you are far from perfect. The only way to make up your "morality gap," the gap between your standard of living and God's perfect and holy standard, is by relying on the person of Christ.

The "Morality Ladder" illustration expresses the universal need for God...envision morality as escalating rungs on a ladder. God sits at the top of the ladder because he is holy--he's *perfectly* moral...really evil people are at the bottom. The rest of humanity is somewhere in between...I ask them to put a mark somewhere on the ladder that represents where they believe they are, based on what kind of morals they keep.

I put in Mother Teresa and Billy Graham and myself.

[ ] GOD  
[ ]  
[ ]  
[ ] MT  
[ ] BG  
[ ]  
[ ] ME  
[ ]  
[ ]  
[ ]  
[ ]  
[ ] SERIAL KILLERS, ETC.

Believe in the power of the gospel, friends. And then commit yourself to learning a few illustrations so that you can tell God's story with passion. The stakes are too high to neglect your role in communicating God's life-giving story to a dying world.

Remind the person he can take his time. This is a huge decision. I'm available to help you sort it all out.

(page 156-168)

### #1 Bridge the Chasm

Find people where they live  
Relate to them as they are  
Walk by their side toward the Father.

### #2 Ask the Question

Ask a simple question to test the waters and see if he is willing to keep talking...rely on the answer to tell how quickly or slowly to move in the conversation.

Possible questions:

- Why do you think there are so many religions in the world?
- Do you think it's possible for anyone to really know if there is a God?
- What do you think are the most common misconceptions people have about God?
- Do you think there's really such a thing as "unconditional love"?
- How has your belief or disbelief in God affected your life?
- Do you believe God is actively involved in our world?
- Is there such a thing as destiny?
- What do you hope is true about God?

### #3 Practice Patience

### #4 Beware of rabbit trails

Ask God supernaturally to reveal the needs of people in your life, and then find a way to tell them with confidence that there is a God in heaven who created them, who loves them, who has already gone before them, and who will be their everlasting Peacemaker if they so choose.

~ 3 ~

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, LORD?**

I asked the Lord: "What are You doing in the world right now, Lord?"

He answered:

- *I'm preparing the earth for the tribulation to soon come. That's why I had you read all those books about it recently - to remind you.*
- *I'm preparing My people to soon be raptured and to take the Restrainer out of the way so the tribulation events can come about.*
- *I'm sending My people all over the world to share My good news - mostly via TV and the internet, just before the Rapture.*
- *I'm getting you and your daughters and son-in-law ready to "Come up here"(Revelation 4:1) and giving you the experiences you need while still on earth.*
- *Since the Rapture takes all of Mine in one moment, that means some will have their full years to grow (like you) and some will only have a little/few. But that's ok. I know all about it. It's part of My plan.*

~ 4 ~

## **A DREAM ABOUT SHEETS OF STICKERS OVER MY SHOES**

In my dream I had sheets of stickers which I had over my pairs of shoes...a sheet for each pair. These sheets were about 8 1/2 x 11 or about 6 x 11. The sheets were each different bright metallic colors. I would grasp each sheet with tongs when I picked them up. I was in the process of picking up each sheet and putting them in a file folder to keep them protected and in good shape.

Shoes can mean words, Gospel, covenant, preparation, and/or peace. A shoe usually indicates how one's path is traveled. This dream indicates I had many pairs of shoes, so that could mean I have traveled in many different ways in my lifetime.

The sheets of stickers covering my shoes/words/path traveled may indicate there has been a covering over me during all that time, even though it varied in color and size. Metallic stickers mean something pretty and eye catching to me. The dream shows me picking all these up very carefully and storing them in a file folder for protection and preservation. Perhaps that could refer to my writings (words) which I am carefully storing for others to use after I'm not here.

~ 5 ~

# TEST QUESTIONS FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

(Quote from book by Mark Hitchcock called *55 Answers to Questions About Life After Death*)

From chapter 29 "Are There Rewards in Heaven?" p. 148

## The preparation for the judgment seat

The Bible tells us that the great test day for our lives as God's children is coming. But like a kind, gracious teacher, God has given us the "test questions" for the judgment seat of Christ beforehand. It's our job to study these test questions so we can be prepared, and make an "A" on the final exam. Here is a list of some of the main areas in our lives that will be tested when we stand before the Lord:

1. How we treat other believers (Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 10:41-42)

### **Hebrews 6:10**

**For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.**

### **Matthew 10:41-42**

**If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."**

2. How we employ our God-given talents and abilities (Matthew 25:14-29; Luke 19:11-26; 1 Corinthians 12:4; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10)

### **Matthew 25:14-29**

**"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.**

**"The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.**

**"After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'**

**"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'**

**"The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'**

**“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’**

**“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’**

**“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’**

**“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.**

#### **Luke 19:11-26**

**The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’**

**“After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’**

**“‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’**

**“The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’**

**“‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’**

**“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’**

**“‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’**

**“Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’**

**“‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’**

**“‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:4**

**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.**

#### **2 Timothy 1:6**

**This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.**



**1 Peter 4:10**

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

3. How we use our money (Matthew 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

**Matthew 6:1-4**

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

4. How well we accept mistreatment and injustice (Matthew 5:11-12; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 6:27-28, 35; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:12-13)

**Matthew 5:11-12**

“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

**Mark 10:29-30**

“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

**Luke 6:27-28, 35**

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

**Romans 8:18**

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

**2 Corinthians 4:17**

For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

5. How we endure suffering and trials (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)

**James 1:12**

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**Revelation 2:10**

Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

6. How we spend our time (Psalm 90:9-12; Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 1:17)

**Psalm 90:9-12**

We live our lives beneath your wrath, ending our years with a groan. Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away. Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve. Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

**Ephesians 5:16**

Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

**Colossians 4:5**

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

**1 Peter 1:17**

And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land."

7. How we run the particular race God has given us (1 Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 2:16; 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1)

**1 Corinthians 9:24**

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!

**Philippians 2:16**

Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

**Philippians 3:13-14**

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**Hebrews 12:1**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

8. How effectively we control our fleshly appetites (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27**

All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

9. How many souls we witness to and win for Christ (Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

**Proverbs 11:30**

The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life; a wise person wins friends.

**Daniel 12:3**

Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20**

After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy.

10. How much the doctrine of the Rapture means to us (2 Timothy 4:8)

**2 Timothy 4:8**

And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

11. How faithful we are to God's Word and God's people (Acts 20:26-28; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1; 1 Peter 5:1-2; 2 John 1:7-8)

**Acts 20:26-28**

I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.

## **2 Timothy 4:1-2**

**I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.**

## **Hebrews 13:17**

**Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.**

## **James 3:1**

**Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

## **1 Peter 5:1-2**

**And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.**

## **2 John 1:7-8**

**I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.**

12. How hospitable we are to strangers (Matthew 25:35-36; Luke 14:13-14)

### **Matthew 25:35-36**

**For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'**

### **Luke 14:12-14**

**Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."**

13. How faithful we are in our vocation (Colossians 3:22-24)

### **Colossians 3:22-24**

**Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.**

**Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.**

14. How we use our tongue (Matthew 12:36; James 3:1-12)

**Matthew 12:36**

**And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.**

**James 3:1-12**

**Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.**

**We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.**

**But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.**

**People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.**

Carefully consider this list. Read the verses. Develop and grow in these areas of your life so that when you stand before the Lord someday, you can hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21 NIV).

~ 6 ~

## **THIS PLEASES GOD**

*B will be part of your provision for you to live. And you will be part of your provision. And someone/something else will provide the rest. I want her to help you. She is your daughter. I bless her through her blessing you. So let her. I'm not expecting you to provide for yourself in your elder years. I make families to help each other, and I bless them for doing it. It will all work out rightly in My time. I'm blessing B for keeping you here. She learns a lot from you.*

A Scripture I read this morning from 1 Timothy 5:3-4

**Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God. (1 Timothy 5:3-4)**

~ 7 ~

## **APPROACHING GOD**

(Quotes from Juanita Bynum's book *The Threshing Floor*, p 12ff)

We must be taught how to effectually approach God so that we can receive answers to our prayers.

First of all, we learn to approach God by worshiping at the Beautiful Gate. There are four colors represented here: white, blue, purple, and scarlet. (white = righteousness of Jesus, blue = Christ as Heavenly One, purple = royalty/kingship, scarlet = shedding His blood)...when you enter into prayer through the East Gate, you are acknowledging the four works of Jesus Christ as expressed in the Gospels. You cannot approach God correctly unless you go through His works!...To pass through the gate, you must accept His works as part of your life...must be thankful for what He has done.

### **John 10:24-27**

**So the Jews surrounded Him and began asking Him, How long are You going to keep us in doubt and suspense? If You are really the Christ (the Messiah), tell us so plainly and openly. Jesus answered them, I have told you so, yet you do not believe Me [you do not trust Me and rely on Me]. The very works that I do by the power of My Father and in My Father's name bear witness concerning Me [they are My credentials and evidence in support of Me]. But you do not believe and trust and rely on Me because you do not belong to My fold [you are no sheep of Mine]. The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.**

You can boldly approach God's throne, but only through the pattern of the finished, perfect works of Jesus Christ. When Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," He was marking the path to effective prayer. The *gate* is "the way"; the *holy place* (inner court) is "the truth"; and "the life" shines through God's perfected light in the *most holy place*.

*You come to Me each morning when you come through the "gate" of My name, My works, and your relationship with Me. That gate stays open as you go through your day, and I fill you with truth and life from Me and through Me.*

## PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY OF THE END TIMES

I want to put in my journal the "Proposed chronology of the end times" by Mark Hitchcock from his book *Iran: The Coming Crisis*, page 201ff

1. Events in heaven
  - A. The Rapture of the Church (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:10)
  - B. The Judgment seat of Christ (Rev. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 4:1-5; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10)
  - C. The Marriage of the Lamb (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-8)
  - D. The Singing of two special songs (Rev. 4-5)
  - E. The Lamb receiving the seven-sealed scroll (Rev. 5)
  
2. Events on earth
  - A. Seven-year tribulation
    1. Beginning of the tribulation
      - a. Seven-year tribulation begins when the Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel, bringing peace to Israel and Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27; Ezekiel 38:8,11)
      - b. The Jewish temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 11:1)
      - c. The reunited Roman Empire emerges in a ten-leader configuration (Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7; Rev. 17:12)
    2. First Half (3 1/2 years) of the Tribulation
      - a. The seven seal judgments are opened (Rev.6)
      - b. The 144,000 Jewish believers begin their great evangelistic ministry (Rev.7)
      - c. Gog and his allies invade Israel and are decimated by God (Dan. 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38-39)
    3. The midpoint of the tribulation
      - a. Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and invades the land. (Dan. 9:27;11:40-41)
      - b. Antichrist begins to consolidate his empire by plundering Egypt, Sudan, and Libya, whose armies have just been destroyed by God in Israel.(Dan. 11:42-43; Eze. 38-39)
      - c. While in North Africa, Antichrist hears disturbing news of insurrection in Israel and immediately returns there to destroy and annihilate many. (Dan. 11:44)
      - d. Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt temple of Jerusalem. (Dan. 9:27; 22:45a; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5, 15-18)
      - e. Sometime during these events, the Antichrist is violently killed, possibly as a result of a war or assassination. (Dan. 11:45; Rev. 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8)
      - f. Satan is cast down from heaven and begins to make war with Israel. (Rev. 12:7-13) The chief means he uses to persecute Israel is the two beasts in Revelation 13.
      - g. The faithful Jewish remnant flee to Petra in modern Jordan, where they are divinely protected for the remainder of the tribulation. (Matt. 24:16-20; Rev. 12:15-17)
      - h. The Antichrist is miraculously raised from the dead to the awestruck amazement of the entire world. (Rev. 13:3)
      - i. After his resurrection from the dead, the Antichrist gains political control over the ten kings of the reunited Roman Empire. Three of these kings will be killed by the Antichrist, and the other seven will submit. Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12-13)

- j. The Two Witnesses begin their three-and-a-half-year ministry. (Rev. 11:3-6)
- k. Antichrist and the ten kings destroy the religious system of Babylon and set up their religious capital in the city. (Rev. 17:16-17)
- 4. Last half (3 1/2 years) of the Tribulation
  - a. Antichrist blasphemes God and the false prophet performs great signs and wonders and promotes false worship of the Antichrist. (Rev. 13:5, 11-15)
  - b. The mark of the beast (666) is introduced and enforced by the false prophet. (Rev. 13:16-18)
  - c. Totally energized by Satan, the Antichrist dominates the world politically, religiously, and economically. (Rev. 13:4-5, 15-18)
  - d. The trumpet judgments are unleashed throughout the final half of the Tribulation. (Rev. 8-9)
  - e. Knowing he has only a short time left, Satan intensifies his relentless, merciless persecution of the Jewish people and Gentile believers on earth. (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:12; 13:15; 20:4)
- 5. The end of the Tribulation
  - a. The bowl judgments are poured out in rapid succession (Rev 16)
  - b. The campaign of Armageddon begins (Rev. 16:16)
  - c. Commercial Babylon is destroyed (Rev. 18)
  - d. The two witnesses are killed by Antichrist and are resurrected by God three and a half days later (Rev. 11:7-12)
  - e. Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and slays the armies gathered against Him throughout the land, from Megiddo to Petra (Rev. 19:11-16; Isaiah 34:1-6; 63:1-6)
  - f. The birds gather to feed on the carnage. (Rev. 19:17-18)
- B. After the Tribulation
  - 1. Interval or Transition period of seventy-five days (Daniel 12:12)
    - a. The Antichrist and false prophet are cast in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20-21)
    - b. The abomination of desolation is removed from the temple (Daniel 12:11)
    - c. Israel is regathered (Matt. 24:31)
    - d. Israel is judged (Ezekiel 20:30-39; Matt. 25:1-30)
    - e. Gentiles are judged (Matt 25:31-46)
    - f. Satan is bound in the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3)
    - g. Old Testament and Tribulation saints are resurrected (Daniel 12:1-3; Isaiah 26:19; Revelation 20:4)
  - 2. One-thousand-year reign of Christ on Earth (Rev. 20:4-6)
  - 3. Satan's final revolt and defeat (Rev. 20:7-10)
  - 4. The Great White Throne Judgment of the lost (Rev. 20:11-15)
  - 5. The destruction of the present heavens and Earth (Matt. 24:35; 2 Peter 3:3-12) Rev. 21:1)
  - 6. The creation of the New Heavens and New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1)
  - 7. Eternity (Rev. 21:9-22:5)



This song has been going through my head over and over this morning. I think it is a message to me-

(A song)

*Freely, freely you have received,*

*Freely, freely give.*

*Go in My name and because you believe,*

*Others will know that I live.*

~ 10 ~

## **A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM ABOUT THREE PICTURES WITH BLUE IN THEM**

There was a series of three pictures that came as a dream within a dream. I knew I had seen the 3 pictures before, and in the dream I pondered them and what they might mean. Each picture had the color blue showing in it somewhere, but no other colors. It was a peaceful dream and it seemed like I would never forget the 3 pictures while I was dreaming about dreaming them. One picture was a canoe. It seemed to be sitting in a holder which was blue. Another picture is on the fringe of my memory, but not clear. But it had a blue area in it also.

- Three: Trinity, conform, obey, imitate, copy, likeness
- Blue: communion, revelation, revelatory, spiritual
- Canoe: (My thought): a canoe floats gently on top of the river water and lets the water take it wherever it wants - like the leaf doing that through which God gave me a revelation at Shelter Garden.
- Boat: support, life, person, recreation, spare time, personal ministry
- Blue holder: being held spiritually by God
- Where am I in the dream? I am the only participant. I am observing the three pictures and pondering the meaning of them. It's about me and my relationship with God.
- Dreaming that you are dreaming: message, a message within a message, aspiration, vision
- Double dream: very important, usually destiny, life call, things God doesn't want you to miss

**For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. (Job 33:14-16)**

This seems to be a revelation dream. God is revealing to me that He has a dream for me with 3 pictures in it. I am being shown as a person pondering the meaning of the dream within a dream.

All 3 pictures reveal spiritual realities because of the blue involved. In the one dream I remember, He shows me as a person who is being held by Him. The canoe also can show me as a person who can float tranquilly in the River of Life which He takes me on.

The three pictures can refer to my being conformed to and obedient to Him, the Trinity. It's a very positive dream to inform me and comfort me that the way my life is going is good, and He is leading it and in control of it - it is what He wants from my life, my "boat"...which can mean my self and/or my personal ministry.

According to the Scripture from Job, God was "opening my ears and sealing my instruction." Since this was a dream within a dream it is a message from God, something that I am to aspire to, a vision I am to see, behold, and contemplate. It's something about my destiny, my life call, that God doesn't want me to miss, and it's very important. In this dream I felt I had dreamt about these 3 pictures at other times too.

~ 11 ~

## THE RESURRECTIONS

During this week I studied the book by Dr. David Jeremiah called *Escape The Coming Night*. It explained the book of Revelation in a very understandable way. He talked extensively regarding the pre-tribulation Rapture and then what would follow during the 7 years of Tribulation. He discussed the various resurrections, when they would happen, and the judgments. Dr. Jeremiah says the resurrections come:

1. The Christians (Bride of Christ) at the Rapture before the 7 Tribulation years
2. The Old Testament believers and the Tribulation believers at the end of the Tribulation
3. The unbelievers at the end of the Millenium.

