

God's Fingerprint

Recognizing it from beginning to end on your journey
through life, especially in relationships, grief, and
sorrow.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I give thanks to the Lord for His love, mercy, grace, and goodness throughout my whole life, and in filling the void after my husband went home to be with Him. Second, I give thanks for being raised in a loving family that taught me to love God, and for my husband, our children, and two granddaughters whom I love with all my heart.

I am thankful for the love of the Body of Christ wherever I go and their support as I journey onward in this new chapter of life. I am also thankful for those who, when I shared what the Lord laid upon my heart and a portion of it, exhorted me to write this book to bless and help others regardless of where you are in life.

Special thanks to Carla and Mots Bishnoi for their encouragement, plus all the hours and help in editing. Thank you to Pastors Mike and Erena Sue Amburgy of Family Life Church for taking time to review this book and their insight. Thank you to Pastor Dwayne Kelsey for sharing the picture for the book cover, and also thank you to Debra Jones for editing my photo for the back cover.

I pray this book will enrich the lives of those who read it and be a legacy for future generations.

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INTRODUCTION

Everything you touch leaves a unique fingerprint. In forensics, a fingerprint proves one has surely been on the scene. God's fingerprint is everywhere, on anyone and anything He has touched.

Did you know there are 66 lines in a fingerprint, and that is the exact same number of books in the Bible!¹ A fingerprint helps us discover the identity of the one it belongs to. God's Word helps us discover His identity. It also demonstrates that He is with us, even if we are unaware of it at the time, as He never forsakes us. [See Deuteronomy 31:8, Joshua 1:5, Hebrews 13:5].

We see God's fingerprint throughout the Bible. Here are a few examples:

When He formed us out of dirt and made us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7).

When He wrote on the tablets of Moses with His finger (Exodus 31:18).

The handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5).

Jesus, extending His hand, touched the untouchable, and

¹ <https://godsfingerprints.co/blogs/blog/the-story-of-gods-fingerprint>

spoke to the leper, who was immediately healed (Mark 1:40, 42).

Jesus touched Peter's mother-in-law's hand, and the fever left her, with her rising and serving them (Matthew 8:14-15).

Jesus took the hand of Jairus' 12-year-old daughter and raised her up from death (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43).

Some have asked, how do you learn to trust the Lord? It begins one step at a time, believing Him and His Word. With every part of one's life journey, as you lean on God, having confidence He is always there, even when you cannot see or feel Him, you grow stronger as you go through the valley times. You may feel weak now, but His Word (Joel 3:10) encourages you to declare strength:

"Let the weak say, I am strong."

Only as you look back do you realize what others see in you during those times and that you have grown stronger.

We trust those we know who truly love and care for us. That is why this book begins with "Embracing the Revelation of God's Love" and ends with "The Father's Love." Only then can our eyes be open to see His fingerprint on our lives, especially in the valleys. As I felt the Lord impress me to share what He has taught me, I pray it will encourage and strengthen you in your relationship with Him and help you live the abundant life He has promised us here until we see Him face to face.

EMBRACING THE REVELATION OF GOD'S LOVE

When we embrace the revelation of God's love for us, our eyes are open to see His fingerprint on our everyday life and to experience the sweet fragrance of His presence with us. Nothing that happens in our lives that would take us by surprise is new to Him. The Lord has gone before us and supplies us with His grace to get us through the present, so we can keep moving forward and ascend higher than any expectation we could humanly experience. God's Word tells us even in the valley of tears, He is there with refreshing springs and new insights, so we go from His strength to strength Psalm 84/Psalm 46 and from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3).

“Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the Valley of Baca (tears) make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: “give ear” O God of Jacob {your name}. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.” (Psalm 84:5-9)

Psalm 46:1 says: “God is our refuge and strength, a very

present help in trouble.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 says: “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Just as the tabernacle of the Old Testament was the creative image of Christ, so too are we (as the temple of God) His creative image.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

A BLINK OF AN EYE

On July 17, 2022, my life instantly changed faster than a blink of an eye. My husband and I were getting ready for Sunday evening church service. After he changed clothes, he sat down in his recliner and announced we would leave in five minutes. I responded that I only had to get my shoes on and would be ready also. I looked over to discover he was not breathing. That was the beginning of a whirlwind, with the next sixty-eight and a half hours being tenacious minute by minute.

Yet despite it all, I could see God's hand upon us:

He was ready to go that evening; only instead of church, it ended up being to go home with our Lord.

I was grateful he was sitting and not on the stairs, where he could have broken his neck, or in the car, where we could have wrecked, killing both of us, with others being involved.

He enabled me to not panic, discovering a strength deep inside I didn't know I possessed.

The Lord surrounded us with our church family and the support of the whole church praying, with many coming each day to the hospital at all hours. The hospital staff allowed visitors to go beyond visiting hours and beyond the allowed number of visitors in the room.

