

OVERVIEW OF ALL MY BOOKS

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Written from

Fifty years

of

SEEKING AND LISTENING TO GOD

And from the study of

GOD'S WORD

Joan Whitacre Royer

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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

This is a short book to give readers an overview of all my books. This is to help you know what is in each book so you can choose to read the book(s) that most interest you. These are listed in alphabetical order with a brief description of each book after the title.

Who are these books for?

- Those who like to read true stories from the lives of others
- Those who want ideas on how to proceed in their own spiritual journey
- Those who are curious about what the life of a Christian might be like
- Those who want to learn how to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

The writing in *blue italics* indicates thoughts the Lord gave me.

All Scriptures are in NIV unless otherwise indicated.

A LIST OF ALL THE BOOKS

(In alphabetical order)

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## **ABOUT AGING AND LEAVING THIS EARTH**

Here are some of the ideas this book talks about:

- There are benefits that come with aging
- How to cooperate with aging
- Don't fear aging
- A dream about going to heaven after aging
- Getting ready to leave the earth
- Dealing with leaving
- Adjusting to leaving the earth by discussing it with others
- An urge to finish my work

## **BOOK ABOUT HELL**

The Lord gave me the thought while I was resting in bed last night that I should do a study on what the Bible says about hell, so I would know how to describe it to others biblically. Therefore, here are some of the ways the Bible describes hell:

### WORDS THAT DESCRIBE HELL

This gives a long list of many words the Bible uses to describe hell, and then gives a Scripture verse where you find that word.

### HELL - THE PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT

(From Biblical Cyclopedic Index in PTL Counselors Edition of KJV Bible)

This gives words that describe hell and Scripture references for those words.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

These are short writings from my conversations with God in my private quiet times with Him. There are six books of "Conversations through studying His Word," and seven books from "Conversations from my listening time in the secret place."

Each short writing has a title and then shares what I learned from Him that day. Here are a few titles to give you an idea about them:

- Our God is marching on
- God's timing
- My peace is everlasting
- I am shaking My people
- Deliver us from evil
- Cheerful giving
- Use what I give you to help others
- You are in the end times
- The house of the Lord
- Come away, My beloved
- Love boundaries
- Loving yourself

## DRAW NEAR TO GOD

This is a series of books presenting Bible studies which I did over many, many years of searching God's Word. I would become interested in learning more about what God said on a specific topic, and then spend time searching Scriptures on that topic. This helped me learn about what God is like, what He thinks, and what commands He gives us to help us live the blessed life He has for His people.

Often, I would be in the midst of reading a Scripture verse and find that one particular word or idea would stand out to me. I felt God was "highlighting" that idea so I would study more about it. I loved doing this. I learned so much and was very blessed as I did it.

I would suggest the reader take one topic of particular interest to you, and read slowly and carefully each Scripture given on that topic. Then follow whatever the Lord leads you to do. I found He would give me thoughts and ideas when I read His Word, and He prompted me to pay attention to those thoughts from Him. I wrote them down in my journal.

I do not give all the Scriptures available on each topic, so you could do more extensive study on your own and add those Scriptures to your own topical Bible study book.

Many, many times over the years I found it helpful to review the study on a particular topic, so keeping these studies on my computer was very beneficial to me.

The topics are in alphabetical order beginning in Book 1 and continuing through all the books in this series. In the last book I added studies which I completed after I had already written where it would have been listed in alphabetical order.

Here is a list of the topics covered in each book:

|        |                            |    |                                    |
|--------|----------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| Book 1 | Abiding                    | to | Darkness                           |
| Book 2 | Day of Christ              | to | Glory                              |
| Book 3 | Go in My Name              | to | Jesus' Name                        |
| Book 4 | Jewels                     | to | Old age                            |
| Book 5 | Overcoming                 | to | Righteous versus wicked            |
| Book 6 | Righteous                  | to | Sword                              |
| Book 7 | Take up your cross         | to | Tree of knowledge of good and evil |
| Book 8 | Tree of life               | to | Zion                               |
| Book 9 | Later additions to studies |    |                                    |

## ENCOURAGING WORDS

These books contain encouraging words I have received from the Lord directly to me personally (*which will be in blue italics*), words from the Bible, and words through the writings of others. There are twenty-four books in this series.