~ 12 ~

## GOD'S CHOSEN AND CALLED

Today I was reading **Proverbs 16:4** which says:

**The Lord has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for a day of disaster.**

The idea which came to me was one I had wondered about many times: Did the Lord make the wicked for a day of disaster and make His own for learning and pruning while on this earth using the wicked to help do this. I began looking up Scriptures, which might apply to this idea...

## **SCRIPTURES ON OBJECTS OF WRATH AND OBJECTS OF GLORY--**

### **GOD MADE SOME FOR MERCY AND SOME FOR DESTRUCTION**

#### **Isaiah 43:1-13**

**But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.**

**I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.**

**“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. I will say to the north and south, ‘Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’”**

**Bring out the people who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf. Gather the nations together! Assemble the peoples of the world! Which of their idols has ever foretold such things? Which can predict what will happen tomorrow? Where are the witnesses of such predictions? Who can verify that they spoke the truth?**

**“But you are my witnesses, O Israel!” says the Lord. “You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God. There is no other God—there never has been, and there never will be. I, yes I, am the Lord, and there is no other Savior.**

**"First I predicted your rescue, then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world. No foreign god has ever done this. You are witnesses that I am the only God,” says the Lord. “From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.”**

#### **Isaiah 43:25**

**“I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.**

#### **Romans 9:22**

**In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.**

#### **Romans 11:33-36 33**

**Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.**

#### **Galatians 4:21-31**

**Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.**

**These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law.**

**But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother. As Isaiah said, "Rejoice, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into a joyful shout, you who have never been in labor! For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband!"**

**And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit. But what do the Scriptures say about that? "Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the inheritance with the free woman's son." So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman; we are children of the free woman.**

#### **Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43**

**Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.**

**When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?"**

**"An enemy has done this!" the farmer exclaimed. "Should we pull out the weeds?" they asked. "No," he replied, "you'll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn."**

**... Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.**

**“Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!**

#### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

**All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**

**So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.**

**God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.**

**Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.**

**And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.**

#### **2 Timothy 2:20-21**

**In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.**

#### **Romans 8:28-30**

**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.**

#### **Romans 9:20-24**

No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"

When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.

He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles.

#### **Romans 9:10-16**

This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau."

Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."

So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

#### **Romans 11:1-7**

I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

And do you remember God's reply? He said, "No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!"

It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened.

#### **Romans 11:22**

Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.

**John 6:44-45**

For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

**Acts 2:38-39**

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

**1 Thess. 1:4**

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.

**2 Peter 1:10**

So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.

**Mark 13:20**

In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.

**1 Cor. 1:26-28**

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.

**Acts 13:48**

When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers.

Today Pastor A taught us part 3 of his series on "Contending for the Prophetic". One Scripture He had us look up was Isaiah 1:2 which says:

**Listen, O heavens! Pay attention, earth! This is what the Lord says..."**

Pastor used that as an example of how we are to proclaim/declare to the heavens and earth what the Lord says to us - as a prophetic word He has given us.

~ 14 ~

## FINDING PEACE

Today I scanned the book by Charles Stanley called *Finding Peace*. I want to put in my journal the outline of some of the things he wrote there:

Why We Lose Our Peace  
(46)

There is only one way to experience an abiding peace that transcends circumstances. The answer is "by faith." By faith we ask and then trust God to be present in our lives....We have asked God to accept and forgive us and to be present in our lives with His abiding peace, and then we go out and live expecting Him to do the very thing we trust Him to do.

There are certain issues that can rob us of our peace:

1. Sudden fear
2. The enemy
3. Sin
4. Giving up peace
5. Losing focus (not thanking and praising, limiting God by my thoughts, dwelling on negatives)

(64) Five essential beliefs for a peaceful heart

1. God is absolutely sovereign (Psalm 91)
2. God is your provider
3. God made you the way you are for a purpose
4. God has a place where you truly belong
5. God has a plan for your fulfillment

(260) Overcoming fear: the nature of our fears

1. fear of sin's consequences
2. fear of danger and harm
3. fear of evil
4. fear of disobeying God



(275) Seven steps to overcoming fear

1. Acknowledge the fear you experience
2. Ask immediately for God's help
3. Determine the root fear
4. Go to God's Word
5. Praise the Lord
6. Take a positive step as part of your deliverance or healing
7. Make a decision that you are not going to live in fear

(297) Four keys to living in contentment

1. Cut the "conditional" bonds. Recognize that there is nothing you can do to make another person love you unconditionally.
2. Cast all your cares on the Lord
3. Stay in the Word
4. Take charge of your thinking. Maintain your focus on the Lord

~ 15 ~

## HIS PRIZED POSSESSION

**He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. (James 1:18 NLT)**

*And I did chose you, Joan, along with others who believe in My Son, Jesus Christ, to be My prized possession. Just like I chose the Israelites you read about today back in the Old Testament (Deut. 26-30). They were My prized possession and I prepared them to receive My Son, Jesus, but many of them rejected Him. So I set Myself to call out and chose for Myself those who WILL believe in My Son, and make them holy unto Me. You are one of those called and chosen. Know that you get all those blessings listed as you keep yourself holy and set apart and obedient unto Me. I love you and want to share/spend My life with you.*

Amazing, Lord!

*Yes, it is amazing, but it's true. I am a God of love, and I set apart a people whom I love. My love encompasses everything regarding those whom I love - from healing, to forgiveness, to prosperity, to protection, to rewards in heaven and eternal life living with Me.*

**Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? (James 2:5 NLT)**

*You see, Joan, when you made the choice to be poor in this world by telling Me you didn't want a bunch of money to have to invest, handle, etc, but just enough to live on daily, you made a very important choice. You made the right choice. It pleased Me, and I have taken care of your daily needs for all the rest of your life. You are depending on Me and not on your money.*

**But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. Its is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:17-18 NLT)**

I asked the Lord about my motives for asking Him to provide for something. He asked me a series of questions regarding it:

*Are you seeking it because I want you to? (yes)*

*Are you pushing to get it in your own power or letting Me decide about it? (letting You decide it)*

*Are you willing to let it go and go somewhere else if I say so? (yes)*

*Are you trying to steal it from someone else? (no)*

*Then don't worry about having wrong motives. You are not trying to get it on your own power and ways, but purely by My power and ways. You do not have wrong motives.*

**So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you....humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (James 4:7-8, 10 NLT)**

**Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-8 NLT)**

**Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (James 5:14-16 NLT)**

## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

Today at church K and CB met with me a little bit and K spoke to me about a word he had for me back in October when I didn't attend the last meeting of his conference and so didn't receive that word from him.

He basically said the word was in response to the letter I sent to them last June when I asked for prayer regarding a place where I was to move. He said I should not be in a hurry to move, but to wait until it was clearly from the Lord...that I should "embrace" the season of time while I am at B's. C talked to me about it being very important that I wait for the Lord's timing on this.

K said they were going to be gone for about 3 weeks and when they return they want to have B and me over for dinner sometime. They are such precious friends and are such a blessing to us! Thank You, Lord, for this word confirming what You have already been showing me.

~ 17 ~

## CO-LABORERS

Today I have been reading from David Jeremiah's book called *Prayer Matrix*. I want to quote here a very meaningful section pages 49-52

### THE MYSTERY OF THE MATRIX

So it is that God has made certain things dependent upon prayer, things that will never be done unless we pray. Could God do whatever He chooses without our prayer? Of course. But God has determined that He will use the prayers of His people to accomplish His purposes of salvation and redemption on this earth, and His purpose of bringing glory to His name for all eternity.

When Jesus tells us in Matthew 7 to ask and to seek and to knock, it wasn't the first time in the Sermon on the Mount that He'd spoken about prayer. Earlier (in Matthew 6:5-8) He taught us not to pray publicly to impress others and not to pray with "vain repetitions" of words to impress God (He doesn't want mere language from us; He wants real communication). Jesus then went on to give us an outline for prayer's content (Matthew 6:9-13), an outline we commonly call the Lord's Prayer. And in that outline we see more of the mystery of the prayer matrix:

The God who has made it perfectly clear in the pages of the Bible that He's in control of every detail in this universe, and who promises that He will reign as King for all eternity, still asks us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

The God who has lovingly promised throughout Scripture to be our faithful Father and Provider still asks us to daily pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (6:11).

The God who has given us the priceless gift of forgiveness through the death of His Son still asks us to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (6:12).

The God who is our Good Shepherd, who promises to lead us in paths of righteousness, who has pledged to protect us from Satan's power and to not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear, still asks us to pray, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (6:13).

And so in obedience to His commands and to the spiritual laws of this universe, we pray. And as we pray, the kingdom and the power and the glory are indeed His forever!

### YOUR BEST WORK

"Prayer is everything," Oswald Chambers wrote. Whatever's happening in this world for God, prayer is always at the critical center.

Andrew Murray seemed to understand this about as well as anybody, as evidenced in *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. He declared this about prayer: "The powers of the eternal world have been placed at its disposal." He describes prayer as "the very essence of true religion, the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life." Murray looked at the commands and promises Jesus gave us about prayer in Matthew 7:7-8 and called them "the fixed eternal law of the kingdom." And he added, "Though in its beginnings prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, yet it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise."

Prayer is the greatest and best thing for God you'll ever do. "Prayer does not fit us for the greater works," writes Oswald Chambers; "prayer is the greater work." Murray speaks of prayer as "the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work."

You can commit your life to a ministry of prayer, and thereby touch the world. You can go to Africa, to China, to India, to Russia, to the Middle East, to South America--anywhere, by going to the throne of God in prayer for those men and women who serve the kingdom's work out among all of those places. You can literally affect what is going on throughout this world by praying. But you've got to pray.

Listen again to Andrew Murray: "Christ has opened the school of prayer specially to train intercessors for the great work of bringing down, by their faith, and prayer, the blessings of His work and love on the world around."

It ought to take away our breath to realize that our almighty God invites us to have such a huge part in the work of bringing in His kingdom for all eternity.

*You see, My purpose is not just to do things. I could do those on My own. My purpose is to build a relationship with My people, a co-laboring relationship, a fellowship of fellow workers. So My greater purpose - to build this relationship - would not be accomplished if I just did all "things" by Myself.*

*I want to know you, and want you to know Me. I want to relate with you and communicate with you, and I want you to do that with Me also. So we work on things together to accomplish much more than accomplishing those things. I created you to have fellowship with you and I will accomplish My purpose.*

*So you see, your work here at B's house of communicating with Me every day is the greater work I have for you. As KB told you last Sunday: "Embrace the season of life you are in right now." That is because it is your greater work that I have been training you for.*

*I made you like you are, quiet and introverted and able to hear Me, so you could do this greater work. Now I want you to recognize the importance of it and do it every day...not*

*just for your usual prayer bundle, but for all things I guide you to pray for. Are you willing? (Yes) Then we will continue the training and practice of prayer together - as a team...as co-laborers.*

~ 18 ~

## **ANOINTED BOOKS**

Yesterday I listened to messages #10, 11, 12 of John Bevere regarding *Drawing Near* on DVD. What he said confirmed so many things the Lord has taught me also - so it was very encouraging! He said when he was writing a book and got stuck (with nothing more coming to write) he would pray in tongues and ideas would start flowing again.

He said when he reads a book that's anointed, Holy Spirit will speak to him as he reads it!

This is what He has taught me too!

When John prayed in tongues he would ask Holy Spirit to interpret for him.

~ 19 ~

## **LIFE AFTER DEATH**

A list of the questions in the book by Mark Hitchcock called *55 Answers to questions about Life After Death*.

1. What is death?
2. Where do people go when they die?
3. Is there an appointed time to die?
4. Will everybody die?
5. Is purgatory real?
6. Should we pray for those who have died?
7. What about soul sleep?
8. What about near-death experiences?
9. Do some people get a glimpse of heaven before they die?
10. Is reincarnation consistent with the Bible?
11. Can the dead communicate with the living?
12. Is fear of death normal?

13. Should Christians be cremated?
14. Is hell a real place?
15. What is hell like?
16. Are there different parts of the underworld?
17. How can a loving God send people to hell?
18. Is hell in the center of the earth?
19. Will people in hell ever have a second chance?
20. Will hell really last forever?
21. Will everyone be punished the same in hell?
22. Is Heaven a real place?
23. What are some of the other names for Heaven?
24. Why should we spend time thinking about Heaven?
25. What is Heaven like?
26. What about people who claim to have visited Heaven?
27. Does St. Peter really sit at the pearly gates of Heaven?
28. Will people in Heaven play harps?
29. Are there rewards in Heaven?
30. What kinds of rewards will God give?
31. Will every believer receive a reward in Heaven?
32. When Christians die, do angels carry them to Heaven?
33. Do people become angels in Heaven?
34. Will we know each other in Heaven?
35. Will we know everything in Heaven?
36. What will we do in Heaven?
37. Will Heaven be boring?
38. Can people in Heaven see what's happening on earth?
39. How can Christians enjoy Heaven knowing that people are in hell?
40. Is there time in Heaven?
41. Will there be marriage in Heaven?
42. Is there sex in Heaven?
43. Do people in Heaven wear clothes?
44. Will we eat in Heaven?
45. Will Jesus still have scars in Heaven?
46. Will we see God in Heaven?
47. What kind of body will we have in Heaven?
48. When do we get our new body?
49. Do people in Heaven right now have a temporary body?
50. How old will we appear to be in Heaven?
51. Do people who commit suicide go to Heaven?
52. Can homosexuals go to Heaven?
53. Will there be animals in Heaven?
54. Do infants and children who die go to heaven?
55. Will you go to Heaven?

~ 20 ~

## WHEAT PLANTED IN A FIELD OF THE WORLD

This is the idea that formed in me today from the Lord as I pondered the Scriptures I was reading (from Matthew 26).

We who belong to God all lived previously before we were born into the world. We lived with God from the foundation of the world when He "knew" us somehow. We came to earth and were wheat "planted in a field" of the world to grow until the harvest of each of our lives. The enemy planted tares in the field of the world along with the wheat (Matthew 13:24).

Jesus came to seek and save those who would believe in Him - those who were His own. They are never satisfied on earth until they find Him and get back into fellowship with Him. When Jesus was on earth He said the Father would bring His own to Him (John 6:37). He taught about His lost sheep He came to find in Luke 15.

In John 6:37:40 Jesus says:

**However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:37-40)**

~ 21 ~

## MY 71<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY

Are You here, Lord?

*Yes, I am here, and you are anointed to hear Me today...your birthday. It was a very important and very meaningful day - the day you were born - just as you read about last night in your book. I knit you together in your mother's womb and formed you and shaped you to be just like I wanted you to be. You trusted Me to do that, and I did it. You and I were "best friends" before you came here to earth, and we have come back to that position of being "best friends" WHILE on earth - one of our goals.*

Did we have other goals, Lord?

*Yes, we did, and I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled - in you, Joan. Joan is the name I gave you before you were even born. I like that name and I caused you to like that name too. I gave it to your parents for you - child of joy. You were a joy to your earthly parents, and you are a joy to Me. You have listened to Me speak to your inward self, and have followed My words well. At 71 years of age you have reached a close and meaningful place with Me - a place where you and I meet regularly and commune daily with each other. I love the "secret place" of our meeting and communing, and I know you do too. That is the greatest accomplishment you have attained on earth. It was My greatest goal for you. You and I talked about it before you came to earth. You had a "knowing" inside you that this is where you were headed - to the "secret place" with Me.*

*As a child you identified it in that book called "The Quiet Place". The title intrigued you, and also the concept that there was such a place that existed. You longed for that yourself. You knew it was good and desirable. Therefore, when I called you (in 2000) to stop your discipleship work and spend time getting to know Me intimately, you wanted to do that. It was already planted in your heart as a seed to be grown and developed. You are Mine, Joan, and always have been Mine. I sent Mine to the earth, knowing you would come under the curse of sin, but with plans to redeem you, so you could be prepared to rule and reign with Me in the future New Heavens and New Earth. It is a place of honor and importance, so it was worth risking coming to earth for.*

*I love you, My child, and I have always loved you. I created you (as I created the angels) for Me to love and fellowship with you. That is My purpose; that is My joy. And you fill My joy for you. Thank you for living these 71 years with Me, Joan. Truly I have been with you all of the 71 years, and My guardian angel has been with you all of those 71 years too. We have been watching over you and molding and shaping you to be exactly what I created you to be. I am pleased with My creation, Joan - you.*

~ 22 ~

## **LEARN TO BE CONTENT**

While seeking what is in God's heart, He said:

*Don't worry about your body, Joan, what it looks like - for it will be made new soon. I'll keep it functioning well enough while you are on this earth. You don't have to please anyone with it - not even the doctor, or a husband, or people...just yourself. And you can learn to be content with it for a little bit more.*



## ENVISION WHAT THE LORD WANTS TO HAPPEN - THEN PRAY FOR IT

I was dreaming of watching a play rehearsal and waiting for my cue to go onstage. The director would try out different things until he got it to look like he wanted it to.

*He has to dream it through. He has to imagine it through - just like a director of a play imagines through and tries out/practices the various scenes of a play on stage.*

Is that a clue, Lord, of how to pray for something? To imagine it through until I can "see" it spiritually? (like "seeing" a healing finished or "seeing" a person as a Christian)

*The answer is yes.*

Is that the way You want me to pray?