We were able to be witnesses to the doctors and staff as

they saw the outpouring of love, prayers, and hope with expectation, commenting on how unusual it was to not see fear and hysteria. Some even said, “Wow, God is real to you.”

Reflecting, I recognized signs that God was preparing me for what was coming:

The previous nine months, my husband was very intent on showing his great love for me and a desire to give to me, saying I deserved so much more. He always took delight in seeing me enjoy life, whether with him, the granddaughters, or others.

A few weeks prior, I had a dream and literally felt my heart stop beating and cried out in my sleep, “My heart, my heart.” My husband woke me up and asked if I was okay.

He kept telling me for a few weeks, “Thank you for loving me and making our home so beautiful and inviting.”

One day he told me, “You don’t know how good you have it.” I responded, “Oh I do know, and appreciate you very much. I want you with me for a very long time.”

The week before, at the end of church service, our Pastor spoke a word from the Lord to ‘be ready’ as there was someone going home very soon!

The day prior, we spent it with friends from church at their home, and enjoyed their pool, food, and fellowship into the evening. While there, the wife shared a vision she had from the Lord which included a specific phrase. My husband, told her the

phrase was from the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and shared his favorite version from the United States Army Field Band...with words following:

My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored. He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, Hallelujah (3X). His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpets that shall never sound retreat. He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat. O be swift my soul to answer and be jubilant my feet. His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, Hallelujah (3X). His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea with a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me. As He died to make men holy let us live to make men free, while God is marching on.

Glory, glory, Hallelujah (3X). His truth is marching on.
(2X)

At the time our friend shared this vision, we did not know “who” this vision was meant for, but in hindsight, I clearly see it was a word for us. Truly, my husband saw the glory of the coming of the Lord and crossed over to be with Him for all eternity. God’s truth is still marching on!

As the song says, God's truth must keep marching forward; only now the baton has been passed on to another. We must be swift, for the time is short, with jubilant feet to spread the Kingdom of God, making sure that we are each doing that which He assigned and established in our book of life, so that when we stand before God. we will hear, "Well done, My good and faithful servant." All else we do, no matter how good it may be, if it is not what He asked of us, will be burned like chaff. Our reward is only in our obedience to Him and our call. It is so important to stay in our lane as we run this race, doing what we are anointed for, and to focus on pleasing Him. (Matthew 16:26-27) ²

On the way home from our friends that Saturday night, we reflected on the day and the past month, talking of different places, and he began to tell me about Pyramid Hill. I asked if we could go there this coming Christmas for their light show and he was unusually quiet.

The following morning, friends at church commented on how "healthy and how much younger he was looking" as they talked and laughed after the morning service while he was waiting for me to finish serving in children's church.

- That Sunday afternoon, he was his usual humorous self and asked why I wasn't laughing. I assured him I was on the

² Further discussion about staying in our own lane can be found in "*The Assignment*" chapter.

inside. I wasn't feeling like myself and had a headache. This was rare for me to experience, even though I was fasting. A couple of hours later, it wasn't going away, and as I walked by him, he reached out as usual to touch my arm, and pulled me to himself and asked me to promise to take care of myself. At the time, I thought it was odd. Within the hour, he had a massive heart attack.

A COVENANT MARRIAGE

We truly had a covenant marriage in God, and those who knew us well would say we were joined at the hip. As one can imagine, his passing left a huge void, not having the love of my life by my side, which I asked the Lord to fill, and He has truly done that for me. He told me that if I would praise and thank Him without asking any questions, His grace would be sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9: “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”) He also said He would reveal to me things I would not know otherwise. It is in the valley, not the mountaintop, that we learn, grow, and receive revelation that transforms us. If we begin to question or doubt, we open the door for the enemy to bring fear, anxiety, and depression, or other oppression.

One thing I am very grateful for is that the Lord had shown us the importance of loving, with words and actions, plus never taking anyone for granted. I exhort each one to love others like it is the last time you are going to see them as we never know when will be the final time that you have with them. Cherish the moments together and make memories.

God’s Word instructs us to walk in love, as He is Love. When we do, we can truly live without regrets. I know without a shadow of a doubt how much my husband loved me, and that love revealed to me our Heavenly Father’s Love.

What was our beginning like?

The Lord drew Dan to visit the church where I was a member. After two weeks, he returned to his small church, and a spiritual mother asked him, “What are you doing here?” He said, “I came to praise the Lord,” which was one of his favorite sayings. Unaware of where he had been, she informed him the Lord was sending him to a specific church and described the location, which was the very place he had been visiting, and there he would meet his future wife. Needless to say, Dan listened. He received his confirmation from the Lord as to where he should be going, and he didn’t hesitate to move forward.