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, words from the Bible, and words from others to keep for your own re-viewing and re-strengthening.

## **HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS**

True stories of God's marvelous deeds in the lives of ordinary people

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

One day in my Quiet Time the Lord drew my attention to the scripture above. He told me He wanted me to write a book which would tell of *HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS* in my life and in others' lives. That is why this book was written. This book is meant to be an encouragement for you. Hopefully it will strengthen you as you read how the Lord has revealed Himself and His ways in these stories.



## HOW TO LIVE IN THESE DAYS 2008, 2009, and 2010

In these years great shaking has begun in our country, and even in the world. The shaking is primarily coming right now in the economy. Many people are losing their jobs. Many are losing their houses. Many are losing some of their retirement funds and savings. The stock market jumps up and down by big swings daily. Some businesses are going bankrupt. Some banks are faltering near collapse and some collapse or are bought out by other banks. It is a scary time to be living. This is also happening in other countries and the leaders of these countries are looking for ways to stabilize things. People are looking for leaders who can help. What can we do! Where can we turn for help?

This is a book taken from my journal writings during these days. I am looking to God Almighty for my help and guidance and comfort during these days. Since I have given my life to Him through Jesus Christ my Lord, I seek Him daily for this. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God as He told us when He was here on earth. He went to the cross willingly to die as a sacrifice for my sins. He had no sin in Himself; He was pure and without sin. So, He was the perfect sacrifice for my sins. Since He took them on Himself and died in my place, I can be forgiven for my sins through Him. All I need to do is to believe what He did for me; then repent of all my sins, ask Jesus to forgive me for those sins, and ask Him to come and live inside me and be my Savior and Lord. He will do that!

Since I have Jesus living inside me, I seek His presence daily and seek His guidance in how to live in these days. He gives me His amazing peace to walk through these days in quiet rest and trust in Him. I will put in this book some of the dreams, thoughts, impressions, and guidance He has given me. Perhaps some of what I write here will also speak to you and comfort you as you walk through the difficult days in your own life. There is nothing and no one else that is stable during these days. Jesus is our Rock and our Fortress.

This is what the Holy Spirit says about the messages He brings:

*I will tell you what it means. I speak in riddles sometimes. I do this so you will seek Me to know what I said and what I meant. I want to teach you something, so I give you a vision, a dream, or a message to stimulate you to come and listen to Me to hear what I want to teach you today, at this time, regarding this time.*

The Lord's coming is near!

**Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You, too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. (James 5:7-8)**

## **HOW TO RECEIVE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE**

(How to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior)

Material taken from:  
**STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD**  
By Billy Graham

These are the steps listed in this book for receiving Jesus Christ into your life so you can become a born-again Christian. Each step is carefully explained and scripture is given from the Bible regarding it.

Step 1 - God's purpose: peace and eternal life

Step 2 - Our problem: sin and separation

Step 3 - God's remedy: the cross

Step 4 - Our response: receive Christ

How to receive Christ

What to pray

God's assurance: His Word

Your new life

What to do now

## IN HIS TIME

(Five books about the set times of the Lord)

The Lord gave me a number of clues that He wanted me to write this book. Now I am putting those clues together for my own enlightenment and encouragement--and sharing them with you, my readers, so you can know His supernatural workings in my life, and in the world right now.

The Lord speaks to us in many ways. Sometimes we just have to wait awhile and put all the clues together that He gives us. Eventually He will open up understanding to us - In His Time.

These books also give Scriptures showing how God has specific times for specific events

**“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: ‘Father, the time has come.’” (John 17:1)**

*Remember when I would talk about time and how it was or was not the right time? My timing is very important to seek so you can follow it exactly.*

*Satan knows enough to keep trying to steal and thwart My timing. He works on man's impatience and lack of vision to try to alter it.*

*He often will try to anticipate what I am going to do and make a wonderful looking substitute - just before I bring My best into the picture. You can always watch to see if this is happening!*

I keep noticing signs that speak of God's specific timing for what He is doing in the world. Today, August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf coast in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle, with the eye of the storm hitting just east of New Orleans. Many times people have been saying to pray for them to the TV news reporters. God uses these disaster times to show Himself and show people their need for Him in their lives - perhaps to people who didn't consider Him very seriously before the disaster.