*Sometimes - when I remind you of this idea. You were imagining people coming late to a MasterLife class and what you would do if so.*

*Now imagine what you and I want to happen in such a class.*

*Ask Me to help you envision what I want to happen - then pray for it and picture it in your mind as you pray. That's what I want you to do.*

## THE DYNAMIC OF FAITH

(Quotes from book *How To Be Good Without Really Trying* by Mike Flynn)

(33) God has decided that He and you collaborate through the primary dynamic of faith. And while He has decided that you take action on what He says as an act of your will, He does not speak to your will when He is talking. Rather, He talks to your spirit. From there you must translate His words to your mind and your emotions. Your will must assess what He has said while taking input from your mind and emotions, and then finally you decide to take action or inaction.

The difficulty comes in the strength with which He speaks. God's *modus operandi* for us is stated in Hebrews: "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). What that means is that you do not get to be sure of what He is saying prior to the need to take action on what He has said. You operate

either in faith or certainty but not both at the same time. If you are positive about something, you do not need faith, do you? Faith is needed when it is possible and even probable that God is saying to do something, but you are not sure about it.

If God spoke so loudly that there was no doubt about something, faith would not be necessary. But He wants us to have faith. Faith is the coin of His realm. It is what frees Him to work. This is not mechanical--He is not a vending machine--but personal. Faith is being persuaded that He wants you to do something, but persuasion is not certainty.

So God's problem is how to speak loudly enough that we hear but not so loudly that we have no doubt. Do not ask me why He works this way. I do not particularly like it, but I am resigned that it is the way that God's business goes. I am never completely at ease when I am hearing and obeying Him. But this forces me into a greater dependence on Him, and I have found that dependence on Him is always profitable.

(55) God has designed things so that the *how* is lived before it is understood. In fact, it is the living that allows the understanding to occur. You *do* it, and that enables you to *understand* it; but even then, the doing exceeds the understanding. How do you do it? You act--in thought and attitude and action--as if the thing were true. You act as if the sinful you died when Jesus died and the obedient you was raised when He was raised. You act as if the Spirit will back up your no to the flesh and keep you from behaving in accord with its wishes. You act as if you are following Jesus the Pure, Jesus the Mature.

You act as if He is in you and you are in Him. You act as if He knows how to live His own life in you. You act as if He is who He says He is and you are who He says you are.

"Well, isn't that just an act?" you might exclaim. Sure it is. But do not let your opinion of "just an act" sabotage the biblical view that *acting as if* is exactly what faith is. Jesus provides the clue in John 7:17: "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own." In other words, doing precedes comprehending. This is not acting as if something false were true. It is releasing the truth into actuality by taking steps that prove its truthfulness.

(56) As I seek to contain and give forth the Lord Jesus, somehow He mobilizes the best of me-in-Him and sends both of us forth from me for others. It is the most amazing free-flow collaboration. As I try to give Him forth, He likes sounding like me. It is not that I diminish in the act of giving forth Jesus. Rather, it is that He enlarges me or intensifies what it is to be me and gladly wears me--my body, my personality, my vocabulary--as I seek to relate with others in Him. I cannot die to self fast enough to stay dead, for He is too quick in the raising of me. He likes me alive!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, as the Book says (Hebrews 13:8). But He is infinitely unique and modulated as He expresses Himself in each of us, for we all are different. He likes sounding like me and He likes sounding like you *when* each of us is seeking to contain and give Him forth to others. This is not only great fun. It is what is called maturity.

~ 25 ~

**SILENTLY NOW I WAIT FOR THEE**

I awoke during the night with words of part of a song in my mind. I felt they might be a message from the Lord, so I wrote them in the dark to remind me of them this morning. These were the words:

(A song)  
Silently now I wait for Thee  
Ready, My God, Thy will to see  
Open my eyes, illumine me  
Spirit Divine.

This morning, after much searching for the rest of the song, I remembered the song - "Open My Eyes"

(A song)  
Open my eyes that I may see,  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me  
????  
????  
Silently now I wait for Thee  
Ready My God, Thy will to see  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit Divine.

I think the lines that came during the night are saying to me:  
"Wait silently for the Lord to show/lead the way. Be ready to do His will when He reveals it."

~ 26 ~

## **WATCHING AND WAITING, YIELDED AND STILL**

I found the words to another song in my head this morning and pressed in to find the message being given me through those words. The words were:

(A song)  
Watching and waiting, yielded and still.

Later I realized they were words from the song: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."

(A song)  
Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way,  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me, after Thy will,

While I am waiting, yielded and still.

It's interesting that the words I got were *Watching and waiting, yielded and still* rather than "While I am waiting, yielded and still." I believe I am to be watching and waiting for the Lord to work out His will in my life, but also do the watching and waiting while I am yielded and still. This is the pathway He is using to "mold me and make me after His will" at this particular time.

~ 27 ~

## HOW TO DEAL WITH NEW AGE IDEAS

In my meditation time I was thinking about a certain woman, and what to share with her regarding what she believes. The Holy Spirit said:

*It's not your place to teach her/convict her what is wrong with her beliefs. It's Mine. You can present her with the truth from My Word and then pray I will teach her and convict her. Just present the Truth in response to her ideas, which bother you. What are they?*

1. Accepting channeling
2. Accepting spirit guides
3. Using the word "spirit" without saying it is the Holy Spirit
4. Meditation not focused on God or Jesus or Word
5. Says there are many ways to God
6. Believes New age ideas
7. Says Allah is the same as God

I want to try to find material which lists New Age ideas and counters them with Biblical verses.

~ 28 ~

## WHY PRAY IN TONGUES

An email to CTC people regarding prayer this Wednesday evening. I liked this list of why pray in tongues.

### ***Why will we be praying in tongues?***

- Everyone can pray in agreement. 1 Corinthians 14:1-4
- Revelation follows prayer in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:15

- Makes us spirit-sensitive. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15
- Rest and refreshment. Isaiah 28:11-14
- Builds up love and faith. Jude 20

~ 29 ~

## GOD'S PERFECT TIME

When I was wondering about waiting to do ministry, the Holy Spirit reminded me that Jesus waited until it was God's perfect time. I am to wait until it is His perfect time - for me and for them.

*You are to go over there and love them. You might have to suffer for it, but you are to love them anyway. That's My Kingdom work...follow Me.*

~ 30 ~

## ONLY ONE GOD AND ONE MEDIATOR

**(1 Tim. 2:3b-5) God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity - the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.**

**(Isaiah 8:11-13) The Lord has given me a strong warning not to think like everyone else does. He said, "Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them. Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will keep you safe."**

*This is My promise to you, Joan. I will keep you safe. I will also keep your family/children safe. That is My promise Word (Rhema) to you today.*

**(Isaiah 8:20) Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark.**

**(Isaiah 5:20-21) What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.**

**What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.**

*That fits all who follow New Age ideas. They think it is clever, enlightened, ahead of the "old ways" of thinking of the church. They think someday you may see how enlightened they are and they will be vindicated.*

*And never the twain shall meet.*

*You must allow them to choose their own beliefs, Joan, but you can keep sharing, and praying, and trying. But if they choose the wrong way, not My way, that's their privilege. They get to choose and you get to choose. Choose Me!*

The Lord had me pray that someone come to that woman (who believes in New Age ideas) in a dream and warn her she is going the wrong way, and that Jesus is the only way to follow and get right with God, and to get out of that church she's in, and join a Bible believing Spirit-led church - the true church.

The Holy Spirit said it was not my job to judge her. It's my job to love her and share the truth with her.

**(Matthew 7:12-27 NLT)**

**Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.**

**You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.**

**Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.**

**Not everyone who calls out to me, "Lord! Lord!" will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, "Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name." But I will reply, "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."**

**Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it**

**is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.**

**~ 31 ~**

## **YOU HAVE ALL THE STRENGTH I'VE GIVEN YOU**

(2:42 a.m.)

*It'll become clear to you and you will know.*

*Don't apologize for having little strength. You have all the strength I've given you. Just follow Me and I'll give you what you need. I'm displaying Myself in you.*

*You will accomplish your purpose here on earth because I will see to it. Do not fear. Have faith.*

*That is My message. Now you may go back to bed.*

**~ 32 ~**

## **A BRIGHT FLOWER IN MY UNIVERSE**

*This is My home, not B's. I gave it to her. I have placed you here and this is the home I've provided for you. This is your home on earth now. So accept that as from Me, and live in peace.*

*I did not make you to be a TB, a KB, or a VG. I made you a bright flower in My Universe, to be you. I love you as you are and as you're becoming.*

**~ 33 ~**

## **THREE THINGS TO BE LIFE PROJECTS**

Today in Quiet Time these ideas came regarding three things to be life projects after being born again:

1. **Maturing:** becoming more Christ-like - doing what Jesus did. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
2. **Overcoming:** things in life on earth. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21)
3. **Drawing near:** developing a close, intimate relationship with Jesus, and with God. (James 4:8)

~ 34 ~

## NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES

I have been reading a number of books lately regarding near death experiences and what happened to people during the time they "died" and the time they were resuscitated. So many, if not all, of the illustrations were positive, good experiences. I wondered why the authors weren't telling about the experiences that were bad. Then I read this quote from Betty Malz' book *Heaven*, pg. 82:

I spent some time with Dr. Maurice Rawlings, a heart specialist and author of *Beyond Death's Door*. He told me that of the patients whose death he witnessed, eighty percent had a horrible experience and only twenty percent had a peaceful experience. The Bible says that "strait is the gate, narrow the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it."

He also said that while people described hellish experiences immediately upon returning to life, they later seemed to forget them or put them out of their minds. Dr. Rawlings said, "The evil God of this world, Satan, has blinded their eyes so they cannot remember and warn others."

But some have had their lives changed by the experience and have warned us. Dr. George Ritchie has written of the desolation he felt at being asked: "What did you do with your life?" The deeds he had thought to be so important seemed minuscule under the scrutiny of that question.

He saw miserable people writhing in agony trying to make up to their living loved ones for hurts they had caused, particularly from suicide. He saw people chained to the consequences of their behaviors, for all eternity powerless to satisfy themselves. He saw people fighting, gouging each other, but never dying, howling with despair.

Then in the distance he saw a light - Jesus, the light of the world. He returned to life and had a second chance to tell others about Jesus.



~ 35 ~

## GOAL IN LIFE

(From *Beyond and Back* by Ralph Wilkerson - goal God established as a change in the life of Dr. Irvine Harrison after he returned from the dead.)

Goal: to live for, look for, move in, and anticipate continually the move of the Holy Spirit in my spirit, so that I might communicate the life of the Spirit to those with whom I come in contact daily.

~ 36 ~

## A DREAM ABOUT FINDING THE STAIRWAY BETWEEN THE UPPER AND LOWER PARTS OF A CAMPUS

I found the stairway that led between two parts of the college campus. I walked up the stairway and saw the various campus buildings and knew I had been there before but hadn't known how to get around on that level of the campus and didn't know how to get back to the lower familiar part of it.

In this dream I actually took the stairway up, saw the buildings and landscape of the upper campus, then turned around and went back down the same stairs, knowing they led me to the lower, more familiar part of campus. I was excited and leaping down the stairs, but not tripping or falling, sure of my feet and not fearing tripping.

The two parts of the campus were from many previous dreams when I was on the upper part of the campus (the unfamiliar part) but didn't know and couldn't find how to get back to the familiar part, the lower campus.

I don't remember these parts of the campus being designated by me as lower and upper in previous dreams, but at least familiar and unfamiliar, known and unknown. I noted the look and shape of the building where the stairs existed to go from one part to the other part. I saw that the stairs were built on the exterior of the building, but were covered.

I was thinking about calling my Mom and telling her where and when to come and pick me up.

- Stairway: steps as in a process-sometimes including the concept of time, promotion, ambition, procedure, transition, higher levels/lower levels, ability to move to different spiritual levels, possibly a portal
- College campus: place of learning and testing and advancing in knowledge
- Lower level: possibly learning here on earth
- Upper level: possibly learning in spiritual/heavenly realm
- Mom: source, church, spiritual or natural mother

This dream was so exciting to review because it showed I had finally found the way to transition from one level (the earthly, familiar, lower level) to the other level (higher, spiritual, heavenly, not very familiar). I had been learning in previous dreams in the upper level of campus, but then couldn't find the way back to the lower, more familiar level of campus. This dream can refer to a portal for transition back and forth. The part about calling Mom and having her come and pick me up may refer to having my Source, God, come and get me to bring me to heaven at some point in time and place.

~ 37 ~

## WRITE A MESSAGE TO MYSELF FROM SCRIPTURES

As I read Revelation 2:2 the Holy Spirit guided me to write a message to myself from these Scriptures:

**2:2 I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people.**

**2:3 You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.**

**2:4 But I have this complaint against you:**

*You don't believe Me when I tell you to "fear not."*

*You have (allow) unbelief when I tell you "I will take care of you."*

*You doubt when I say "believe."*

*Confess these as sins to Me and repent - turn and do the opposite - faith instead of fear, belief instead of unbelief, confidence instead of doubt.*

*In quietness and confidence is your strength: faith, belief, confidence.*

*I'm filling you with it right now. That is My lesson/class of learning for today.*

**2:9 I know about your suffering and your poverty - but you are rich!**

~ 38 ~

## **"FLATLINERS" WHO WERE MEDICALLY RETRIEVED FROM ACTUAL CLINICAL DEATH**

Today I want to quote some things written in the book *To Hell and Back* by Dr. Maurice Rawlings (a specialist in cardiovascular diseases):

(pp. 10-11)

Americans have already reported near-death experiences, the majority strangely visualizing a veritable glimpse of glory. The typical description involves a beautiful light at the end of a very dark tunnel. Many Christians were convinced that the figure of light they encountered was Jesus because they saw him on a cross, the exuberant experience forever changing their lives. Some others perceived a possible heaven conforming to their own particular faith. Remarkably, others saw the same tunnel and the apparent light turn into a horrible ring of fire, the light becoming inexplicably evil, convincing them that they had been to hell and back...

Of the numerous authors investigating near-death experiences, almost none of them report negative or unpleasant cases. Instead, they insist that all cases are positive and glorious, thus promoting the confident assumption that heaven's gates are open wide for everyone who dies regardless of religion or belief.

The resulting conclusions of these authors seem clear. No longer do these investigators consider death as oblivion or the end of it all. And none of them seem to believe in a place called hell. Because they see only the "good" experiences for the next life--that all near-death experiences report a common glimpse of glory--the birth of a new religion and philosophy has emerged. Some of them call it the "Omega Point," since near-death observations in their experiences indicate that heaven is a free ride for everyone who dies, and this becomes the glorious counseling now given at the bedside of many dying patients...

The purpose of this book is simply to expose the negative cases, those secreted, embarrassing cases found primarily during resuscitative procedures, during the heat of the battle for survival, the time when nothing is concealed...

If negative cases can be readily demonstrated, cases disturbing enough to permanently change lives, then a place like hell would seem reasonable. And if hell is possible, then it may not be safe to die. And if it may not be safe to die, then we better look further into the negative reports of those who found glimpses other than glory beyond death's door before we make our own decisions.

To accomplish this, we shall travel through the familiar "out-of-the-body experiences" (OBEs) and beyond the numerous "near-death experiences" (NDEs), examining those cases where extreme circumstances may literally have scared the hell out of the individual involved, without the loss of consciousness or heartbeat at all. We will focus primarily upon "flatliners" who were medically

retrieved from actual clinical death and describe the glimpses they experienced after prolonged periods of absent heartbeat, absent breathing, and absent vital functions. These are the cases that report more than a glimpse--usually a full sequence of analytical events--many of them occurring in very unpleasant environments.

(pp. 35-37)

The whole thing occurred late one day in 1977 when the other doctors had left Diagnostic Center to finish rounds elsewhere. Pam Charlesworth was finishing an EKG on a patient with chest pain.

"It's normal," she said.

I shook my head. "Hook him up again and this time exercise him enough to reproduce the pain. A smoldering heart attack could still be there."

The treadmill rumbled to life, moving Charlie McKaig, a forty-eight-year-old mail carrier from LaFayette, Georgia, at a progressively rapid rate. Pain reappeared along with sweating and breathlessness. An unusual humming noise from the monitor caused us to look up to see an unexpected run of ventricular tachycardia (rapid, dangerous heartbeat). This was followed by a very long pause in the beat and then followed by slow, widened beats and then by a flatline.

Surprisingly, Charlie continued to talk for a while, unaware that his heart had stopped. Four or five seconds later, he looked suddenly dumbfounded. It was as if he were about to ask a question. Then his eyes rolled up in his head and he fell...

With Charlie's head sharply extended, chin toward the ceiling, one of the nurses breathed "the kiss of life." Another nurse started the IV for medicines. By then an underlying block in the heartbeat had appeared on the monitor. That means the heart was not conducting the beat properly and a temporary pacemaker would be needed for the heart to respond to the CPR.

Using a large-bore needle, I entered the big vein under the collar bone, then threaded the pacemaker wire in the right side of the heart and attached the wire to a pulse-generator box to initiate every beat, not missing a stroke.