Subsequently, Dan had three visions from the Lord and upon inquiring of the Lord what they meant, God told him I was going to be his wife. One evening, after praying for others, I had a vision of the Lord walking me down the aisle and placing my hand in his son’s hand, cupping both of His hands over ours and saying: “You have trusted me as your husband, and now I am entrusting you to one of my sons.” At the time, I had no name or face. We both had these encounters about the same time as God was working with each of us, but we did not know it until we got together and later shared with one another.

Our paths kept crossing over the next several months. One night at the end of a church service, a group of us were praying for a brother. A spiritual mother brought Dan to the group to share his testimony with him. We were in a circle at the time, and she broke

the circle, placing Dan's and my hands together. We both were startled, as we felt like a bolt of electricity went through our arms as we touched. Shortly after that, he asked me out. I was not making assumptions that Dan was the person in my vision, so we began to meet as a brother and sister in the Lord by attending Bible studies, eating after church every other week, and starting our day by praying on the phone together. After four months, he asked the Lord, "How much longer before I may ask her to marry me?" He knew it had to be the Lord's timing, not his.

The Lord had led me from where I was raised to another state as a youth pastor and revealed to me that I would be married, but that neither of us would be near our parents, warning me not to make an idol out of my husband. Being 17 years later, through disappointments where I had misinterpreted God's plans for me, I was even more determined to ensure it was the Lord leading me and not my flesh. I fasted, seeking the Lord for His perfect will and to show me anything hidden that I needed to see, expecting it to be about Dan. To my surprise, it was about me. The Lord reminded me to trust the God in me, instead of past experiences from which I had been healed, and to trust His vision, not mine, of what my husband would look like. On the third day,³ God revealed I had spiritual pride by thinking I was more spiritual than Dan was. The next evening, we were getting together, and for the first time I invited him to come in rather than waiting for me to come out.

³ See: *Three Days Later* Chapter.

Immediately upon opening the door, he saw exactly what the Lord had shown him in the third vision. He knew then that it was finally time. After I asked for his forgiveness, we kissed for the first time and looked at each other, both of us knowing we were to be married.

We asked the Lord when He wanted the date, which He revealed to each of us separately. Driving home, Dan heard the Lord say the date and was excited to tell me when he called to pray the next morning. I stopped him, as the presence of the Lord had been so strong beside my bed when I awoke that I couldn't open my eyes, but I heard Him give me the date. When I told Dan, it was the exact same month and day! From there, everything flowed so smoothly with numerous testimonies of God's hand upon us.

The early years of any marriage are learning how to flow as one in the Spirit. A big challenge is recognizing when God is speaking through the other as His delegated authority, not just their emotions or personality. Early on, the Lord taught me the importance of not playing the role of the Holy Spirit when the two of us did not agree, but to ask Him what He wanted to do in me, and to pray for Dan. I soon discovered that when I gave it to the Lord, taking my hands off and placing it in His, where it belongs, He would work things out. There were a few times of learning the hard way when we tried to do it without the Lord, but as we grew as one, we began to recognize when God was speaking through the other, even if it hurt, and not to get defensive. We would each

speak what we were sensing the Lord say, and then kiss, leaving it in God's hands. As we separately would go our way and pray, the Lord would show us what to do. Dan would tell people we never had a fight, as it was not about duking it out and who was right.⁴

⁴ I speak more about this in the *Marriage Oneness* Chapter.

STANDING IN FAITH

On May 23, 2022, my husband had surgery on his jawbone and had all his teeth removed, being told it would take three months to heal. We stood in faith, thanking God for healing him expediently, and for a brand-new set of teeth supernaturally. We shared this with our prayer partners, and one month later we were sent this word of encouragement:

*“When God healed All of Smith
Wigglesworth’s Rotten Teeth! – Sent
from his biography...*

*“Concerning the healing JESUS
CHRIST secured for us in redemption,
some ask, ‘Does it last? Does the
healing stand good?’ Yes! What GOD
does, HE does, it lasts forever! All things
are possible in the mighty Name of
JESUS CHRIST! Many years ago, GOD
healed me when all my teeth were
decayed and weak. GOD healed them
when I was sixty-two. I am as fresh as a*

boy! Now, devil, take THAT! Such healing is GOD's plan, which is better than any other plan! Some turn from GOD's plan because of fear. Others throw over GOD's wonderful plan because of a feeling. The Bible has so many precious promises, with wealth beyond all price, that GOD has planned for us to have.”⁵

Being the same age as Smith Wigglesworth, we were super excited.

The surgeon was very pleased with how well the surgery went and that it didn't take as long as he anticipated. With each follow-up visit, the report was that his progress was great, even being one month ahead of schedule. He eagerly anticipated eating real food again, not knowing what lay ahead.

The morning after the massive heart attack was to be his visit for a fitting, yet we were still believing for a miracle. While in the hospital, I was still standing strong that God would not only

⁵<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SmithWigglesworth/permalink/5502104593201771/?sfnsn=mo&ref=share>

give him new teeth, but a new heart and brain; and that we would be walking out together, hand in hand, as we usually did. Faced with the facts of medical reports and an atmosphere contrary to God's Word and what we were believing for together, I was thankful for all the prayers and support of our church family around and with me.