*This is what it's going to be like from now on out. From now on until the renewal of the earth and heavens for My 1000-year reign. Disasters will change and devastate different parts of the world - as they have done that in the tsunami in SE Asia in December 2004, and as the winds and waters have done it in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama this week.*

*There will be more, and people will be caught in desperate situations which will try them and test them to see who they really are down deep inside, and to bring many into a saving relationship with Me as they look death in the face.*

## JOURNAL OF A LISTENER TO GOD

**He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen  
like one being taught. (Isaiah 50:4)**

Let Your praises pour forth in this book, Lord, as you and I write it together. Let it be Your love letter to those who read the book. And let them encounter You as a Person as they read this book...a Person who loves them and wants to meet with *them* also, as You do with me. Let this book give them a spiritual pathway to follow on their own personal journey to know You, Jesus, to hear from You, and to encounter You in a close, living, and loving relationship.

I offer this book in humility, knowing that our relationship with God is a deeply personal thing. Each one of us is unique and special, and so is our relationship with God. I offer only what I have experienced or heard, praying it will be a blessing and encouragement to each person who reads this book.

An excerpt from these books:

In John 2:1-12 I read the story of the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine. Then the Holy Spirit said:

*Yes, I am saving the best until last as in this story. The water represents thirst and the wine represents joy. There will come, and already is coming, a great thirst, and as the thirsty ones drink of the water I give, it will bring great joy.*

*This is the time of the last days. I have saved the best until last. Of all the wonderful stories and events you have heard, this will top them all...a double portion, the former and the latter rain.*

## LETTERS FROM GOD

Here are a few of the titles from articles in these two books:

- Draw near to Me
- I seek You, Lord
- Learn to be patient with Me
- Praise Me, My children
- Restore
- Multiplication and provision
- In the day of trouble, I will keep you
- I will teach you what is best for you
- Self-control
- I am your shield
- Shining
- Sleep
- Spiritual blessings in the heavenly places
- Steadfast
- On temptation
- Seek Me - I will be found by you
- On thanksgiving
- Secret things
- Those cut off from the Lord

An excerpt from these books:

*Draw near to Me, My child. I am here. I want to draw near to you so we can communicate with each other as you read this book. Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you. How do you do that? Watch and I will show you. Read on and you will learn how.*

## **MY BOOK OF ANSWERED PRAYER**

This is a book of stories telling of times when the Lord answered my prayers. Some of those stories are about such topics as these:

- Protection
- Cleansing
- Forgiving
- Emotional healing
- Physical healing
- Calling on God
- Relinquishment
- Praise
- Resting
- Asking
- Quietness
- Guidance

## NOTES AND QUOTES

For years and years I have copied into my journals favorite quotes from books and online messages as I have read them. And I have a huge computer file called "Wonderful Writings from Various Christian Authors." As I listened to conferences on the internet, I have often taken notes on what the speakers were saying.

I thought these were just for my private use. But one day the Lord told me to share these wonderful writings with others in a book He called *Notes and Quotes*. So, I gathered many of these into this book to share with you.

It is my desire that these notes and quotes are a blessing to you as they have been to me. I have put the author or speaker's name at the end of each article, and have put resources for them in a list (called End Notes) at the end of the book.