...Whenever I stopped pushing on his chest in order to adjust the pacemaker, the heart would stop, and Charlie's eyes would roll up, he again would sputter, turn blue, and begin to convulse.

With bare hands...I would reach over and start him up again. But this time he was screaming the words, "Don't stop! I'm in hell! I'm in hell!"

Hallucinations, I thought. Most victims say, "Take your big hands off me, you're breaking my ribs." But he was saying the opposite: "For God's sake, don't stop! Don't you understand? Every time you let go I'm back in hell!"

When he asked me to pray for him, I felt downright insulted. In fact, I told him to shut up. I said I was a doctor, not a minister and not a psychiatrist. But the nurses gave me that expectant look. What would you do? That's when I composed a make-believe prayer.

I made him repeat the make-believe prayer word for word to keep him off my back. ... "Say it! Jesus Christ is the Son of God, go on and say it!" I said. "Keep me out of hell, and if I live, I'm on the hook. I'm yours. Go on, say it!"

And then a very strange thing happened that changed our lives. A religious conversion experience took place. I had never witnessed one before. He was no longer the wild-eyed, screaming, combative lunatic who had been fighting me for his life. He was relaxed and calm and cooperative. It frightened me. I was shaken by the events. Not only had that make-believe prayer blown out the soul of Charlie McKaig, but it backfired and got me too. It was a conviction I cannot express even to this day.

Since then, Charlie has outlived three permanent pacemakers, and it has been difficult to believe that this miserable prayer of mine had opened the road to my own salvation. A spiritual bonus for

the simpleminded. The lesson? Don't say make-believe prayers. They can work. And they can dissect your soul like a surgeon's scalpel.

And that's what stimulated me to search for the mysteriously missing hell cases.

And that presented another problem. Why did the hell cases never question where they were or why they were sent there? And why did the heavenly cases, on the other hand, wonder if their experiences were bona fide? The quest for answers would prove to be my holy grail--to question those who were about to shake hands with death and those who had been beyond death's door.

~ 39 ~

## **A DREAM OF MY BICYCLE'S PEDALS FALLING OFF IN A WHEAT FIELD**

I was riding a bicycle in a city area like maybe a campus. I knew I had a library book that I needed to return to the library before I left town to return home that day. So I was trying to find my way to the library to see where to return the book. It seemed like I started out in a car, but later it seemed to be a bicycle I was on. I came to a 5-way intersection and took the street which I thought was the right one to the library. After a bit I saw the building that I thought was correct, and I stopped along the street near it. I asked someone and was told that I could try that building and someone inside might be able to direct me to the right place.

So I turned around and started back home and needed to again drive through the 5-way intersection. I took the road that I thought was the correct way back to the campus where I had been staying awhile.

Shortly, though, the road turned to a field of stubble, like a wheat field after the wheat was cut down. The road disappeared and there was just stubble.

I slowed down and turned around to go back to the city to try to find the correct way back home. There were two people behind me in their vehicle...I don't know whether it was a bicycle also or a car.

As I turned, my pedals came loose and fell off, only the pedals seemed to be one large pedal about 18" long. I could see the parts and picked them up. I called out to the two people behind me to stop and help me. I thought I needed a screwdriver to replace screws that had come out, but they said they didn't have any screwdriver. I didn't either. I was standing there with the pieces of this large pedal in my hands when the dream ended.

- Bicycle: works. Level of ministry/work doing today, personal ministry, requires human effort
- Road: (dead end) a point at which you must review the way you are going or what you are doing and make the necessary changes in direction
- Street or Highway: way, the Christian faith, truth, way of life
- Library: knowledge, education, learning, research

- Field: world, God's work, harvest, opportunity, mixed multitude
- Pedals: (not in book) that used to make the vehicle move
- 5-way intersection: decision or change
- 5: grace, redemption, serve, works, service

*The bicycle represents personal ministry which goes along slowly and is using knowledge. Now there is a change coming, a different road to travel, which goes into the wheat harvest. You are standing in that field with a computer keyboard in your hands which needs to be put back together again. To get to that new road/pathway you must go through a change of direction through a grace and service intersection. It's not a dead-end road but a new and unknown way to go and you need help to travel there.*

*I am your Help. I know the way to go and you don't. It is at the end of your "camp" or retreat time at B's house where you read lots of library books. That time is changing, although it will be a slow change and take some effort of your part. It is continuing in your personal ministry, but going an unknown, different way than before.*

*I'm not saying you're doing something wrong or going the wrong way. I'm saying, in this dream, that a change in direction is coming, It's by My grace, and it involves your personal service and ministry. It will be "into" the harvested field. It will involve a changing of your computer usage - to work in the future happenings instead of the past events of your life.*

*No, you can't make your vehicle move in this next event in the harvest. You are entirely dependent on Me to move you in this harvest field. You will keep working in it until the harvest is done (as in your dream picture of stubble). Only stubble will be left after the harvest and it will be burned up with the fire of My wrath. I'm not saying you personally will be present on earth during the whole harvest, but your influence will be (through your writings).*

*Today is the day of change, the day to start down the new and unknown road into the harvest of the wheat. I will fix the computer keyboard (pedal) so you can maneuver where I want you to go and do the writing I want you to do during this new road trip. It is a good one. Do not fear it. I will always be present with you on this trip even though you don't know the way right now. Just follow Me. I am your guide and I am your pathway, your road. Follow Me and I will get you "there."*

*The five refers to grace and redemption for many in this next ministry of yours. When this next road is done, then you will come back "home" to Me.*

## THE DEVIL'S DOOR

(From John Bevere's book: *The Devil's Door*)

(p. 9)

There is a door to our souls, a passage where our enemy can gain access. The presence of this portal goes undetected by many, but it is known widely in the realm of the spirit. This door stands ajar between light and darkness, with a history as ancient as the sons of Adam.

Under the divine law of God, our enemy is restricted to the realm of darkness. As believers, we are delivered from these powers of darkness. But if this door is opened, Satan and his cohorts are granted legal entrance. Their objective: to control areas of our lives.

Jesus called these doors "gates." His exact words were "the gates of hell" (Matt. 16:18). He also said He had won the keys which locked them tight (Rev. 1:18)

(p. 19)

It must be settled in your heart that there is nothing good outside the realm of God's will. James shows that (James 1:16-17) you can be deceived if you believe there is good outside of God's provision. No matter how good it looks, tastes or feels, no matter how rich, abundant, wise or successful it will make you, if it is not from God, it will eventually lead to intense sorrow and end in death. Each and every perfect and good gift is from God. There is no other source. Embrace this truth and settle it in your heart. Don't let looks deceive you! If Eve had followed this admonition she never would have been swayed. But instead, she looked beyond the realm of God's provision to fulfill her desires.

(p. 31)

Do you think you know more than God? Of course not! But when we are disobedient, that is exactly the message we communicate to God and those around us....yet we exalt our wisdom above His when we ignore His counsel!

(p. 44)

To view God as subject to our will is backward thinking. We do not lead while God follows. No, God leads, and we follow - if we are wise (John 12:26). As we follow, He instructs us.

We have mistakenly thought that if we laid hands on the sick, independent of the Spirit's leading, God was obligated to heal and confirm our lead by following with His signs. If this were true, we should go empty the hospitals. We get discouraged when God does not follow our lead with His healing and miracles. God will heal and perform miracles, but it is as He leads and we follow.

(p. 65)

When a person walks in obedience to God, witchcraft has no power over him. Satan is confined to darkness (Jude 6), so he has no access to us when we are joined with God, in whom is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

(p. 70)

Now let me make this point clear: we come under bewitchment when we disobey what God has made clear to us - not when we disobey what has not been revealed to us.

(p. 80)

The rebellious see God's Word as a restraining law rather than as protection and life.

(p. 85)

This is a principle that every believer should grasp and understand. When we pester the Lord after He has already clearly shown His will, He may step back and allow us to have our way even though it does not correspond with His original plan. When our hearts are set on a course of action, God will grant us permission, though He knows we will later answer for the course we choose.

(p. 111)

In the Scriptures we find *believe* means not only to acknowledge the existence of Jesus but also to obey His will and His Word. Hebrews 5:9 says Jesus became "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." To believe is to obey.

(p. 196-200)

The final thought I'd like to leave with you is in regard to this door. We can choose one of four responses when sin comes knocking.

1. Blatant disobedience
2. Reasoning yourself into disobedience
3. Obedience with a bad attitude
4. Obedience with a willing heart

**If they obey and serve Him [God], they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures (Job 36:11).**

The prosperity and pleasures enjoyed by God's obedient children are for the present and yet endure and expand into eternity. They cannot be taken away by man since they have been given by God.

God also promised as we fulfilled our obedience by casting down all reasoning and thoughts which exalt themselves against our obedience to God, we would be equipped and ready to punish all disobedience (2 Cor. 10:3-6). In other words, our authority against the enemy would increase. Glory to God!

It is my hope and prayer that you now have developed an appetite for obeying God. You will be disappointed by all but His perfect will. In conclusion I would like to pray with you and agree to see Jesus glorified in your life and family.

Father, in the name of Jesus, thank You for Your truth and word revealed in this book. I embrace Your wisdom and welcome it into my heart. Let me not only understand but also empower me to live this life You've called me to. Under Your grace I humble myself and acknowledge Jesus Christ as more than just my Savior but as my Lord and Master. Give me Your grace to live an obedient life. By this grace may I love, fear and serve You more perfectly. May Your will alone stand in my life and not my own or the will of any other. Keep me strong that I may be found blameless when I stand before You. Glorify Your name in my life, family and church. Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness. Amen.



## INTERCESSORS

(Quotes from *Prayer Shield* by C. Peter Wagner)

**Crisis intercession:** (p. 54) A crisis intercessor prays almost exclusively on assignment, and the assignment comes from the Father. They do not respond well to random requests for prayer from individual people, and most of them would be bored to tears with a prayer list. They like to go into their prayer time with worship and praise, draw near to the Father, and hear directly from Him what they are to pray for. Some assignments are short term, some long term. Once God tells them to pray through a crisis situation they will hang on to it like a bulldog until it is resolved or until God "releases" them from the assignment.

**Prophetic Intercession:** (p. 168) All true intercessors hear from God on a regular basis and most from time to time will move into prophetic intercession. For some, prophetic intercession is an ongoing ministry under their gift of intercession.

Cindy Jacobs defines prophetic intercession as "an urging to pray given by the Holy Spirit for situations or circumstances about which you have very little knowledge in the natural. You pray for the prayer requests that are on the heart of God."

**Quiet people:** (p. 169) Although there are several notable exceptions to this, the great majority of intercessors are quiet people. They do not like to be up front. They do not desire their names to be widely known.

Colleen Townsend Evans says that "aloneness" is one of the prices intercessors regularly pay. She says that as an intercessor you should be prepared to spend some very quiet alone hours. Other people will not always know or even understand what an intercessor is praying about. She says God will seal our lips so that we are not to boast or talk about what we are doing.

**Needing a tune-up:** (p. 173) Alice Smith says: "I am in the midst of a very difficult time of dryness before the Lord. This is not uncommon to experience because intercessors have to have a spiritual 'tune up' every once in awhile to see if they are praying for the benefits, or really praying and enjoying the Lord because of who He is." Here again is the heart of a true intercessor who has no greater desire than a close relationship with God. She says: "Especially after a very high spiritual experience such as I encountered in Israel, there is often the tendency to press into the Lord for a 'bigger high,' while He is more interested in the quiet, still fellowship of knowing His presence....These times always spark a fresh gratitude for when I do hear Him speak once again."

**Rewards:** (p 176) We need to understand that intercessors do feel they are amply rewarded for their ministry. I believe their greatest reward awaits them in heaven. If believers in heaven are in concentric circles around God's throne, the intercessors will be in the middle, right behind the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures.

In the here and now, a substantial reward for intercessors is to watch their prayers birth the purposes of God in the lives and ministries of the pastors for whom they are praying. Experienced intercessors see many things happening in their churches that even the pastors have no idea they are praying through. It is a true thrill for the intercessors.

But the consistent testimony I get from intercessors is that by far their greatest reward is their close relationship with the Father. More than most Christians ever do, they experience the fullness of the love of God day in and day out.

## A RENDEZVOUS DURING THE NIGHT

(3:45 a.m.) The Lord began speaking to me when I awoke during the night, so I began writing:

*You look at your purpose, your goal,  
And how to get there –  
And you call forth those goals from Me.  
You send out My spiritual forces to carry out those goals.*

*It's a shift,  
It's a shift,  
It's a shift,  
From demonic forces being in charge,  
To My forces being in charge.  
That's the shift that's taken place.  
Now My forces are ready to be commanded  
And I am their Commander, the Commander of the Lord's Armies.  
I command them, but you and I co-labor together to send them out.*

*From now on let's do this together.  
First you find out My heart/purpose.  
Then you speak forth verbally the words of command I give you –  
the words of command we decide together.  
My generals do this who are under My command.*

Song in my head: “Up, up and away in my beautiful balloon.”

I'm testing the Spirit speaking to me, and He says:

*Jesus is Lord,  
Jesus is Lord,  
Jesus is Lord!*

My time is Your time, Lord.

*If I say I want to do something, some project, then we (you and I) will set out to do that together.*

It's like I sense a project for us to accomplish – to practice how to do this together, and then watch it happen.

*My peace is with you. When My peace is with you, then you/we can advance with the project – together. “Let peace be your governor/ruler.” Don't set out or advance without My peace. It gives you My perfect timing. You've been practicing waiting for My peace regarding where you live for over a year now. This was to teach/train you how to wait for/follow My peace.*

*Now we are ready to use that training for more than your place of residence. That was just to practice on – like a drill to teach you to do something.*

Song: “Up, up and away in My beautiful balloon.”

*From that perspective (up there) we can look down and see what's happening – then decide/set our plans on what to do about it. Then you will speak the words we choose and decide on to carry out our goal(s).*

*Ask B if you can use her pillow lap writer up here in your bedroom. We will consult and write – often during the night. This is just for you and Me. Don't worry about Satan/the enemy seeing the words you write. I can keep them hidden.*

Ok, I'll trust You to keep them hidden, Lord.

*Don't worry about your health. I'm in charge of your health.*

Song: “Up, up and away in my beautiful balloon.”

*This will be (this time and episode) like our balloon ride – whenever we do this. I'll talk more about this at other times, but the mid-night time is so good for your undivided attention! So we will often use it.*

*Mid-night – “midnight” in the parable of the 10 virgins, is the time I come for the 5 virgins with oil. So one-half My virgins have oil and one-half don't have “enough.” You are one of the one-half who has enough oil to hear Me and see Me come at “mid-night.”*

Song: “Up, up and away in My beautiful balloon.”

*That song appearing in your mind will be My signal, like a bell ringing, to alert you to come apart with Me for instructions. Like the book title “Come Away, My Beloved” from Song of Solomon. Look that up and write the Scripture reference here: Song of Songs 8:14.*

*You may go back to sleep now. It's been a good time together.*

## THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

*This is the way I want you to have your Quiet Times - with your computer Journal open and ready to write whatever I tell you, even as I speak it into your heart. You may do this from now on at B's house whenever it works out ok with her plans. It's her house, so you continually need to work around her plans and needs.*

*I like the way you spent time with Me this morning and talked to Me even before you got up from your bed. I like to have us (you and Me) connected just as soon as you awaken. Now read My Word...*

**(1 Kings 3:1) Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and married one of his daughters. He brought her to live in the City of David until he could finish building his palace and the Temple of the Lord and the wall around the city.**

*You see the three things he did? He was building his palace (a place for him to live) and the Temple of the Lord (a place to worship Me) and the wall around the city (protection around it all). This is what I have been building in your life - a place for you to live daily with Me, a place within you to worship Me continuously, and protection around these places - My blood.*

**(1 Kings 3:5, 7) That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you."**

**"Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around...Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"**

Lord, I also am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. I don't have full understanding of what You are doing on earth, and what my part is in that, and how to relate to You and others in the way You desire me to. Please give me wisdom and an understanding heart so I may know this and please You. As Moses said to you: "Teach me Your way so that I may know You and continue to find favor with you." Is it ok for me to ask You for this?

*Yes, My child, for that is what I have put in your heart to ask Me. Therefore it is what I want you to know - about Me, about the world, about My purpose and plan, and about how you fit into that. It is a good question and request. I want to give that answer to you. And I will. Seek Me and you will find Me.*

*And I will give you extra wisdom in your old age. And people will come to you for advice. And you will give Me the credit and glory for the wisdom that I speak through you. You will honor Me all the days of your life in this way...Because you have humbled yourself before Me and others and asked for My wisdom, not your own. And I will be pleased to honor you in this way.*

**(Isaiah 35:4-9) Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you."**

**And when he comes he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland.**

**The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived.**

**And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there. Lions will not lurk along its course, nor any other ferocious beasts. There will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will walk on it.**

*That's My purpose, Joan, to separate out My redeemed - and bring them into the place I have reserved for them. Then we can all fellowship together and love each other.*

**(2 Cor. 3:6) He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.**

*That's what I'm doing, Joan, bringing My new covenant into the world to give life to all who will receive it, through My Spirit. You are part of that new covenant, and so are many others. I am gathering all of you together now even while those who don't belong to Me are separating themselves farther and farther from Me. It is becoming more and more clear who belong to Me and who don't. The justice of My decisions will be clear and able to be seen by all.*

*And this is also what I am doing:*

**(2 Cor. 3:14, 16-18) But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.**

**But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord--who is the Spirit--makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.**

~ 44 ~

## **A DREAM ABOUT PREPARING TO FEED A LITTLE BABY**

I was getting ready to teach a small child how to eat with a baby spoon. I could see the spoon and the substance I would feed her. It looked like yogurt and seemed very tasty and good to eat. She had not yet learned to eat that way, so I was planning to first feed her with the spoon, and then let her try to use the spoon herself.