On Tuesday morning, I called a dear sister who came and stayed by my side to the end, even spending the night. I was at the point that I didn't know what to do, asking: *s 'When will I know for sure?'* because of all the barrage of decisions to be made. I had told the Lord the night before, I still believe, but if it was His time for my husband, I release him to You and I ask You to fill that void. Dan had not regained consciousness since the heart attack occurred but knowing his spirit still hears, I also talked to him and gave him permission to go home. I know the importance of releasing one in such a state, so they don't keep trying to hold on for those of us left behind.

At 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, I felt a strong urge in my spirit and ran to his bedside in a commanding travail for about 10 minutes. I, along with those in the room, all felt a shift in the spirit.

By evening, I saw all the signs and knew the end was near. Early Wednesday morning, in my spirit, I knew that I knew; and they began the process of unhooking him from the different machines. Once the final tube was removed, a group of us stood

round about the bed, playing the song and singing “Blessed Assurance.” Then, he peacefully transitioned to his new home with the LORD.

We had broken every hospital rule regarding the number of people allowed in the room and the times for visiting hours. The staff was in awe of all they witnessed each day of this journey. Some stated that usually they see and hear a wide range of negative emotions such as fear, anger, and wailing.

Yet we were singing praises to the Lord and even laughing at times amidst the tears and hugs. Some of the staff said, “The LORD is real to you, isn’t He?!” Yes, He is very much alive!!!

God did answer our prayers for a supernatural healing, just not in this life. Dan is whole and with the LORD, rejoicing!

ONE MORE MOVE

While in the hospital, on July 19 at 12:30 p.m., the Spirit of the Lord rose up suddenly within me, and I ran to my husband's bedside and began travailing in a commanding tongue for about 10 minutes. I was feeling a shift in my gut. Those in the room also felt it. Afterwards, a peace settled over me, and I heard the Lord say, "I have one more move." I asked Him if He meant that he was going to resurrect my husband and restore him whole to me. He firmly repeated, "I said, I have one more move." He took me back to a few years prior when we had learned about the famous painting of a chess game where a pro kept studying it and said, "It's not checkmate; there's still one more move!"

The next evening, when he passed, I shared with the church that I believed God was preparing His church for one more move, and that we needed to be ready. He is coming for a pure church, as His body is to be like Him, without spot or wrinkle, being holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27).

After all, He is the head, and we are His body (Eph. 1:22, 23). Like the song says in the second stanza of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, **"He is sifting our hearts," and our commission is to live to make others free and be ready for His coming.**

THREE DAYS LATER

Often, when fasting, it is on the third day that we receive an answer or revelation from the Lord, and it also was on the third day that Jesus rose from the dead. So, when a young teen from our church shared how interesting that Dan's massive heart attack happened on the first day of our corporate absolute fast and he died on the third, the last day of the fast, I realized, God had answered our prayer for healing. He received his ultimate healing, going to heaven and there he has everything new and whole.

Three days later, it would have been his birthday. I had planned a surprise party at our home Bible study but despite his passing I did not feel in my spirit that I should cancel. I moved it to the church café to allow us to celebrate his resurrection birthday (third day like Jesus) with more church family. This time together was precious, especially since we were unable to hold his homegoing celebration for nine more days. It was a special event where I introduced how we knew each family, and each had the opportunity to share their memories of him. Some we had known for years and others a few months, but out of that time together, new friendships were made. It was as if prior they had only seen each other as faces in the church. All shared how much they enjoyed that day together. Some even asked to do it again. It was very healing for me to witness the interconnection of new friendships that I have been privileged to see grow, and to hear

their stories of my husband. We often have no idea who, or how we impact others.

Here is an excerpt from one letter written at the celebration that day:

“This is a time in your life that is not like any other. But I want to tell you what it looks like from my seat... This has opened my eyes to the importance of the Church.

I watched as one after another came to give you a hug or word or financial blessing. Then the Pastors, reaching out to assure you that they are standing with you. This has made such a deep impression on me about what the Church really is.

I am forever changed, as I have watched the Body of Christ come together to touch you in one way or another.”

The outpouring of love and prayers from our church family was truly like the church in the book of Acts caring for us, and it has continued to be a huge support in many ways since I became a widow. My heart is full of gratitude, and I still cry when I pray or speak of their love. That is why being rooted in a church family is so important. There was no place else I'd rather be than in church, worshipping the Lord with my church family, and if I was having a moment, they understood. I knew that I was never alone.

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

Even amidst the whirlwind of arrangements, I saw God's hand. He made sure to surround me with those who knew what to do every step of the way by providing exactly what I needed when I needed it, whether a hug, physically just being there, taking charge of things to take a load off me, cleaning our home, assisting me in decisions, driving me places, prayers, their gifts, or connections to people I needed to accomplish the many things one incurs at this time. Whether a death is expected or unexpected, the smallest of things can mean so much to the one remaining.