A sample of authors and titles quoted in the *Notes and Quotes* books:

John Piper, *The Ripple Effect Of The Word*

C. W. Cowman, *Wait For The Lord*

Neville Johnson, *The Language Of Heaven*

Bob Sorge, *Bible Reading*

Derek Prince, *Weeping And Gnashing Of Teeth*

Derek Prince, *The Ten Virgins*

Rick Joyner, *Time To Learn To Fly*

John Bevere, *The Fear Of The Lord*

Francis Frangipane, *Appointed Times*

Alton Gansky, *The Pacific*

Perry Stone, *Satan's Strategy*

Jim Cymbala, *His Daily Grace In Our Lives*

Asher Intrater, *Hear O Israel*

Gary Stearman, *Is Heaven In A Parallel Universe?*

## **NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM MY QUIET TIME WITH THE LORD**

### INVITE HIM TO READ THIS BOOK WITH YOU

These are nuggets of gold that the Lord has shared with me in my Quiet Times in the past. He is leading me now to choose some of those nuggets to share with you. Invite Him to read this book with you and to give you understanding and revelation as you take this journey with Him.

### FIND THE NUGGETS OF GOLD

The Lord told me to begin to write this book, and He gave me the title: *Nuggets of Gold*. I had wondered about the title – *Nuggets of Gold*. Then I was surprised to read this in the Prologue to Oswald Chambers' book "Still Higher For His Highest":

Oswald Chambers used to speak of our Lord "Presenting the Truth in nugget form"; while later the apostles "Beat out the nuggets into negotiable gold". The daily readings given here may be regarded as nuggets of spiritual truth, to be turned into coinage for daily living. The process involves not only prayerful meditation, but, as our author would insist, strenuous thought and spiritual concentration. May the Holy Spirit quicken and enlighten all who use this book.

This was a confirmation to me that the title He gave me was just right and truly what He wanted to call this book. I pray for all who read this book to be led by the Holy Spirit to find the "nuggets of gold" He wants you to find, and learn from Him how to apply them to your own life. To the Lord Jesus Christ be all the glory!



## PRAYING THE WORD IN THE SECRET PLACE

One morning during my Quiet Time (time set apart to spend with the Lord in Bible study, prayer, and writing) the Holy Spirit told me that reading and decreeing/proclaiming Scripture that He had given me was like opening a portal over me so that He and I could connect there. He told me to do this every time I was under spiritual attack, discouraged, felt I was a victim, or needed encouragement. He said He would never leave me and that He would always talk to me. This is His way of strengthening me in the tough times. I am to do this each morning to start off my day. He said that doing this, and trusting and resting in Him, opened the way to allow Him to work out His plan in my life and His plan for what I am to do. He instructed me like this:

*Just put a title (taken from the Scripture and/or prayer) for each section. Then put the Scripture used. Then put the prayer that rose up in your heart that you prayed to Me. That's a good beginning as to how to do this book. It will come into form day by day as you read My Word and use it to pray to Me. I will put the prayers and ideas in you one by one in a daily time together.*

This is an excerpt from the book:

### **BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO ME**

#### **Proverbs 8:33-34**

**Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts. For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.**

#### My prayer

Lord, it is my desire to listen to You each day in my Quiet Time as well as throughout the rest of the day. Thank You for this Scripture which shows me that You WANT me to come to you each day to listen, to watch, and to wait. That way I find You, and I find life, and I obtain favor from You. I praise You for showing this to me in Your precious Word.

#### Your prayer

This is the place where you may write your prayer to the Lord as he leads you each day.

## **REVELATION IN THESE FINAL DAYS OF THE END TIMES**

These are instructions the Lord has given me to follow as I come before Him each day in my Quiet Time with Him. As I hear Him teach me and instruct me, I write what He gives me. This book comes from what I have written.

May the Lord bless you and instruct you as you read these words. May He guide you into all truth.

## REVELATION OF WHAT THE LORD SAYS HE IS LIKE

I had real concerns that I was not qualified to use this title and write about this topic. But the Lord pressed me to keep doing that anyway. These are some of the encouraging words the Lord gave me regarding writing this book.