I was making plans to do this, so it's about my doing this in the future. I think this is a dream to encourage me about what is soon to come - feeding baby Christians their first food with a spoon and helping them learn how to feed themselves - soft tasty food like made from milk.

**(Isaiah 41:10) Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.**

After I read this scripture, He brought to my memory the dream regarding seeing a right hand and arm coming out toward me. I said: "So You showed me Your victorious right hand, Lord, in my dream?"

*Yes, it was a prophetic dream to encourage you that your whole life would be victorious, that you would truly be an "overcomer" (Revelation 1-3) as you desired(d) to be. Count on it!*

~ 45 ~

## **PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

At a conference I went for prophetic ministry to a team with P, J, and A. They were of great encouragement to me as they said I was (1) a teacher and mentor, (2) was used prophetically in "prophetic conversations" which gave out wisdom to others in an unassuming and almost hidden

way, but was very powerful, (3) was an encourager and intercessor, and (4) was gifted for decorating houses/rooms. I will transcribe from the tape and put that in this journal. The Spirit said to me:

*I want you to listen to the prophetic messages and know that every word there is true. Transcribe and read it often as a true word from Me.*

Here is the transcription from the cassette tape of what the prophetic ministry team told me:

**PROPHETIC MINISTRY TO ME  
AT MIRACLE SUMMIT CONFERENCE  
THROUGH P, JG, AND A**

**P:** I just got one word, and I'm gonna go with that. I'm gonna open my mouth and say TEACHER. I hear "teacher" over you. And it's more than just teacher in a classroom. I see you as a mentor. Once again, I see you as one that people look up to, your wisdom is there, and people are just attracted. You seem unassuming, but you're God's secret weapon. You know, because words of wisdom just flow out of your mouth. And you do "conversational prophetic." You don't even know what it's called, but I'm putting a name on it, the Lord's saying. It's called "conversation prophetic." And what that is, is in your conversation I (God) just come through and I'm saying prophetic words to people to encourage, edify, build up - and you may not even know that it's coming forth, but it's coming from your innermost being, you know, it's just out of your belly shall come living water. So I see that living water being sprinkled on people as you make conversation. It seems unassuming but, girl, you are a weapon in the arsenal of God. Don't ever think that you take a back seat to people that have the platform. You know, you see people that are just really gifted. Well you're fully loaded, you're fully packed too. You have all the giftings that you know, and you carry it well. Because you have wisdom along with it. I see so much wisdom in you. And He said I put that in you for a reason. And because you have such a sweet face, you're approachable. And the Lord will use that because you can be sitting in, you know, a sitting room, or a waiting room, whatever, wherever you're at, out in the world, and people are just drawn to you and they just start making conversation with you. And He said I've made you comfortable like that. You just have that comfortable affect, and He said, I put that on you for a reason.

But at the same time, you're an intercessor. Because I see, you know, you have compassion and even empathy toward people. You feel what touches them. You touch the heart of God in that respect. And He says, "that's beautiful; that's beautiful. I put that compassion, that empathy in you too, and also the intercession. Because then you can stand between them and Me and intercede for these ones that are struggling." And they may not even know that you're praying for them. But that's a good thing, because you're, like I said, God's secret agent. Ok? You look unassuming, but you're very, very dangerous, my dear, and to the kingdom of darkness, ok? So I'm just gonna release that anointing over you...that warrior spirit.

In the name of Jesus we just put that on her right now. She already is operating in that, and Father, we thank You for that unassuming, compassionate person that you've made her to be. And we thank You, Lord, that she is God's secret weapon. And she may not be on a platform that everyone can see, but she is certainly not in the background, Father. And then we just bless the hands on the work

that she does in Your Kingdom. And Father, we just, the footsteps of a righteous woman are ordered of the Lord, so we just touch her feet, Lord, and ask that you would bless her, in Jesus mighty name.

**A:** I just want to affirm what she was saying, and say that, like Wow! There's something really deep within you. It might not necessarily be...it's not evident on the surface who you are. People don't necessarily know it when they look at you, but like God has done something deep within you, and that is of great value. You are that pearl of great price that He saw and that He came for, and that He's bringing beauty out of. Were you (to P) talking about a sword in her hand?

**P:** Well, I think I need to put that sword in her hand.

**A:** I do too!

**P:** Then I'll do it. (Then Pat prayed over me the sword of the spirit)

**A:** And that sword is the Word of God, and you know that. I just want to encourage you, even more than you have been, to keep using that because that is unleashing very, very powerful things in the spirit, breaking down strongholds. And also building up. You seem to have a gift of encouragement and that might be looked down upon and think, "Oh, that's just a little gift," but no, it is so huge, it is so necessary, and that kind of thing, like, that's what sometimes it saves people's lives. That little word of encouragement. You might not always even see the fruit of that, but just know that your Father in Heaven sees it and He's pleased.

**J:** I do remember that you had a writing gift. I remember that, but I believe Father's also giving you another free (?) gift, but I'm just gonna go out on a limb, but I believe to decorate - home decorating. Cause I could just see you in your room and how you just KNEW. It was from the Lord, a gift there, you just knew where to put pictures, the lamps, when you got through that room was beautiful! And really, you didn't have to have expensive things to fix it up. You just took maybe what was there and that room was beautiful because God has given you an eye to really know how to place things and that's home decorating. Does that ring a bell? Ok. And I believe, you know, others may be recognizing that and you'll be helping others. You know, they'll say, I could use some of your help because God's given you a gift for that. OK. And I don't remember ever saying that word to anyone before.

**P:** Oh this teacher, it's more like, not in a classroom setting, but the wisdom once again. You know, the teacher is the first word that the Lord said to me and I didn't mean that that was your occupation or, I just saw that you are a mentor type.

I said it fits.

**P:** does it? Ok. Very good! It's something that's just in you. You have things to give, and it's like gems, and jewels and you hand them out.

**J:** You're really a pray-er. What I mean by that is you pray on so many things. You know, even the small things. I can just see where maybe the weather looks like it's bad weather coming, and you'll



say, "Let's pray on it." And that pleases Papa because there's nothing too little for Him that you lift up to Him, and what it is, is just keeping continually plugged in to the Lord. But I see you really bombard Heaven through the day even with the small things, and that pleases your Father.

I said I did that.

**J:** Cause I'm that way too, and I can recognize it. And, that, you know what, there's something, just like a David's heart. Where David pretty well messed up; you know, he made some boo boos, but, because he had such a heart seeking God, and wanting the Lord's direction continuously that he got favor in God's sight. And I believe that favor's on you, because you're continually seeking Him.

**A:** And I just want to speak over any lies that may have come against you, that you've had in your heart that you're past your day, you're past your fruitful time of serving. Well, no, God was saying you are becoming more and more beautiful as time goes on, and it doesn't stop at a certain point. But He is making you blossom more and more, and that's gonna continue.

They all said they blessed me and gave me a hug in the Lord...and I thanked them.

~ 46 ~

## JUST BE WHO YOU ARE

*To do what I want you to do, Joan, just be the person you already are - what I've created you to be all the years of your life. You already thoroughly know what I did - the message of the Gospel - and what I did on the cross. And you already know how to tell that story, My story, in your own words.*

*You already function in "prophetic conversation" and "wisdom" and function in how to be an encourager. So, when you go any place, just be you.*

*That's why I want to send you there, because you are the right person for there. Trust Me. You don't have to change yourself into something different - a miracle worker - to do ministry for Me. I love you as you are and I anoint you as you are!*

~ 47 ~

## GOD CARES ABOUT THE LITTLE BIRDS TOO

As I saw the picture of the beautiful red cardinal on my screen wallpaper this morning, I thanked the Lord for the beautiful flowers surrounding it, and for the bird. The thought that came was that there were some birds that were bright-colored, and many that are small and fairly plain-colored.

I identify myself as being like the plain little finches and chickadees that most often come and eat from our bird feeder on the deck. And that is ok. God created them too for His purpose. He cares about them too.

~ 48 ~

## REMINDERS OF THE LORD

(7:36) The 36 I have been seeing often lately. It seems as if the Lord is using it to remind me of the year I was born (1936) and remind me it was an important date to Him too. Seeing 36 reminds me of the Lord and draws my attention to Him. He says it was a very important date for Him too because He loves me and I belong to Him. He likes to remind me of that. Thank You, Lord!

In the Old Testament God used festivals, new moons, the Sabbath day, the ram's horn blowing, etc. to remind people of Him and draw their attention to Him.

In my life He uses numbers that are significant, and doves appearing, to draw my attention to Him as well - on a daily basis.

~ 49 ~

## SPEAK THE WORD

Today the Lord led me to read back over the prophetic words given to me. As I read what JG said:

("So what happened was when the Word started coming out, and you started speaking the Word into situations and problems and things like that, and especially to the enemy, that it [the attacks of the enemy] stopped")

As I read that I realized I needed to speak the Word into B's and my finances, since we have been short this month, because we spent so much on events and Christian resources. So, I got out my Scripture notebook and started decreeing and speaking the words of prosperity and blessing over us - speaking them out loud to the Lord. Then He began to speak to me:

*And I will pour out blessings into your (you and B's) barns, your treasure houses, treasures of blessings, of favor, of financial provision, or love and caring from others, of satisfaction with the work you do, and of a close and meaningful relationship with Me - every day of your lives.*

*I do this because you honor Me and make Me first in your life, and because you display My beauty to others every day. I love you both, therefore I will protect you from the evil one and from his minions, his wiles, and his destruction.*

*I will make you a storehouse out of which I can share treasures with others whom I want to get them to. You are both My ambassadors to represent Me on this earth, all during your earthly time period. I know you both used up your earthly resources this month to live for Me. Therefore, now I will replenish and restore all that treasure, and add more to it. Never again will you be without "enough." Never again will you be without plenty to use and plenty to share with others. You have My heart, and I will keep sharing My heart with you both.*

**~ 50 ~**

## **THE PEN OF A READY WRITER**

As I was reading back over prophetic words given me (as the Spirit instructed me to do) I came to the portion where JG said (after asking me if I journaled) -

JG: "So where do I go from here. We got that. So, Lord, let it flow. I think the Lord wants to take you deeper into that - into journaling. I believe that He has given you a gift in the writing, what He shows you. I believe He wants to take you into a deeper realm of that. He's teaching you how to follow Him. What I mean is what He gives you - wisdom on how to write it down and to interpret what He gives you. So I just encourage you to even spend more time sitting before the Lord, and asking Him to give you more, that you can write or journal, whatever you want to call it. I believe that's what I see you doing, just sitting before the Lord quietly asking, 'Give me more, Lord, give me more.' And He will help you to be able to express it and put it down right."

As I read and prayed about this the Holy Spirit said:

*I want you to keep your computer on all day. Turn it on in the morning and leave it on all day. Each time I bring something into your mind, then go over to your computer and write it down. Have your computer open to your journal during this time.*

*When you talk to someone, write down what they said, and what I said back to them through you. Then you will come to see and know/understand more how I am working through you. Right now you don't see that much - but I am.*

*When I give you a thought, record it. Don't let it slip away. Then I will show you how to put all these thoughts together in a form that you can share with others. And I will prepare you for, and show you, what form that is to take. I want to help and teach others through you. Ok? (Yes, Lord)*

Then P added to the word JG gave me by saying:

P: "That goes along with that, before she said that, the Lord gave me the Scripture about "He will give you the pen of the ready writer," and I saw the Lord putting a golden pen in your hand, and He's encouraging you to write down. And He says, "Think with the heart, not so much the brain, not to bypass the intellect, but He said, "from your heart." He wants that pen to be written from your heart.

And you'll be amazed at what comes out as you release yourself into the will of the Lord to just write down and journal what He - and I even see a book. I don't know how far, but something, even if it's just for yourself or for your family, but I see something a little bigger than that. I believe that God may have a book for you in the future, so I just wanted to pray that into being.

Father, we just put that golden pen in Joan's hand, in the name of Jesus, the pen of the ready writer, that the Holy Spirit would be the author, and her heart would be the director. And that Lord, she would pen down, and write down, those things that You give her so that it might go forth and bring much fruit in other people's lives. In Jesus' name."

Then D said He would give me the words. And C said she just got a big YES for me, and P said the big YES may be because all Scriptures are "yeah" and in Christ Jesus "amen". They prayed for me to have more visions, revelations, and dreams.

At one time in the past when I went forward for prayer from KB, he also gave me that same Scripture regarding the pen of a ready writer.

Lord, you are really calling me today to be even more of a "ready writer." I say "yes" to You, Lord.

~ 51 ~

## TEN YEARS EARLIER

This is what the Lord said to me in 10 years ago:

**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)**

*Yes, I have given you an instructed tongue, an instructed mind, and I will (soon) waken you morning by morning to listen to Me and write what I teach you.*

*You will be used by Me as a writer-prophet as Isaiah. All the other was preparation for now.*

**I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give... Then the Lord replied: "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 2:1-3)**

**~ 52 ~**

## **SPEAK INTO LIFE**

I am to "speak into life" the words the Lord gives me.

**Jesus said, "I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me." (John 8:28)**

**Jesus said..."What I have heard from him I tell the world." (John 8:26)**

**For the word of God is living and active. (Hebrews 4:12a)**

I am to do this on myself first and see that it works - as God gives me the words to speak - and then, later, on others. (He had me speak wellness to all of my body.)

**So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)**

**Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matthew 10:19-20)**

**What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. (Matthew 10:27)**

**I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:18)**

**If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (Matthew 21:22)**

## **A DREAM ABOUT PRAYING WORDS ON LEAVES TO DS**

In my semi-awake morning time while waking up, I had a dream or vision. The idea came that I would be shown the leaves/branches of a tree. They would have words on them for me to pray onto DS. I didn't actually see any words this time, just tree branches/leaves like on my artificial bamboo tree. What I did see was dust on the leaves. It was revealed to me that I was to clean the dust off the leaves first, and then see what words appeared on the leaves. Then I was to pray them onto her, like I was putting them on her. It was like I was being taught by revelation coming to me, because I saw no person - only the leaves/branches.

In this dream/vision the leaves on the tree may symbolize words or life. Since the leaves had dust on them, that may symbolize something that's been there a long time and hasn't been kept clean. It can symbolize inactivity or neglect. I was being "taught" somehow that I was to clean off the leaves and see what words were revealed after that. Then I was to pray those words/leaves onto DS.

DS may represent a person who needs prayers right now since she is in Africa seeing about some ministry she is involved in there regarding orphanages. She is also mentoring A there, so perhaps the words that need to be prayed are for A also.

Or maybe DS just symbolizes the type of person out there doing ministry who needs prayers placed on their life. This would come by revelation as I dusted off the leaves/words/life and looked at them. This seems to be a call to pray for people as they are revealed to me and as the words are revealed to me...and that I have had inactivity/neglect in that area compared to what is desired from me.

## **IN PERFECT PEACE**

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

**You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! (Isaiah 26:3 NLT)**

**You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:3-4 NIV)**

*Muscular control (swallowing and writing and sometimes jerking) I'm going to heal that now and I want you to notice. You have seen the negative effects of this on your body for a long time and have asked for healing before. Yes, this is when I want to heal that - now - today. Would you like that?*

Yes, Lord, I would like that VERY MUCH!

*Then it is done. I say the Word right now: BY His stripes you are healed! My Word goes forth and accomplishes what I speak it for. And I now speak My Word of healing to you right now, today. This is the day of your sozo/salvation.*

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for taking those stripes for me, and by Your stripes I am now healed. Thank You for speaking Your Word to me. And Your Word ...

**Is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. (Hebrews 4:12 NLT)**

*Look up the Scripture regarding the rain and snow coming down from heaven and watering the earth to grow things (i.e.) As the rain and snow come down to the earth and water it so that grain grows, so is My Word that goes forth from My mouth. It will accomplish that for which I sent it.*

**The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)**

*Now I want you to listen and write what I tell you.*

*I will now increase My Spirit upon B and you. You have both been faithful in a little, so I am giving you more. This is a gift from Me and not from you. Your words will have greater effectiveness from now on, so be careful what you say. Do not speak careless words, for you are now more accountable for them than before. You will see your words affecting people more from now on.*

## A DREAM ABOUT COMPILING BOOK ORDERS ONTO A MASTER LIST

I was working at a local school for that school's library. BN and I were compiling book orders sent in by the parents of the students for books that were to go to that school's library. We would compile all the individual orders onto one master order. I mentioned that we should be sure we had all the addresses for the book publishing companies correctly entered on our order. I thought the number of orders was wonderful for only a small school.