Dan's place in the mausoleum is on the north side. The Lord reminded me how the tribe of Dan encamped on the north side of the Tabernacle and how the mount of the congregation is in the sides of the north (Isaiah 14:13). Yet another sign of God's fingerprint on our lives.

Yes, our *God is even into the smallest of details*. The Lord truly goes before us and has in place what we need, we just need to walk it out in faith and trust.

Deuteronomy 31:8 *"And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."*

Isaiah 45:2 “*I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:*”

I knew the Lord was with me when *the Holy Spirit enabled me to call each by name*, with over two hundred coming through the receiving line. Some I had not seen in years; others I had only met once or twice.

Glancing around, I recognized them but was unsure who they were until they stood in front of me. The number of people was astounding and let me know just how rich we were with people who care, and that our lives had touched others.

One interesting thing was how the color purple unintentionally became our theme. From choosing a shirt for him, purple being one he looked best in, to the flowers for the casket and his birthday celebration also being purple. My dear friend and sister who got the birthday flowers knew when she saw them that they were what God wanted for me. They lasted three weeks, and we have not seen this type of flower since! An out-of-state friend who was unable to come sent me flowers, of course, they were purple! I wore a purple and black dress I had, and without saying anything in advance, many of our church family also wore purple that day.

Purple was appropriate, as it is a royal color and next to King Jesus, Dan was my king and treated me as his queen. All

born-again believers are royalty, as we belong to the King of Kings and are heirs and joint-heirs with Christ. Remember, God daily invites us to his banqueting table of His Word (the Bible) for a feast. Like Mephibosheth, we can put our feet under his table despite our past as we belong to Him. He does not label us by our past or dysfunction but sees us through the blood of Jesus as His children (John 1:12).

Four months later, while missing him greatly, I felt compelled to follow through with our dream of going to Israel, a long-awaited trip we were gifted for Christmas of 2019. Due to the pandemic, regrettably, we were forced to postpone the trip to November of 2022. When the informational packet arrived for the trip, I was assigned to a specific tour group who was to board, no less, the PURPLE bus! Dan was supposed to be with me. So even though he was in the heavenly Jerusalem while I was going to the earthly one, it was a special connection, a comfort, and a reminder of how the Spirit of God works and speaks to us.

GAIN

The first five days, someone stayed with me every night, as they did not want me to be by myself. On the sixth evening, a friend who had stayed with me at the hospital all night was planning to come, but I told her I would be fine. I knew if I needed her, she would come, even if it was the middle of the night. So, I told her to just get a good night's sleep at home. Near midnight, I got up for a few minutes and as I rounded the end of the bed where my husband would sleep, I encountered an angel the Lord had sent. The angel appeared as a four-to five-inch orb of light with a tail, like a bolt of lightning twice as long. I knew the Lord was reassuring me that He was with me.

The next day, while spending it with the Lord, I heard Him tell me that not only had my husband gained, but that I had also gained.

Philippians 1:21 says, *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”*. That I understood. But as to how I gained, I had to trust the Lord to believe what He said and allow Him to reveal the how. As time went on, I saw so many ways how this was true – I had gained:

- He has not only filled the void and been my husband, but brought me through a 15-month period marked with 23 deaths, including my mother's passing 5 months later, two

close ministry friends, prayer partners and more whom I was close to, with even more losses before the end of 2023.

- Deeper relationships with both my family and the family of God, including new connections.
- Expanded ministry, greater frequency, broader reach, and more open doors I have been able to walk through, along with discernment to recognize what is not from Him. I now have more spiritual children and am able to impact more families.
- New experiences, including learning technologies I've used to share God's Word, for example, navigating features on a smartphone, expanding my very basic computer knowledge, and learning to use programs like Zoom and PowerPoint.
- New revelations and growth to a new level of anointing, with spiritual encounters from time to time that have left a lasting impression.
- Deeper understanding of heaven and its many facets, like a diamond, filled with surpassing joys!
- More of learning to receive possessing His heart with more love for others. Having His heart has deepened my experience with the Lord and my prayer time as well.

REVELATIONS

We may find ourselves walking in darkness, but as a child of the light, we must recall Psalm 139:12 AMP: *“Even the darkness is not dark to You and conceals nothing from You, But the night shines as bright as the day; Darkness and light are alike to You.”*

Yes, even in what may seem like thick darkness to us, God, in whom there is no darkness, is able to use it to bring truth and revelation. Isaiah 45:3 NKJV: *“I will give you the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel (your name).”*

One revelation I now understand more fully is the truth of Isaiah 53:4a, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.”* and Hebrews 4:15, *“For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* He truly took all our griefs and sorrows in life, bearing them in him and nailed them to the cross, knowing exactly what we feel. For a brief moment, we may experience them, but ***we do not have to carry them around as heavy weights and allow them to dictate our life and future*** or keep us from moving forward and upward.