*What is the Lord like today, Joan? What am I like today? Yes, you are qualified to write this, but only if I give it. Like Akiane, you can do what I equip you to do.*

*Just like I gave Roland Buck instant knowledge of many events, and Maria Woodworth-Etter knowledge of scriptures, I can give you what I want to give you, and you can declare it/write it for Me.*

*As Akiane would see things and then have the ability to paint those things, so will you "see" things that are in the treasure room of heaven for you to see, and you will have the ability to write those things. It is time for that now and you are ready, and I am ready. So, we will do this together from now on.*

*You don't "see" them with your physical eyes, Joan. You see them with your spirit. You "know" them with your spirit, and from there it is transferred into your mind so you can write them down. That's how we will do it - together.*

**Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)**

*This is your scripture to stand on as you ask Me to show you who I am and what I am like that I want you to write in this journal and put into your book. So, use that scripture each day and "call to Me" and I will answer you. Then you can write what I show/tell you. Do this for Me.*

Some topics from these books:

- How the Lord Can Know Everything at the Same Time
- The Lord Can Go Anywhere and Do Anything
- The Lord is the One Who Forgives
- The Lord is Creator and Resides in His Holy Temple

## SOME PARTING WORDS

Here are some excerpts from this book:

My parting words today are about the various seasons of life we go through. Each season of life has its joys and its difficulties. It is important to thank God and praise Him through the joys of life and enjoy those precious times with friends and loved ones and with the Lord.

But it is also important what we do with the difficult times. Those times can be used for great benefit in your relationship with the Lord as you praise and thank Him through those times too, trusting that He will use them for your good. Then you will become an "overcomer."

**To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. - Revelation 2:7**

Another important word I want to share with you today is this: start your day, every day, by drawing near to God. Greet Him first thing in the morning (*I say good morning, Heavenly Father, good morning, Lord Jesus, good morning, Holy Spirit*).

Then keep drawing near to Him throughout the day and ask His guidance and ask His advice on what you do and decisions you make. Talk to Him as your best Friend, for that is truly who He is. Take communion each morning and "remember Him."

As you do this daily it accumulates and grows into a deep, trusting, and abiding wonderful friendship with the Lord. When you are old you will understand and see how important this has been, and be very grateful for it.

**Come near to God and he will come near to you. - James 4:8**

## **SYMBOLS FROM THE BIBLE**

As I watched (on TV) Robert Morris give his sermons to Gateway Church in Texas, he shared what it meant to him when he discovered that the Bible has many parabolic or symbolic uses of words in it. He explained some of them in his sermons.

I became interested in writing down the symbolic meanings of some of the words in the Bible as Robert taught it, and as I read the Word, and as I read other books also. I compiled these into this series of books.

## **TEACHINGS FROM LISTENING TO GOD**

This is a book containing many thoughts which God gave me as I read his Word and prayed and listened to Him. These teachings are more specifically thoughts that came as I studied His Word daily.

I would suggest you write down Scriptures that impact you and write also the thoughts the Lord gives you as you read His Word in a similar way to what I did.

These thoughts were a great blessing to me and helped me communicate with God better and better.

## THE PROMISES OF GOD

### *Your Armor & Protection*

~~~~~  
*His faithful promises are your armor and protection. (Psalm 91:4
NLT)*
~~~~~

This verse says that the Lord's faithful promises are your armor and protection.

What do you do with armor?

*You put it on your body to protect it.*

~~~~~

What do you do with things that protect you?

*You use those things to build a house around you to protect
yourself.*

~~~~~

So, let's look at the promises of God that He gives you to protect you.

*Then you can put them on, and use them to build protection  
around you.*

How do you do this?

*By believing them, declaring them, and speaking them over you.*

## **THE RAPTURE - WHERE DID ALL THE CHRISTIANS GO?**

This booklet is to explain what the Rapture is, and to answer the question: Where did all the Christians go? I am writing this to tell you the answer to those questions.

I will explain it briefly, give some scriptures that refer to it, and give you some web addresses, which explain it further, if you wish to learn more.

The Rapture is a special time spoken of in the Bible in several places. It refers to the Christians who belong to Jesus Christ being "raptured" or taken out of the earth and transported into Heaven by Jesus.

This is to keep them from going through the Tribulation, which is to come upon the earth at that time. They will suddenly disappear from the earth and people will wonder what happened to them.



## THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH

Psalm 91:1 KJV tells us this:

**He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.**

Some topics from this book:

- What is the secret place of the Most High?
- Biblical examples of some who went there
- What I do in the secret place
- Personal instructions from the Lord on praying Scriptures
- A special place for your secret place
- Timing for being in the secret place
- Waiting on the Lord in the secret place
- Some resources regarding the secret place

## THE SECRETS OF GOD

Here are some titles from this book:

- The secret of the drawing of God
- The secret of wanting God
- The secret of having God for our treasure
- The secret of possessing nothing
- The secret of taking God as our all
- The secret of honoring God
- The secret of coming to God in these last days
- The secret of praising God to build yourself up
- The secret of searching for the inheritance the Lord has for you
- The secret of doing things together with God, according to his purpose, and speaking it forth
- The secret of letting peace be my governor and getting His perfect timing
- The secret of asking the Lord to show me the answers to my questions
- The secret of knowing that without Him I can do nothing
- The secret of putting God's kingdom first
- The secret of praying that the Lord's will be done
- The secret of listening to God, watching daily at His gates, waiting at His doorposts
- All secrets of God come from gazing upon Him
- The secret of being surrounded by the heavens but with feet on solid ground
- The secret of the number 11:11
- The secret of combining my prayers with another's prayers
- The secret of taking communion and discerning it rightly
- The secret of the imagination

## THINGS THE LORD HAS SHOWN ME

On December 31, 2004 in my Quiet Time with the Lord, He began to show me a new project He wanted me to begin in 2005. It was to be a book called *Things The Lord Has Shown Me*. This book would contain insights, visions, dreams, wisdom, and knowledge given by the Lord to me over my lifetime. These would be things the Lord wants to put into print for others to read at strategic times in their lives. But they also will be used to help me understand the revelations He shows me through these experiences.

When I try to think back over my life and review all my journals which I have been writing since about 1977, I can see there are many things He has shown me. The task seems pretty huge and overwhelming to tackle. Yet I expect Him to show me how to do this and lead me through this task. I know He has shown me many things over those years, and I want to share those things with you, my readers. I pray this will be a blessing to all who read this book!

This book will describe visions, dreams, stories, impressions, and experiences I've had and tell about the revelations God has given through them. These revelations are about Himself, about the world, about the church, and about relationships. I use the stories to declare *His Marvelous Deeds* - as He guided me to do through the Scripture in Psalm 96:3 "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AND BOOK OF THE FUTURE

On a cassette tape message I heard by Todd Bentley (about a book of remembrance and book of the future), he said to go back and remember the things the Lord has shown you, has promised you, has given you a passion for, and the promises you have made to Him at those times. He said that God has all those things/times written in His *Book of Remembrance*...and I am to stir them up. So, I am writing here dreams, visions, and experiences from God which He gave me over the last 34 years.

**Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not." (Malachi 3:16-18)**

## THOUGHTS AND STORIES

(On a life God leads, guides, and protects)

My purpose in writing this is to share with you thoughts and stories about how God has led me through my whole life, guided me in specific situations throughout my life, and protected me in some very special circumstances. This will be shared in Sections 1, 2 and 3. I would like you, my reader, to ponder your own life, and understand and see how God has also been doing that for you in your life. Know that He knew you before you were born, that He has been watching over you throughout your life, and that He guides and protects you also as you give your life to Him and become His child. Psalm 139:13, 15 says: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.”

In Appendix A, I list the translations used for the Scripture references. Then I list Scriptures regarding spiritual armor, heaven and hell, judgment, protection, and forgiveness. I also give a section of recommended verses to memorize. It tells us in Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” As we study the Word of God and come to know His way of thinking, we can come closer to Him and become more like Him. In Proverbs 4:20, 22 we are told some significant words: ‘Listen closely to my words...for they are life to those who find them.’ So, I encourage you to listen closely to His words. They are sprinkled throughout this book. They are very significant!

In this book series I share with you my “Spiritual Journey” and encourage you to see your life also as a “Spiritual Journey”. The steps of this journey are explained in Appendix B, along with other helps to disciple you along the way. You will also find in Appendix B how to commit your life to Christ, how to have a daily quiet time, some possible Bible reading plans, information about spiritual armor for protection, and some Scriptures about who I am (and you are) in Christ.