- Books refer to knowledge and preparation, record, Word of God, heart of man, witness, remembrance, conscience, education.
- A library can also refer to learning and/or research.
- A school refers to a place of education, teaching or learning, a church, people or work, teaching ministry, or training.
- BN was the church treasurer where I used to work, so he represents a treasurer, the person in charge of money.
- One master order for books makes me wonder if this book order was an order to the Master to knowledge and preparation.
- A small school library may refer to this being a small ministry area, not a large ministry.

Since I was reading last night about how wisdom and knowledge come from the fear of the Lord, perhaps this dream is referring to gathering wisdom and knowledge (books) from the desire/need of the people in this small ministry area, and being sure that wisdom and knowledge come from the right source (publishing companies).

This dream may be showing the preparation You, Lord, are doing inside of me for the help/use of the "students" in the ministry area (school) You have for me. This dream could also refer to the books You have had me write over the last 3+ years, and showing a picture of more books to come...that You, the treasurer, are ordering/planning for my ministry.

*Yes, Joan, that is right. Both ideas are right. I am gathering/ordering more books of knowledge and wisdom for you to digest and use in the small ministry (school) I have for you. I am also alerting you to more books to come for you to write with Me. My "treasurer" will help you with this - will provide what is necessary (favor/provision) to pay for this.*

*The dream is about you. I am the treasurer and the parent who orders certain special books to be brought to that small library of wisdom and knowledge inside of you. More are on order. I will draw them to your attention and I want you to purchase them: Rick Joyner, Paul Keith Davis, Bill Johnson, John Bevere, and others as I lead you. Listen to Me on what to buy. I have an order (a plan) for this.*



~ 56 ~

## TIMIDITY

*Timidity is the life issue I'm working on to extract it from you, Joan. It is a process that is now taking place - and I'm doing it, not you. You can't.*

*You can't, and I never said you could.*

*I can, and I promised that I would.*

*I am taking away your timidity little by little, piece by piece and hunk by hunk. This doesn't mean you won't be humble, but that you won't fear man more than Me. I'm taking away your fear of man! It was taught to you as a child and has remained until now, but now I am taking it away. I will do it partly by increasing your power and love and a sound mind (self-discipline). (2 Tim. 1:7)*

~ 57 ~

## A DREAM ABOUT SEEING SOMEONE IN A MIRROR

In this dream I was seeing and talking to some man (a person I didn't identify in the dream) as I lay on my right side propped up on one arm while looking in a mirror to see him. I turned over so I could see him face to face. We were talking about spiritual things. He said the first line of a Scripture verse, and I finished saying the whole verse in KJV. I tried later but didn't remember what Scripture verse it was.

*First you saw Me (Holy Spirit) in a mirror and we communicated. Turning over and facing Me indicates your desire to see Me better - to come closer to Me. Then I could start a Scripture and you would remember the whole Scripture and quote it. We'll be doing that more and more.*

*The dream depicts your desire to actually come closer to Me...and our communicating easily. It's not remembering the exact Scripture that's important. It's the whole idea of My bringing Scripture to your remembrance and your thinking of the whole thing - a pattern we now do and will do more and more. It depicts our current relationship.*

*It's like how John Bevere preaches - following My prompting. You won't be preaching, but having conversations, but I will be prompting you as you go and as you do. It's important for our (you and Me) interacting from now on. The whole dream was about having a closer relationship with Me. "Now we see as in a glass (mirror) darkly, but then face to face."*

*It's all going to be around the Word of God, Joan, our new level of relationship. As you draw closer to Me, you draw closer to My Word. I'm going to open up to you now a world of communication you have not experienced before. You are ready for it. Previously I've kept you hidden but now I'm opening up you to the world and the world to you for communicating.*

*I want you to write out the prayer of Jabez (It's My Word and that's why it's powerful - I've set things up that way) and Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1, and pray both of those. Pray My Word, pray My promises, and pray what I impart to you as a Rhema Word.*

**Prayer of Jabez: (1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NKJV) Oh that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be upon me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.**

**Paul's prayer (in Ephesians 1:17-19 NIV) I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.**

~ 58 ~

## **DEEP CALLS UNTO DEEP**

The Holy Spirit brought to my mind the phrase "deep calls unto deep." He said this refers to the mysteries (deep things) of God which call unto the deep things inside of me (mankind) to be figured out...as in how it is "the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to reveal/discover it." (Proverbs 25:2) Perhaps that could refer to the mysteries of dreams to be discovered through the Holy Spirit's revelations.

The deep things of God call out to the deep things of the Holy Spirit who is inside of you. If you are listening to and sensitive to the Holy Spirit, then you will learn God's mysteries. He (God) wants to reveal Himself (through mysteries), but only to those who "wait upon Him," who care enough to spend that time with Him and listen for His "voice." His revelations are not to be lightly taken, but to be highly esteemed (enough to be willing to give up your sleep to receive them and to write them down).

## JUDGMENT

**Now I will tell you new things, secrets you have not yet heard. They are brand new, not things from the past. So you cannot say, "We knew that all the time." (Isaiah 48:6b-7 NLT)**

**This is what the Lord says - your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow. Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea." (Isaiah 48:17 ff)**

Judgment = a revelation of wickedness and good. Judgment of the church - revealing what is truly in the heart of the people who call themselves Christian.

## A DREAM OF BEING IN A PRIVILEGED POSITION

I was going through material for spiritual growth and taking extensive notes and putting them in a notebook. It seems I had heard this material before and took a few notes (during MasterLife class). I kept those previous notes and added new and extensive ones to them. When finished I went into a room where my director/overseer was sitting with a cup of drink. I began to show him all the work I had done as if he needed to see and approve it. Then I realized that there were people waiting in some room beside this room, and they were likely waiting to see him. I had come in from the "inside" part of the house, not through the waiting room. I asked if it was ok to take his time right now and he said it was ok. It felt like I was privileged to come in to see him this way...that he was "available" to me.

*I'm now taking the place of your dad. Now you can come to Me from the inside path of a family member and share with Me what delights you. We have this special close relationship where you always get My attention when you talk to Me, AND you get to be as a child with Me, which you missed (and wanted) with your earthly dad. That's the way I want you to come to Me, Joan, from now on. I was showing you this "privileged" position in your dream.*

## A LESSON ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT

As I lay in bed awake before getting up, the Holy Spirit was teaching me about where my "treasure" was (in regard to the garage sales I planned to visit this morning). He reminded me that where my heart was, there my treasure was - and where my treasure was, there my heart was.

He wants me to have my heart set on people as my (and His) treasure, rather than things. He reminded me of how I sometimes go to the store (i.e. grocery store), or to garage sales, etc. and look primarily at the things there rather than make eye contact with the people. From now on He wants me to treasure people and love people by noticing them, making eye contact with them, and smiling at them, perhaps even saying "hi" to them.

He said that freely I have received, and now He wants me to freely give to others. He said that is a way of loving them, by acknowledging them in this way. He said this creates a bond with them, a good bond, and He will keep any negative bond from coming from that.

I repent, Lord, of setting myself apart from people by not looking at them and acknowledging them. I ask You to forgive me for doing that. (And He says He does.) Today I turn from that old way and commit to treasure people rather than things - as You want me to.

*As you do this, Joan, then your garage sale times and grocery times can be times of blessing, both for you and for the other people, even if you don't buy a single thing there. And this will further My kingdom - the contact with others. You don't know what blessing I can and will give to others through this "ministry" of acknowledging people.*

*Think of how I went about the countryside looking at people, looking into their eyes, acknowledging them as human beings, loving them with My attention. Now I want you to do that too and to make that your ministry right now...for Me. Will you do that for Me?*

Yes, Lord.

*Ok, then we will do this together. It will be interesting and fun. You can watch to see what I'm doing and join Me in it.*

## RAIN AND SNOW

**As the rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth... so also is my word. I send it out and it always produces fruit. (Isaiah 55:10-11 TLB)**

As I read this Scripture verse I am reminded that when rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth, then there is a long process that water goes through before fruit comes from it. So, when I send out the Word, it might similarly take a long time for the fruit from it to grow and ripen. Perhaps I am getting fruit today from the Word I prayed several months ago.

**~ 63 ~**

## **A DREAM ABOUT WRAPPING CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR VISITING CHILDREN**

I was wrapping Christmas presents for some visiting children. The toys were K's which she was ready to give up - doll clothes, doll bed, kitten. I was waiting to see if my boy children (younger than K) were ready to give up any of their toys. If so, then I planned to wrap those to give away also. I was trying to do this secretly so the visiting children wouldn't know.

What does this dream mean, Lord? Are those children representing me? Are You wanting me to give up some things? If so, what? And who are the visiting children who will receive these as gifts? Does this somehow refer to my books?

*Yes, you are thinking rightly. The "toys" are things which used to mean a lot to you, but you are past needing them and using them now. Others (young children, young in the Lord) can now use them for play/worshipping Me. These things are gifts to others from you. Yes, they refer to your books, which came out of your past and are now ready to be given away to others. I will take care of bringing the visiting children to your books to receive the gifts I've stored there secretly for them.*

**~ 64 ~**

## **BALL OF LIGHT**

Last night I awoke and wrote down a piece of a dream. In it I was given a special ball of light which we needed to learn to use. This ball seemed to be the last gift in a row of things. Perhaps that means it is coming at the very last of my life. It may refer to the Holy Spirit. I wonder how I learn how to use it.

*Listen to Me and I will show you. I'll take you where I want you to go with My ball of light and show you how to use it. You place it where I show you, and when I show you, and how I show you.*

~ 65 ~

## **GOD'S PRIMARY PURPOSE**

(Quotes from Chip Ingram's book: *God: As He Longs for You to See Him*, p. 145)

We will never be able to trust what God is doing in our lives until we figure out and personalize his ultimate goal. His primary purpose is not to make us happy, healthy, wealthy, and wonderful. He doesn't promise to make our lives easy and guarantee that things go smoothly. Though he is eternally committed to providing the best for his children, that "best" may or may not coincide with what many of us consider "making it" in life. God is good. He is sovereign. And even in a fallen world, we can rest in the assurance that he is actively working to bring about the best possible results by the best possible means, and in the end, to make you and me like his son, Jesus.

~ 66 ~

## **A LIST OF SCRIPTURES TO PRAY FOR MY PRAYER BUNDLE:**

**May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. (Eph. 1:2 NLT)**

**The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. (Isaiah 50:4 NLT)**

**The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened. (Isaiah 50:5 NLT)**

**You who love the Lord, hate evil. He protects the lives of his godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked. (Psalm 97:10 NLT)**

**Light shines on the godly, and joy on those whose hearts are right. (Psalm 97:11)**

**May all who are godly rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name! (Psalm 97:12 NLT)**

**Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts. (1 John 5:21)**

**And I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safely in my hand. (Isaiah 51:16)**

~ 67 ~

## **A DREAM ABOUT THE BROCHURE FOR A COURSE COMING UP**

In this dream I was reading and reviewing the brochure about a discipleship course that seemed interesting to me. I was appalled because it didn't even give the title of the course on the brochure. I kept looking and looking to learn the name of the course, and it wasn't there. I also found various places the wording of sentences describing it were poorly worded. I felt I needed to rewrite the brochure or help someone rewrite it. The course brochure seemed to have some cartoon-like pictures on it besides words. The brochure was projected on the wall or a screen every so often, cycling along with other information. I was talking to B about it. I also talked to PJ (my pastor) about the course and mentioned it in a church service to the congregation briefly.

A brochure is similar to a book. It gives information and records it. It gives knowledge and preparation for an event that will take place. It is to draw one's attention to an important event coming up soon. A cartoon can advise that one should use humor in life, or it may warn of a tendency toward avoiding reality. Projected on a wall/screen may refer to this course being "projected" in the future, something yet to come. I wanted to inform others about this course that was coming - my daughter, my pastor, and my fellow Christians.

What do You want me to gather/understand from this dream, Lord?

*I want you to see that things are coming soon. I want you to keep your light-heartedness about these things (cartoon) but realize the reality of it also. It doesn't have a "title" so you don't know for sure what to call it, but you do have some description about it. I want you to tell others the understanding you have gained and help them to know what is coming also. I also want your writing as a record for future records of what you went*

*through. Keep recording in your journal and your books whatever I lead you to write there. I will get the information to those I want to read and know it.*

~ 68 ~

## PRAY MY WORD

*You want to know My mind and My heart? Then read My Word. That gives you My mind (thoughts) and My heart. Then pray My Word back to Me and I will hear - as it is My will. (1 John 5:14-15)*

**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)**

~ 69 ~

## JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD

**I'm torn between two desires. I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far greater for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. (Philippians 1:23-25 NLT)**

*That's why I'm keeping you here yet, Joan. I want and need you to continue to live on earth to work for Me with your prayers and petitions and requests, as well as your praise and thanksgiving to Me each day - and all this for others too, as I lead you. I want you here on earth to work with Me and partner with Me. Will you agree to do this, for Me?*

Yes, Lord.

*Then we will continue a little longer. It won't be long until you will "come up here" and be with Me forever.*

Thank You, Lord, I look forward to that.

*I know, and I am pleased with you and what you have become in Me. I don't want you to leave (earth) yet. I want to keep working with you. Morning by morning I will awaken you*



*to come apart with Me, and I will show you what I want you to pray for Me. Will you do this?*

Yes, Lord.

*I know you will. That's why I am asking you to. I know you have a willing heart to do that which I have put within you - intercession for Me. I am the one who placed it in your heart to ask Che Ahn and Lou for intercession. And when they prayed for you, I gave you a greater measure of the grace to intercede for Me. And I want you to keep asking as I put that in your mind and heart. Now you know, through John Bevere's teaching, that grace and peace can be multiplied by Me to you. Now you can ask for that, knowing it is My will because it is in My Word.*

*Praying My Word is My heart's desire for you. That's why I have taught you that idea over and over until you finally learned it and know it. Now you will do that for the rest of your days on this earth. I will give you the Scriptures to pray each day. Expect that.*

*Intercession - this is going to be the focus of your life for the rest of your life, Joan. You are now qualified and equipped to do so - to "stand in the gap" (Ezek. 22:30) for those I tell you to intercede for. (That is the yellow brick wall with words on it you saw a picture of - sturdy, solid, and a gift from Me.) This is the way you will earn your heavenly rewards - by intercession, not by giving money. I will give you the names of those I choose for you to specifically intercede for.*

*You just follow My lead on whom to pray for, how often, and how many days.*

~ 70 ~

## **TYPES OF INTERCESSION**

(Quotes from C. Peter Wagner's book *Prayer Shield*)

p. 54-55

### **1. General Intercession**

Those who have a ministry of general intercession will spend long hours praying over prayer lists, prayer guides and any number of miscellaneous prayer requests given to them.

### **2. Crisis Intercession**

A crisis intercessor prays almost exclusively on assignment, and the assignment comes from the Father. They do not respond well to random requests for prayer from individual people, and most of them would be bored to tears with a prayer list. They like to go into their prayer time with worship and praise, draw near to the Father, and hear directly from Him what they are to pray for. Some assignments are short

term, some long term. Once God tells them to pray through a crisis situation they will hang on to it like a bulldog until it is resolved or until God "releases" them from the assignment.

3. Personal Intercession

Some intercessors receive a special calling to pray on a regular and intense basis for a specific person or persons. Usually these are pastors and other Christian leaders.

4. Warfare Intercession

Some intercessors are called especially to engage the enemy in high-level spiritual warfare.

~ 71 ~

## DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTERCESSORS

(Quotes from C. Peter Wagner's book *Prayer Shield*)

p. 122-130

### I-3 intercessors

I-3 intercessors can be quite remote from the pastor or leader they pray for. Most I-3 intercession is a one-way relationship. The leader often does not know who the I-3 intercessor is or that he or she is praying for them and their ministry.

### I-2 intercessors

Typical I-2 intercessors will have a regular, but somewhat casual, contact with the pastor or leader they pray for. Pastors' I-2 intercessors will see them in the pulpit every Sunday and shake hands when they go out the church door after the service. They may cross paths from time to time in other church-related events. But for many, this is about the extent of the personal contact...

A well-developed team of I-2 intercessors enjoys a two-way contact with the pastor. It is therefore essential to know who the I-2 intercessors are.

### I-1 intercessors

God calls I-1 intercessors to have a special close relationship with the pastor or other leader. Sometimes this involves a close social relationship, sometimes it is a largely spiritual relationship. Most, if not all, of the I-1 intercessors I know have the spiritual gift of intercession. Through it they have developed an intimacy with the Father that allows them to hear the Father's voice and know His purposes more clearly than most.

~ 72 ~

## THE THREE STEPS

(Quotes from C. Peter Wagner's book *Prayer Shield*)

p. 161-162

I recall one particular morning when I was struggling with this matter before God in prayer. I said, "Father, please give me intimacy with you like I am seeing in these intercessors. I want to be like them."

Then came one of those moments that are few and far between for me, but daily bread for true intercessors, when I clearly heard God speaking to me in response to my petition. He first told me to take my pencil and draw three steps, which I promptly did.

God then showed me that the intercessors are on the top step, and I am on the middle step. Multitudes are on the bottom step. He said that the intercessors are too high to reach down and help many who are on the bottom step. He told me that He wanted me to be one of His middle-step people who are in close touch with the intercessors, but who also will help many people move up the stairway. He said that many whom I do help from the lower step to the middle step will then move on and pass me.