Hebrews 12:2 *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Joy does come in the morning as we go through our moment of separation from the one we loved through death.

During this journey to a new chapter of my life, one of the revelations was that He would turn what seemed like a dark cave into a sanctuary, as I continue to thank and praise Him. He has taken me to a place of once more being joyful, confident, and powerful in Him. It reminds me of the disciples and the early church after His resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is the law of new life and the Spirit. The key is to keep walking in the Spirit and not after our flesh. The enemy thought he could imprison me in darkness, death, and withdrawal; Instead, I pressed forward and upward in the newness of this chapter of my life, to fulfill my assignment. If we dwell in our flesh, instead of abiding in His Presence, we open the door for anxiety, depression, despair, doubt and unbelief that can then turn from just an emotion into a spirit from Satan to keep us as his prisoner. Through trying times, strive to remember that God—not Satan—is your Father, and you are God’s child! You have God’s authority and power to overcome.

I also heard the Lord say that events also speak His Word,

so be watchful and listen.

WATCHFUL = **W**aiting **A**ttentively for His instructions and **T**iming, **C**aring for **H**eavenly things, being full of **F**aith **U**ndergirded with **L**ove.

LISTEN = **L**ingering in His presence, **I**ntently, **S**eeking, **T**aking to heart His words, **E**ngaged in, drawing nigh, and **N**ever abandoning them.

I also witnessed what the Lord spoke to me, four months later while I was at the Dead Sea in Israel. It poured rain very heavily for an extended time, which is rare for that area, and on the way down to Jerusalem there was a double rainbow. It reminded me of God's promises of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with double blessings for us, doing the same works He did and even greater (Joel 2:28-29, Ephesians 3:20, John 14:12).

There were also personal words spoken to me. One was where God was answering a prayer from long ago that I had forgotten about, and the Holy Spirit would show me.

After being in Israel and experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells that have never left me, and the sense that I had come home, I have learned that locations also speak God's Word. Israel is our homeland where we will be serving Jesus as kings and priests during the millennial reign. I believe that is why I felt like I had come home when in Israel.

I realized, when you read the Word in context of visualizing the actual land, you receive different insight. For example, when you see the shepherds' fields in view of what the land is really like in Israel, and you read Psalm 23:1-2, "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters;*" Instead of our imagery of lush green pastures with gently rolling hills and a gentle babbling brook, you see the actual rocky, uneven, mountainous terrain, and the importance of the sheep following their shepherd and all the challenges the shepherds must face to protect and provide for their sheep.

Yet another key revelation is "release." When a loved one lingers, sometimes it is because they are holding on, out of concern for us, thinking we can't make it without them. Other times, we are the ones holding on to them but need to let go and release them unto the Lord. As soon as release is granted, shortly after, they peacefully transfer from this world to the next. After their passing, ***releasing emotions onto the Lord and trusting Him, who has experienced every emotion we can ever have***, is key.

Release also must occur as we go through the different phases after their departure. We cannot hold on to what *was*, getting stuck there, or we will wither up, but one must move forward and upward. With each release, whether an emotion or feeling, of possessions, or of unfulfilled dreams, we become

lighter and more youthful, not being bound with weights by trying to hold on.

Unfulfilled dreams are a heavy weight until released, realizing God is doing so in a different way with something even better than you had imagined. We need to be open to the new vision and be patient as He unfolds this chapter.⁶ Being anxious or trying to make something happen without seeking and waiting on Him will only yield problems instead of fruit and blessings. One should remind themselves to take it one step at a time, and sometimes only one minute at a time, until you one day look and see the bounce in your step return and realize your love has not died; it only has grown bigger!

⁶ See more in *Broken Dreams* Chapter.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Four months after his going home, the Lord clarified that the *one more move*, was also for me. In His great mercy, he took my husband home and had an assignment for me. I feel like I need to run faster and not waste the remaining time I have, but to please Him with what He has written in my life's book to do for Him. Also, to exhort others to be sure to stay in their lane and pick up the baton of what has been deposited in them, to keep marching on in truth and freeing others. We cannot move forward if we are holding on to the past.

Staying in your lane is important. Don't get distracted by the world or caught up in competition, or worried about what others think. The only approval that matters is God's. Notice the sun and moon both orbit Earth yet stay in their lane. Being who God created you to be, *staying in your lane is important as that is where His anointing for you is.*

If you are still here, it is because He has an assignment for you to complete. We must take the baton of those who have gone on before us in the cloud of witnesses, taking courage from them and running faster than before, for the time is short. We must complete our race until we see Him face to face. Look forward to when we finally look into His eyes, which are a pool of liquid love, feeling more alive than we ever did on Earth, and experience His lavish love flooding our being as we receive the promise of eternal

life with Him!