In Appendix C, I mention authors of books that have been meaningful for me to read, knowing I surely can’t remember all the great books I have been privileged to read over the years. I try to suggest 1 or 2 books by some of my favorite authors, and you can see if you like those authors too... and look for more of their books if you do. I have learned a lot by reading other people’s “thoughts and stories” as I hope you are encouraged by reading mine.

## TOPICAL STUDIES

Over many years of studying the Word of God I have searched out various topics on which to do a deeper study. This book gives you the benefits of that study. May it bless you as you read it, and may you be encouraged to dig deeply into the Word of God in your own study.

In this book series I share studies I have done regarding specific topics.

1. First, I share a definition of that topic
2. Then I share Scripture verses on that topic
3. Next, I share what the Lord has said to me regarding that topic
4. And then I share writings from other authors regarding that topic

Some typical topics are:

- Angels
- Believing versus being born again
- Contentment
- Day of the Lord
- Don't be afraid.

## TREASURES Both new and old

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This book is based on the Scripture from Matthew 13:52 NIV which says:

He said to them: “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The Lord said this at the beginning of this book:

I am going to give you treasures, both new and old, so listen well and write them in this book.

Gems of truth, Joan. That's what treasures are. Gems of truth. New gems and old gems. That's what I will give you to write in this new book.

And who is the truth? I am the Truth. So, I will reveal Myself to you - old ideas you already know, and new thoughts you haven't thought of Me before.

Some of the treasures this book speaks about:

1. *God cares about us*
2. *God is close beside us*
3. *God is with us*
4. *Light*
5. *Chosen*
6. *Wisdom and knowledge*
7. *Treasures stored in heaven*
8. *Salvation*
9. *Peace*
10. *Eternal life*

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Over many, many years I have studied God's Word, the Bible, and learned about who Jesus is. During that time, I have written out topical Bible studies about who Jesus is.

From those Bible studies I have drawn selections which give a picture of who Jesus is and have gathered them in this book. Here are some of those studies and answers.

As you read these words from the Bible about Jesus, who He is, His relationship with His Father, and His relationship with us, I pray you will come to know Him better and better.

Let these words go deep into your heart and mind and form Jesus Himself in you more and more. The titles of these studies are:

- The Lord is...
- Scriptures on who the Lord is to me
- I AM statements of Jesus
- Scriptures on Lamb's book of life
- Scriptures on life
- Scriptures on light
- Light
- Living water, water of life
- Scriptures on love
- The thousand years
- Names of Christ (59)
- Remember
- Scriptures on righteous
- Display of His splendor and glory
- Suffering
- The blood
- The day of Christ
- The day of the Lord
- The kingdom
- The Word
- The Name
- Words used to describe the Word
- Who Jesus says He is (from the book of John)
- Words of Jesus (Matthew 4:17 to 18:19)
- Jesus and me
- Jesus in the New Testament books following the gospels
- Planting the Word in your heart and mind
- Who I am in Christ

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, Joan (“Jo Ann”) Royer, was involved in discipling others through the Discipleship Training program at a Southern Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri, for 18 years. Then the Lord guided her to take a break from that and spend much time developing an even stronger and more intimate relationship with Him in her quiet times. During this time, she worked full time as secretary at a United Methodist Church in Columbia.

After four years of developing this more intimate relationship, He led her to begin writing her first book, *Thoughts and Stories: On a Life God Leads, Guides, and Protects*. He even gave her the title for the book and gradually, as she listened and wrote, He led her in writing the whole book.

Previous to this writing she had collected stories about ways God had impacted the lives of people. This was in response to His guidance from Psalm 96:3 that says: “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” She knew He wanted her to declare *His Marvelous Deeds* and share these deeds with others by writing them. All this came together in that first book.

She retired from her secretarial position in 2004 and now lives in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, with her daughter, Beth, where the Lord has led her to set apart her days to listen to Him and write what He shows her. She has a background in writing from childhood on, has a Bachelor’s Degree in Music and English, and a Master’s Degree in Education.

Writing is her passion and the way God is leading her to share with others what God has been doing in her life. Her desire is to encourage and mentor others through her writings - as many in the Body of Christ have taught and mentored her through their writings.