I sensed that I heard God say my task was not to minister in His throne room, but to be outside the throne room helping others to come nearer. Those who are already in the throne room will be a major link in bringing me closer to God.

God assured me that I do have clear access to Him. He affirmed the priesthood of all believers. Access to Him is not the question, but the degree of intimacy is. He showed me that His family is large and that He loves all His children. His perfect desire and calling for each child is to be in the place where they will be the greatest blessing to all. Not all of His children are as yet in the place He wants them, but He seemed to assure me that I was in exactly the place where I was supposed to be, and that I was to rejoice in it rather than to fret over it.

*That's where you were when you taught Discipleship Training - outside the throne room (with only occasional times in the throne room). Then, in 2000 I told you to stop Discipleship Training so you could spend your time coming closer to Me. Now you have been doing that for over 7 years, and you are much nearer to Me now than you were then.*

*Now is the time for you to be an intercessor before Me, in My throne room, bringing before Me those I assign you to. That's what this 7 years has been primarily about - preparing you to come into My throne room, into My Presence, and to bring your requests before Me. That is the closest you will get while on this earth. It is My best for you, Joan. Walk thankfully and steadily in your new role as intercessor before Me.*

~ 73 ~

## A PUZZLE PIECE

I saw the impression of a puzzle piece snugly fit into exactly the right place. What does it mean, Lord?
--

*You are the puzzle piece and you are now snugly fit into the right place for you in the puzzle of life - and that is intercession - as a personal intercessor - and only as I lead you. And this is the right place for your intercession - here in B's house.*

~ 74 ~

## **GREATER THINGS AND BETTER THINGS**

Last night about 11:47 p.m. the Holy Spirit said:

*Now on to greater things and better things.*

As I pondered that, the ideas came:

*Greater listening, better hearing Me, greater hearing what I want you to pray, more effective prayers, praying My Word more.*

This morning He spoke:

*I want you to imagine Me giving you words of knowledge to give to others.*

*I want you to imagine Me giving you words of healing to pray and/or to speak over others.*

*And it's good!*

### **Isaiah 55:10-12**

**The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace.**

I will live in joy and peace.

*Yes, that's for you, Joan. Joy and peace.*

## THIS IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO PRAY

*This is what I want you to pray for those persons you are to intercede for: brothers and sisters, prayer bundle, church staff, and others.*

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

That you will sincerely fear God and seek His wisdom, longing to know Him and understand His ways. (Proverbs 9:10)

That you will seek to please God and not people. (Galatians 1:10)

That you will be devoted to prayer, your minds alert and your hearts thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

That you will act with justice, will love mercy and will walk humbly with the Lord. (Micah 6:8)

That you will remain faithful to your marriage vows, being one with your spouse in flesh and spirit. (Malachi 2:15)

That you will never fear bad news, keeping your hearts steadfast and trusting in the Lord in every situation. (Psalm 112:7)

That you will ask God for wisdom and listen to Him with expectancy. (James 1:5)

That you will be a part of a local congregation where you are encouraged, built up and kept accountable. (Hebrews 10:25)

That you will be surrounded by godly advisors of God's own choosing resulting in thoughtful and wise decisions. (Proverbs 24:6)

That you will be a person of prayer morning, noon and night. (Psalm 119:147-148; Ephesians 6:18)

That you, when faced with crisis, will turn first to the Lord and His wisdom. (Psalm 91:14-15)

That you will remain grounded in God's Word and His will, not being swayed by popular thought or worldly pressures. (Hebrews 13:9)

That you will willingly acknowledge God's mighty works and power, openly speaking of them to others. (Psalm 105:1-2)

That you and your family will be protected by God from physical, spiritual and emotional harm. (Psalm 91:1-13)

That you will keep your eyes and heart focused on the one true God, even in moments of powerlessness or uncertainty. (2 Chronicles 20:12)

That you will please the Lord with the words you speak and the things you contemplate in your heart. (Psalm 19:14)

That you would continually desire to learn from the Spirit of God, longing to be guided by His truth and placing your hope in Him always. (Psalm 25:4-5)

~ 76 ~

## THE ELECT

I asked the Lord again about "the elect" or the chosen mentioned in the Bible. I want to understand what that means. He said:

*I chose those whom I knew would choose Me. I knew this "from the foundation of the world." I knew and so I drew - drew them to Me, even from childhood as I did with you.*

What about all the others, Lord?

*I knew ahead of time (because I know all things) that they wouldn't choose Me even though I gave the opportunity to all people (and this gospel of salvation shall be preached to all the world - (Matt. 24:14 and Mark 13:10).*

*They each had/have the opportunity to choose Me, Joan. I am not partial, and I don't show favoritism. However, since I already knew who would choose Me, I drew them to Me - as I knew ahead of time they would respond.*

*I gave all free will, Joan, and I work within that free will - but knowing ahead of time who would freely choose Me and who wouldn't. All have the opportunity...even those who haven't heard the Gospel. They can know that I exist and honor Me - as many Indians did. So you see, it's fair, and not unfair. All have the opportunity to know Me. I put that opportunity in their hearts.*

~ 77 ~

## CO-CREATE BY SPEAKING HIS WORD

Today the Holy Spirit/Jesus is telling me:

- He wants me to learn more about Him as I've asked Him to "teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor in your sight". (Exodus 33:13)
- He wants to use me in praying His Word over others.
- I am to co-create with Him by speaking His Word, even as He created speaking His Word.
- This destroys the works of the devil. Jesus came to save the lost and destroy the works of the devil.

*I've not called you to be a crisis intercessor, but a personal intercessor. However sometimes I may use you as a crisis intercessor if you are willing. But primarily I want you to be a personal intercessor, and only for the ones I give you. Yes, your prayer bundle is ok, and so are the other bundles I've given you - your family bundle, your sibling bundle, and your staff bundle.*

*You see, I am doing a lot of work in the Spirit through your prayers - and you are to believe this by faith. It might take several months to be fully accomplished on earth. You are to wait (how often I said, "wait on the Lord") in great expectation.*

*Ezek. 22:30 You are a "stand in the gap" person, Joan. You gave yourself to Me and this is what I've chosen for you. And I'm having you practice on yourself to build your confidence and "teach you My ways."*

On page 27 of Cindy Jacob's book *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, she said God said to her: "Cindy, I want you to lay your ministry down and learn to intercede."

*Isn't that what I had you do...lay your ministry down and learn to intercede? The first step was to come closer to Me and form a greater intimacy with Me. The next step was to form prayer bundles I wanted you to bring before Me daily or weekly as I led.*

Have I received a legacy from "pray-ers" in my life, Lord?

*No, My child. That is why I must start you out on the beginning levels and teach/show you the way to grow as an intercessor. But I, the Holy Spirit, am your teacher, and I am a good teacher. I will show you what I want you to know and when I want you to know it. Your part is to listen to Me and obey Me/follow Me.*

*Cindy's call was to be a national and international intercessor, so I gave her personal teachers who prayed together with her and taught her how. My purpose for you is different, so I am teaching you Myself a little at a time - just enough so you can pray what I want prayed by you, and when I want it prayed.*

~ 78 ~

## PRAISE THE LORD

**(Psalm 106:1-2) Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord? Who can ever praise him enough?**

I seek Your counsel for every day of my life, Lord, that I might do what is pleasing in your sight.

*You are doing what is pleasing in My sight, Joan - seeking Me, praising Me, and coming near Me. Do this every day and I will see to it that you continue to please Me.*

~ 79 ~

## TO PRAY FOR UNBELIEVERS

Today I searched for Scriptures to pray for some unbelievers, and here are the ones I was led to write out:

**2 Corinthians 4:6 NLT**

**For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.**

**John 5:24 NLT**

**I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.**

**John 14:6 NLT**

**Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."**

**John 1:4-5 NLT**

**The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.**

**John 9:4b-5 NLT**

**The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.**



### **2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NLT**

**Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."**

### **Ephesians 1:16-19a NLT**

**I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called - his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.**

### **Ephesians 5:6-11 NLT**

**Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.**

### **1 John 1:5-7 NLT**

**This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

**~ 80 ~**

## **TO PRAY FOR BELIEVERS**

Today as I sought the Lord to show me what Scriptures to pray for believers, He guided me to these Scriptures:

### **Deuteronomy 28:2 NIV**

**All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.**

**Deuteronomy 28:11 TLB**

**The Lord will give you an abundance of good things in the land, just as he promised: many children, many cattle, and abundant crops.**

**Deuteronomy 28:12 TLB**

**He will open to you his wonderful treasury of rain in the heavens, to give you fine crops every season. He will bless everything you do, and you shall lend to many nations, but shall not borrow from them.**

**Deuteronomy 28:13 NIV**

**The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.**

**Isaiah 30:21 NIV**

**Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."**

**Isaiah 48:17 NIV**

**This is what the Lord says - your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."**

**Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**

**"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 29:12-13 NIV**

**Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

**Psalms 23:1-3 NIV**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Psalms 32:8 NIV**

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

**Psalms 37:23-24 NIV**

**If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.**

**Psalms 143:8 NIV**

**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.**

**Psalm 143:9 NIV**

**Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in you.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**

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

**Proverbs 16:9 NIV**

**In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.**

**Joshua 24:15b TLB**

**But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.**

**John 8:12 NIV**

**When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

**John 10:27 KJV**

**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.**

**John 16:13a NIV**

**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.**

**~ 81 ~**

## **AFTER THE RAPTURE**

As I rested after Quiet Time today I saw before my eyes an impression of an opened book with printing on its pages. But the printing looked like it was partially obscured, like a white piece of paper had been put on top of the printing in the book, so you could barely see the printing through that white paper. Then a gray-like cloud began to rise up and cover the writing in the book.

I asked the Lord what it meant. He indicated that the Word would be obscured and made difficult to read and see at some point in time - after the Rapture takes place. This impression is a symbolic representation of that. I am to write this and put it in my latest book: *JOURNAL OF A LISTENER TO GOD*.

## FIVE STRATEGIES OF PRAYER

From Ruth Shinness' web site ([www.prayerstrategy.com](http://www.prayerstrategy.com)) her five strategies of prayer:

1. Look to God's promises in the Bible.
2. Agree with God that the promises are "yes" to me.
3. Jesus already won it for me on the cross.
4. Look at the answer and not the problem. (When you think and speak the problem, you cancel your prayers for the answer)
5. Thanks to God for the answer.

## PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS

Today, as I prayed for some people who may not be born again Christians, the Holy Spirit began to show me some things to pray for them:

Pray for the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, to go to them and...

- Unblind their eyes (2 Cor. 4:4-6)
- Take away their unbelief in the Gospel.
- Testify to Christ.
- Reveal, inspire, illuminate, open blind eyes, restore spiritual vision.
- Enable sinners to see that the gospel is indeed God's truth.
- And Scripture is indeed God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16)
- And Christ is indeed God's Son (John 15:26)
- Convince them concerning sin and righteousness and judgement (John 16:8-11)
- Demonstrate the Spirit and power (1 Cor. 2:1-5)
- Give them ears to hear what you say to them. (Rev. 2:7)
- Guide them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13)
- Reveal things of Christ (John 16:14)
- Bring them to the new birth (John 3:5-6, 1 John 5:4)
- Witness. (Hebrews 10:15, 1 John 5:9)
- Teach. (John 14:26, Eph. 1:16-17)

**But the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)**

*You pray My Word onto someone and it stands forever. Even if they don't receive it, My Word stands forever and it waits with that person for him to receive it and believe it. So pray My Word onto your loved ones and prayer bundle, and it will stay with them until they die as an influence over them*

~ 84 ~

## **INTERCESSION BY JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Today the Lord is guiding me to learn more about prayer and deepen and extend my prayer life. He reminded me that Jesus intercedes, and the Holy Spirit intercedes. I am therefore doing a Scripture search on times when it mentions their intercession or prayers, to learn from those Scriptures and to keep that information in my prayer notebook.

### Intercession of Christ

**Luke 23:34** Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

**Romans 8:34** Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**Hebrews 7:25** Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

**1 John 2:1** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

### Intercession Predicted

**Isaiah 53:12** Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### Intercession of the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Intercession to be made for all men

**1 Timothy 2:1-2** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

**Ephesians 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Intercession asked for by Paul

**Romans 15:30** I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

**2 Corinthians 1:11** As you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

**Col 4:3** And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

**1 Thess. 5:25** Brothers, pray for us.

**2 Thess. 3:1** Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

**Hebrews 13:18** Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

~ 85 ~

## **I SET YOU APART**

*I set you apart before you were born, Joan, to be exactly what you are right now - an intercessor for Me to use to speak words for Me. Now I want you to do that, in My Name, for everyone I guide you to speak for.*

## MY OLD LIFE IS GONE. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

(Quotes from *Heaven Is Real* by Don Piper)

(p. 82)

People talk to me and say things such as, "I seem to have crossed some kind of threshold in life. There's no turning back. My old life is gone. But I don't know what to do now. People tell me I have to move on, find a new direction, and I realize that, but I'm still mourning my old life, and right now, I just don't know what else to do."

I often respond with something like this: "Every transition begins with an ending. We have to let go of the old before we start the new. But it's not as easy as hitting a switch. It's a process, and we have to go through the darkness before we emerge on the other side. The key is to use the time well, shifting our focus so instead of looking inward, bemoaning what we've lost and trying to figure out how we can deal with it, we begin to look outward, to someone who can heal us, guide us, and give us strength for our journey. Instead of asking, 'How am I going to live without my old life?' we begin to ask, 'How am I going to live with my new life?' and in doing so, we will discover the path God is laying before us, the purpose He has for our lives."

## LIFE IS ABOUT GIVING AND SHARING OF OURSELVES

(Quotes from *Heaven Is Real* by Don Piper)

(p. 159)

That strength - that desire to help - was also my weakness. I liked being a helper; I didn't like being helped. If anyone in need called or asked for me, I was there. Again I think that's typical of most of us in the helping profession....

When I protested that I didn't want them to do anything, that's when he really let me have it. "It's not your call...It's the only thing they have to offer you, and you're taking that gift away from them." I finally learned: I *allowed* others to help...I realize that if I withhold from them, I cheat them out of the opportunity to minister to me. I deprive them of the ability to prove their love by their actions.

There's a second way I grasped this truth of being open to others wanting to help....The people who met me at the gate (of heaven) were people who had influenced my life and had died. Because of them, I had lived as a Christian...I allowed those people to influence me. That means they helped me. They were all joy filled at the gate because they had impacted my life in some way.

As I have slowly learned to accept my responsibility to receive help, I'm in a stronger position to say it both ways to people. Be helpers of those in need, be recipients of their help when you're in need.

Paul said in Phil 4:17

**"Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness." (Philippines 4:17)**

(p. 165-6)

If we want to help, we'll find ways. And to those who, like me, didn't want people to help them, my advice comes in two words: *Let them*. Let them help you because they want to or they wouldn't have asked. Just smile and thank them and let them.

A final word here: Pride may be the problem of refusing help. Most people - including Don Piper - like to think of themselves as able to take care of their own needs and not to depend on someone else. To receive help humbles us and some of us don't like that.

**Philippians 2:4 "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."**

If I refuse to let someone help me, I'm disobeying the command of God right here: I refuse to allow them to look out for me or to help me.

I've come to the conclusion that humility is a quality God loves. The more we're aware of our needs, the more we depend on God and God uses people to minister to our needs. Life is about giving and sharing of ourselves.

The message the Holy Spirit gave me today was to "hold on" for I am still in transition. This is what Don Piper recommended to those going through transitions - to hold on and let God bring you through and teach and train you as you go. Then, at the right time, He will use you for the ministry He has for you using what you learned during the transition.

~ 88 ~

## **A SIGN OF HUMILITY**

(Quotes from *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram)

p. 44-45

I learned to pray; and I learned that the most accurate barometer of my humility and sense of dependency is not what I think about myself or what other people think about me. It's the reality of the actual praying I do.



When we ask God to intervene in our lives or in someone else's life, we're actually admitting our own weakness. We come to God because we know we can't handle whatever situation we're in. We need help with our marriage, our kids, our future, our job, our decisions, or whatever else we seek his help for. On the other hand, when we don't pray very much, we're really saying that even though the Lord created the universe, we think we can handle our problems and guide ourselves through life. It means that we are putting a lot of stock in our own intelligence and resources, quietly claiming our own sufficiency. Genuine prayer acknowledges who God is and our need for him. That's a sign of humility.

~ 89 ~

## **EVERY DREAM PASSES THROUGH THE CROSS**

(Quotes from *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram)

p. 90

The dream will cost us our life and appear to others as the height of folly just before God accomplishes the impossible through us. There will be a time in the process of God fulfilling his dream placed in your heart when he will take you all the way to the edge, and you must die.

Every dream passes through the cross. Every dream takes you to where you let go of everything and everyone, every agenda and expectation, and then it is only as the Lord resurrects you and your dream that you can go on.

We spend much of our time and energy trying to avoid that place. We want just enough of Jesus to make us happy, just enough to give us peace, and just enough to make things go our way to fulfill our dreams and our agenda. Meanwhile, he wants to take us to the cross, where our own selfish dreams, egos, and plans for "great accomplishments" have to die. The cross brings you to a place of total and absolute surrender of all you have and all you are. You submit everything in obedience to the vision or dream God has given you for your life...The goal is that God be glorified in your life by doing something impossible through someone improbably like you.