It is not uncommon, as we travel through life, to occasionally have moments where waves wash over us of missing the one who has already gone through the river of life in heaven, not confined to the tent of their earthly body.

2 Corinthians 5:1 AMP : *“For we know that if the earthly tent [our physical body] which is our house is torn down [through death], we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*/ Verse 4 , *“For while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened [often weighed down, oppressed], not that we want to be unclothed [separated by death from the body], but to be clothed, so that what is mortal [the body] will be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection].”*

God holds all our days in His hands. Reflect on God’s goodness.

GOD OF COMFORT

Along the journey of walking through the valley of Baca, here are some things I learned.

- He truly is, as 2 Corinthians 1:3 says, “*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*”
- He picks you up as a small child reaching for their parent, and lifts you up, wrapping His arms around you, giving you supernatural grace, strength, and peace.
- ***Important to view it as gain and not loss. See the adventure before you,*** and not to focus on the sorrow of what was!
- God interrupted eternity, creating a space for mankind. The time He gives us here is currency, and how we spend it—whether wasting it on temporal things for existence or investing in things eternal—determines our destiny.
- Lack of spending time with Him creates a person with little or no understanding of their destiny, and they find themselves aimlessly wandering in a barren wilderness, meaningless and futile, never being fulfilled or satisfied. When we understand the power of time and destiny, our whole life takes on new meaning. Instead of being bored or wasting time, you search for ways to spend time wisely—

knowing you only have enough time to complete your assignment as to why (the purpose), you were sent to Earth for His glory.⁷

- People feel uncomfortable and unsure of what to say to those still here on assignment. Convey sympathy with a simple phrase like, “My heart goes out to you.” “I am lifting you up in my daily prayers.” “I’m praying for the Lord’s peace to comfort and uphold you during this time.” “I love you. They will be greatly missed.” An expression of your love does not require a lot of words.

Sometimes there are no words to say, and touch, like a hug, can speak volumes. If you have experienced death of someone close to you, it is okay to say, “I understand...” Caution, we should avoid saying “I know,” as each one’s journey is unique. Even though there are common things we all experience, none of us truly knows what they are feeling.

As people struggle to comfort the flesh, they mistakenly say things that are not biblical truths. For example, “Now you have an angel in heaven,” or “They have earned their wings.” NO! We are made in God’s image, a triune being of spirit, soul, and body, whereas the angels are not; they are only spirits. Jesus did not die to redeem them. The truth is that we judge the

⁷ Source: With permission, from reading Kenneth Copeland Ministries material reinforcing truths the Lord had taught me.

angels, so how can our loved one be an angel?!

Hebrew 1:4: *“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*

Hebrews 2:5-7: *“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:”*

Hebrew 2:14-16: *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”*

Hebrews 1:7: *“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.”*

1 Peter 1:12: *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which*

things the angels desire to look into.”

2 Peter 2:4: *“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”*

Jude 1:6: *“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”*

1 Corinthians 6:3: *“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”*

Webster’s definition of loss is “the act or fact of being unable to keep or maintain something or someone.” Yes, I have experienced loss of the day-to-day relationship and time spent with my husband on this Earth. However, when others say, “I’m sorry for your loss,” if your loved one is born again and with the Lord, they truly are not lost. They are only gone for a season from us, but they are in our future, not in the same manner, but we will be with them again. In heaven, we are all brothers and sisters, none are married.⁹

For those who know the Lord and truly live for Him, we know our loved ones are not lost, but we will see them again if we also know and live for Him. Rejoice, they are in our future!

⁹ Luke 20:35: *“But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:”*

For those who we may not be sure about, know this: ultimately, God wills that not one be lost and perhaps they called out to Him in the final moment receiving the garment of salvation. Since they did not live for Him, there will be no crown(s), but we may be surprised who we will see again. If they did not accept Him, their choices would have separated them from the Father's love, and we will have no memory of their existence (Ecclesiastes 1:11). So, refuse to allow the enemy to torment you and risk losing your own salvation. When it seems like our loved one died early, remember Psalm 116:15, *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."* And Isaiah 57:1, *"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."* Continue to trust the Lord, praising and thanking Him for who He is and all He has done!

WAYS THAT WE CAN HELP COMFORT THOSE MOURNING:

Be uplifting. Hugs, cards, and notes over time with your favorite memory of the person or an old photo you found of them, a poem or Scripture, flowers or a special treat. Offer help with daily tasks like cleaning, things that are often not on our minds currently. When bringing food, find out “when” they will have extra people coming in. Keep in mind, most do not feel like eating for a season, so simple things like chicken salad or lunch meat to make sandwiches, protein drinks or bottled water, and quick snack-type foods are helpful. Limit the sweets. Even items like extra toilet paper to accommodate their guests or offering to provide lodging is helpful.