~ 90 ~

## **GREATNESS**

(Quotes from *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram)

p. 187

True greatness is serving others for the glory of God. In a nutshell, that's the way to higher standing in God's kingdom. We take our eyes off of ourselves and turn them to God and others. We become great in God's eyes by helping others become greater than ourselves.

Greatness comes through building others up, by aiming for their greatness more than we aim for our own...In God's economy, someone else's gain is our gain, and someone else's loss is our loss. The best way to greatness in an economy like that is to pursue greatness - for someone else.

p. 189

Good Christians live the Christian life. They love God, walk in integrity, demonstrate faithfulness to their mates, spend time in the Bible because they want to hear from God, make the effort to discover their spiritual gifts, use those gifts in their local church, give their tithes and offerings, go on mission trips, and help their kids grow up to be godly men and women. They do what God calls them to do, and they serve him well.

Great Christians, on the other hand, do all that and then pass it on. You can be a good Christian by obeying God and loving people, but if you haven't poured your life into others, your life ends with a period. Great Christians end with a comma. They live the life of faith in a way that takes God's grace to them and imparts it into the lives of others. They multiply themselves again and again and again. Good Christians "live the life;" great Christians "leave a legacy."

~ 91 ~

## INVEST YOUR LIFE WISELY

(Quotes from *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram)

p. 190-193

**Help many, train a few.** You have to invest wisely...You can contribute to the lives of many, but you can't invest deeply in everyone. You have to choose....The first step is to pray..."Lord, I want to focus and invest my life in a few people, so I need to be discerning. Please guide me in this. And God, who is more interested in your becoming a great Christian than even you are, has promised to answer. (James 1:5)

Look under your own roof. Empowering great people starts with those for whom you are morally responsible....begin with those who live with you.

After praying and looking under your own roof, look for F.A.T. people: **F**aithful, **A**vailable, and **T**eachable...*Faithful* people are the ones who complete an assignment, who actually take care of a problem when they say they'll take care of it, and who call you later because they promised they would....He [God] looks at the heart. Those who are faithful have put themselves in a position to grow in maturity. Instead of listening to what people say, watch what they do with their responsibilities. When you see faithfulness, you see potential.

To invest your life wisely, you'll want to choose people who are *available* in addition to being faithful.

Look also for people who are *teachable*. A person who thinks he or she has already mastered certain aspects of life is not going to be open to instruction or even subtle suggestions. There's no point in investing in

someone who isn't aware that the investment is beneficial. People who are teachable are in position to grow and bear fruit.

You discover whether people are teachable by how they respond when confronted with hard things to hear. Do they hear constructive criticism with humility? Do they respond with character and demonstrate surrender and perseverance?...God chooses the lowly things of this world in order to shame our worldly standards (1 Cor. 1:27-29)...I encourage you to look beyond people's history and look at their heart....if they are faithful, available, and teachable, they can become who God really wants them to be.

~ 92 ~

## THE HIGHWAY ON WHICH GRACE IS DELIVERED

(Quotes from *Good to Great in God's Eyes* by Chip Ingram)

p. 207

The Bible is clear that discipline is a godly means of grace. Spiritual growth and spiritual greatness come to us through our recurring practices. Habits create a framework that God fills with his grace. They become the highway on which grace is delivered.

Godliness is profitable for eternity, Scripture says, and it comes in large part through discipline. In other words, when we approach our spiritual life like an athlete in training and develop the habits of godliness in the same manner that a weight lifter increases his strength, the consequences last forever.

Pray

- From a deeply personal relationship with God
- Out of a sense of brokenness
- Taking God and His Word absolutely seriously
- Be willing to be the instrument through which God works
- On the basis of Jesus' work and favor with God
- Persistently ask, seek, and knock
- For God's agenda

~ 93 ~

## A LESSON FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

This morning the Holy Spirit was teaching me a lesson using the mirrored silver Christmas ornament ball (hanging from the overhead stair walkway) as a teaching tool. At that time the

sunlight shone on the mirrored ball causing tiny circles of light to be reflected on the floor, walls, and ceiling (like a disco ball with light). It was very pretty, and I stopped to look at it awhile. This only happens for a short time in the mornings during some of the shortest days of the year when the sun is farthest south so its light can reach the ball.

As I watched it, the Holy Spirit began speaking into my mind that it was important to be aware of "the time" and to seize the moment to enjoy it, since "the time" only came at certain moments. He compared the mirrored ball to me, just waiting for the right time when He would shine His light on me. Until those specific times, I was like that ball, waiting and ready to reflect His light. Then, at His precise moment, He would shine His light on me, and tiny circles of light would reflect out from me to those around me like they did from that Christmas ornament ball.

~ 94 ~

## WAITING AND PERSEVERING

(From an article by C. Peter Wagner on Elijah List about waiting and persevering for the Lord's promises to come.)

"WAITING" from the book *Understanding Financial Prosperity*, by David Oyedepo:

*"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.' And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." Hebrews 6:13-15*

This is the eagle's secret. God swore to Abraham, yet he needed patience to obtain that promise. The Bible said, "after he had patiently endured" not after he had subjected himself to rigorous senseless fasting, not after he had struggled and sweated it out; but after he had patiently endured.

Abraham needed to have endured. Indeed, every man, every "eagle Christian," requires a degree of covenant patience. The covenant of prosperity is not a magic wand; it's an adventure of faith. "After he had patiently endured...." not after he had wept aloud. We are not called to weep, but to wait.

In Habakkuk 2:3, God said that every vision is for an appointed time, so though it tarries, wait for it. Did He say weep for it? Did He say run around for it? No! Wait! "Wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry."

The reason we are wasting is because we don't like to wait. In 1981, God spoke to me, saying, "The hour has come to liberate the world from all the oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the Word of Faith."

That was a revelation for a world-wide ministry, but the mandate to go into Africa never came until 1994! Can you see the waiting period? "But at the end it shall speak." When you run with it, it will speak at the end. Very many people miss that end, so it looks as if the vision or revelation is not true.

Please understand this: quick prosperity will always end in grievous austerity, because it lacks the required foundation for lasting results.

Why Wait? Your lifting with God is for appointed times and due seasons, and He's the only One who knows when your due season has come. If you strive to lay a hold of something before you're due, you'll be doomed.

*"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."  
Galatians 6:9*

Don't be tired in covenant walk because there is a due season. If you're on your feet when that season comes, you will reap your harvest, but if you faint, you fall.

"If it will work, it ought to have worked by now." That's murmuring. When you murmur, you destroy your seed down, and then you will have to begin all over again. God runs a due season calendar on each one of us. When you are due, He will not deny you. But if you faint before you are due, you lose it all. It's better to wait or you waste. Abraham heard from God directly, yet he needed patience to obtain the promise. If you will not be patient, you may end up a patient in the hospital.

I caught the revelation that I cannot be poor in 1981, but that was not equal to automatic prosperity. But because I know what it takes, I never had occasion to beg, nor was I ever tempted to borrow.

*"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." Luke 8:15*

Though the seed fell on good ground, it could only bring forth fruit with patience. In a society that's ever in a hurry as we live in today, we need an understanding of God that will keep us above the system. God said, "I know you're honest, but you need patience. The day you are due, I will not deny you. Wait! Wait! Wait! The day you are due, you will see Me at work. Wait!"

God cannot deny Himself. Haven't you heard what He said in Psalm 89:34? *"My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips."*

So we can count on Him in the morning, we can count on Him in the afternoon, and we can count on Him in the night. Everyone in this covenant has a future, but that future is continually being contested by the enemy. It takes covenant intelligence to beat him hollow. Waiting without staggering--that's the secret of all high-flying Christians.

Excerpted from *Understanding Financial Prosperity* by David O. Oyedepo  
Published in Nigeria by Dominion Publishing House, 2005, Pages 279-284.

## PRAYER IS LIKE A PLANTING TIME

**Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest. (Psalm 126:5-6 NLT)**

*As this relates to prayer, Joan, it shows that prayer is like a planting time of planting seeds in the Spiritual realm. There is a time of planting, a time of watering that seed and cultivating it, and a time of harvesting it. You are still in the planting and watering time with many of your prayer projects. But keep planting and watering - as the harvest will come with your patient endurance.*

*Trust Me that the soil of My Kingdom realm is good soil to plant in, just as the soil of the earth is good soil to plant in (with the right nutrients, etc.) and the growth toward harvest will happen, even if you cannot see it happening. It is inside and invisible, but real. My Word is like the nutrients you add to the planting of your prayers. They (My Words) help keep the prayer answers growing daily.*

**The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)**

~ 96 ~

## SUFFER PERSECUTION

**Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Tim. 3:12 NLT)**

*And you have already suffered persecution, Joan, and even lost your marriage. You were persecuted financially, verbally, and socially. But I was with you and walked with you through it all. I never left you or forsook you. And I never will either. There may be more persecution to come for you and for others, but I will certainly be with you during all of it. You can then walk through it in victory, as overcomers.*

**But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is**

**inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Tim. 3:14-17 NLT).**

**~ 97 ~**

## **THE ANGELS OF GOD**

**Now I will tell you new things, secrets you have not yet heard. They are brand new, not things from the past. So you cannot say, "We knew that all the time." (Isaiah 48:6b-7 NLT)**

**This is what the Lord says - your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow. Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea." (Isaiah 48:17 ff)**

As I took my shower this morning, the Holy Spirit taught me something, which I want to put here in my journal. The idea was this: that the angels of God go wherever God's Presence is, and they work there. So, when I have the blood of Jesus on me, the angels of God can come and work with me, and on me, and for me, due to Jesus' blood and Presence being there. That is why I am to plead the blood of Jesus over my prayer bundle each day. Then the angels of God can go there and work there. Also, they can work where we pray for them to work, where we pray for God to come. That is why we are to pray (based on Matthew 6:9-13):

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

When we pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," His angels can come into the earth and work there.

The Lord has said He would teach me "new things." I see this revelation as one of those new things. Thank You, Lord!

## KEEP A CLEAR MIND IN EVERY SITUATION

*I want you to know that I want you to sit in front of this computer each day that you can, and ask Me if there is anything I want to speak to you and have you write...from now on. Will you do that for Me?*

*I want you to read your Bible now and see what I tell you about My words.*

**For the time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. (2 Tim. 4:3-4 NLT)**

*You're seeing a lot of that, Joan. Know that the time is NOW that Paul talked about.*

**But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. (2 Tim. 4:5 NLT)**

*Know that this is for you, Joan, and all My people now. Keep a clear mind in every situation. What is a clear mind? It is a mind focused/stayed on Me and My Word. When difficulties come, focus on Me and My Word - looking for what I want to tell you in that situation.*

**...Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom...And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing. (2 Tim. 4:1, 8 NLT)**

So the judging and award giving are done on the day of Your return, when You appear to set up Your Kingdom.

*Yes, that is right. Until then My people, who have previously died, will be waiting in heaven for the prizes and awards that belong to them. You either wait for your rewards here on earth until the Rapture, when I appear to My own and bring them up to be with Me, or you wait in heaven along with all the others who belong to Me.*

**Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. (2 Tim. 4:18 NLT)**

*This safety and deliverance is SPIRITUAL. The physical body may be killed, as Paul's was, but he was still delivered safely into My heavenly Kingdom. He is there now. You will*



*see him someday - the day of your Rapture - for he will be there to greet all those who read and believed his words and followed after him, and you are one.*

~ 99 ~

## ONE DAY AT A TIME

**This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)**

*I made you very sensitive, Joan - sensitive to Me and therefore very sensitive to all the discord that you know is in the world. The only way to live in such a world is to take it one day at a time and totally depend on Me for each one.*

*I made you able to live during this time period I had you born into, Joan. You are able to live in the now - 2008.*

*And I am able also - to enable you each day. Trust Me for this. Call on Me for this, Joan.*

*And no matter what comes, I am able to enable you to live through it - as I walk with you through each day.*

~ 100 ~

## TRIALS EARTH PEOPLE HAVE TO DEAL WITH

**I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God - who does not lie - promised them before the world began. And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, which we announce to everyone. (Titus 1:1-3 NLT)**

**Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. (Titus 1:15-16 NLT)**

**Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created...I will quietly keep my mind on your laws...your commands have no limit. (Psalm 119:89-90, 95-96 NLT)**

*I love you, My child, and I want you to write that down. Today you don't feel too good because you are fighting disease. That is one of the trials and tribulations earth people have to deal with - because of sin in the world. I didn't have to because I was sinless. But you are not sinless, so you have to periodically deal with disease. I will help you - as I am Jehovah Rophe, the God who heals you. I will either heal you directly, or I will tell you what to do to get healed (like Naaman who came to Elisha and was told to wash in the Jordan River seven times). I love you so much I want to display who I am in you and through you. And you are willingly asking and letting Me do that.*

~ 101 ~

## THE FIRE

(From the book by Bob Sorge: *The Fire of Delayed Answers*)

(Introduction)

Sometimes God delays the answers to our prayers in order to produce a greater maturity and fruitfulness in us.

If you are ever to mature into greater dimensions of fruitfulness in the kingdom of God, then you must commit yourself to understanding how God uses delay to refine His chosen ones.

It's a beautiful thing when we invoke this refining fire in our lives, but it's also a very serious thing. If you're willing to embrace His fire, then prepare yourself for some pain. Christ calls us to the cross because we'll never become like Him apart from pain.

God's first priority in our lives is to make us fruitful - it is not first and foremost to make us comfortable.

In His infinite grace, God personalizes some troubles with our name on them, in order to help us toward His design for our lives.

The focus of this book is to explore the reasons *why* He sometimes delays His answers.

When God begins to reveal His purposes to our searching hearts, and we begin to understand His ways, it helps to keep us from crawling off the altar. We find grace to persevere in tribulation because we understand that the present pain will produce a future harvest (see Heb. 12:10).

(pg. 13ff)

Nothing sinful can survive the fire of God's immediate presence. (13)

God is a holy fire, and He burns away impurities from our lives so that we might stand completely purified in His presence. (13)

*I can't come closer to you, Joan, unless you become purer. My fiery presence would destroy you if I did. I can only come as close as your sinful nature will allow Me. Remember "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*

Jesus is both a Refiner and an Assayer. We see Jesus functioning as Assayer when He confronted the Pharisees. He weighed and judged their hearts and then dealt with them accordingly. Jesus still does the same thing with us today. He examines our hearts, evaluates our true spiritual condition, and then brings His fire to effect a greater purity and usefulness. (14)

God's fire resides among His people...God is intensely passionate over Zion (His Church), so He has placed His fiery residence in the midst of His chosen ones. Which means if you live in Zion, you will get away with nothing. God's fire will burn in your life. [It] accomplishes three things among God's people: (1) It forces the hypocrite to a decision (Isa. 33:14); (2) It purges the sincere from sin (Isa. 6:6-7); (3) And it inflames the heart with fresh passions for the Son of God (Acts 2:3-4). The Lord will never remove this fire from Zion. We live in a furnace of holy fire. (14-15)

God intends for His fire to so envelope the local church that hypocrites will not be able to stay, and the devout will not be able to remain unchanged. (15)

When the heat is first turned up in our lives, initially we feel like the Lord has abandoned us. But as we persevere in faithfulness, we'll begin to see more and more how close Jesus has been to us all along. (15)

When Jesus visits us, His face is always preceded by His fire. He knows we won't be prepared for His face until we've been purified by His fire. (15)

The fire is His assurance that you are being drawn into a place of greater intimacy and knowledge of God!

There are two ways we receive from God. Some things are **given** to us, and some things are **bought**. Given: eternal life, Holy Spirit, peace, joy, etc. (15)

There are certain things in the Kingdom, however, that are not given; they must be bought. (Rev. 3:18) Gold refined in the fire (Rev. 3:18) = purified faith and refined character (Christlikeness) (15-16)

Notice this gold is bought. We do not earn or deserve it, but we do pay a price for it. - great personal pain. This gold is bought in the fire and is attained only as we persevere and endure through the fiery trials that God sends us...when the crisis explodes, God wants us to

- fix our focus on Him,
- find Him in the adversity, and
- discover the Spirit's pathway to renewed victory. (16)

God is the one who must give us the opportunity to have our faith tested. It is all of His initiative...He alone knows when we are ready. (16)

When the time of testing comes, you have a choice:

- You can give up
- You can go for the gold (press into the Lord more than ever)

*Yes, it deals with your divorce and raising the children practically alone, it deals with your financial crisis which I directly led you into (2 times), and it deals with the physical difficulties you had between 1990 and 1997 predominantly.*

Yes, God delivers us from all affliction, but sometimes He **delays** His provision in order to try us by fire. The delay itself is a fire ordained by God to produce a deep work in our hearts. God has a design for our deliverance, but He also has a purpose for the fiery delay. Make no mistake, delayed answers are a fire. When you're in crisis and have His promise of deliverance, but there's no change in sight, the heat can become very hot indeed! His purpose in the delay is to strengthen our faith, kindle our love to new depths of passion and maturity, and impart the heart and character of Christ to us - all in order to make us a more useful vessel. (18)