Assisting with arrangements and putting together photos and items they want to display at the homegoing. Offering to spend time with them, enabling them to rest, or just so they are not alone as they go through things, not only in the first few days, but down the road when ready to go through the loved one’s belongings and paperwork. Sometimes just your presence is all they need. Spending time together over a meal. Do not be offended if they

don't accept as some just need time alone to process everything and hear from the Lord.

Driving them where they need to go, or to pick up the children/those flying in can be such a blessing. Later, taking them to appointments or to deliver the death certificate to various places—which can be an emotional time for some. I know for me, there were times when my mind was in such a fog, I had no idea how slow or fast I was driving or how I even got there.

Touching base with them from time to time or taking them out, whether to eat or to do something fun. If they have children, offering to watch them for a while. Everyone has their own special needs—let them know you are there for them at any time. Don't just wait to be asked, follow up as the Lord leads you. I can't tell you how many times I was blessed by another's perfect timing.

Allow them to cry. When a person responds with “It is going to be ok”, many will try to stop the process which is needed for release and healing. They need to feel safe to do so in your presence. Both, you and them, may feel restricted to cry, or say anything, thinking you are the cause of more tears. Don't deny them the opportunity to do so publicly. Do not be afraid to talk about their loved one and call them by name.

I know when my grandfather passed, my grandmother

was afraid to say his name until I shared it was good to do so, even if she cried. She said she felt such a release and discovered it was part of the healing process to cry and laugh as we shared stories using his name. It helped to deal with the reality he was no longer with her.

Respect if they prefer silence or to talk. Sometimes, just a listening ear is what is needed most.

POWER OF PRAISE AND THANKS

There were times when all I could do was cry and repeatedly say, “I love you, Dan, I love You, Lord.” I was able to press beyond, despite tears, to thank the Lord for loving me so much that not only had He given me His Son, Jesus as my Lord and Savior, but also his son, Daniel, who loved me and reflected the Father’s love to me. I thanked the Lord for the gift of my husband and our time together, for our family—the children (I am a stepmom, but we always referred to them as ours) and granddaughters, our siblings and my mom (as his parents and my dad were already home with the Lord). I thanked the Lord for our church family and friends, especially those who stood with me in so many endless ways. I praised Him for His goodness (my husband’s favorite saying was “God is good, all the time”). I thanked the Lord for this new chapter in the book He had written for me to fulfill, and that I just wanted to please Him and not have the Lord, or my husband, be disappointed in me. My desire was to fulfill my assignment until it was my time to also come home.

I had to learn to *allow myself grace* and not feel like I had failed the Lord or been a disappointment letting Him down. It is so easy to get down on oneself when feeling weak.

Remember, the Word tells us, *“Let the weak say, I am strong,”* (Joel 3:10). One day, in talking with the Lord, it gave me great peace to hear Him say, “I am well-pleased with you, My child. You are doing well,” and to know how He saw me.

Don’t seek to understand everything—but give thanks to God that “He” is the answer to everything you need.

Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

Isaiah 50:10 NKJV: *“Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness, and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God.”*

Trust in Adonai with all your heart, leaning not on your own understanding but on the Word of God. In all your ways acknowledge Him. He will lead you on the ancient road, the highway of Holiness, making your path straight so you do not fall. Give thanks to God in all situations.

Learn to *live and embrace the mystery of the moment*. He will reveal, in due season, that which we need to know and was hidden from us. Reflect on Deuteronomy 29:29 *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*

Remember, when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his long-awaited son Isaac, he did not know nor understand except by faith, and the importance of obedience. Yet, looking back, we see it as a picture parallel to Calvary. Just as Isaac carried the wood up the mountain on his back, Jesus carried the wooden cross up Calvary. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son mirrored our Heavenly Father sacrificing His Only Begotten Son, Jesus, for us!

Remember your covenant with the LORD. He is married to you and is your husband. All born-again believers are His children, part of the bride of Christ, with Him as our Bridegroom. He does not flirt or just date you.

He desires to dwell in you and live as one, just as He and the Father are one. The wedding is a ceremony, but marriage is based upon an intimate relationship of covenant love and becoming as one.¹⁰

"I thank you Lord, not only for Dan being in my life while he was here, but that You have always been with me, even when I was unaware of your presence. I praise You and thank You for Your unfailing, unconditional love that knows no limits. Thank You for Your covenant with us!

¹⁰ Source: With permission, from reading Kenneth Copeland Ministries material reinforcing truths the Lord had taught me.

GOING THROUGH THE VALLEY

Walking six years prior with dear friends through the valley of Bacca, I observed that when they focused on their feelings, how easy it was to slip into a pity party and become a prisoner, isolating themselves from life and even experiencing a decline in their health.

Another danger to this way of dealing with our mourning is we open the door for a spirit of grief to oppress us. Learn the truth found from David in 2 Samuel 12:23, *“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”* If they and you both lived for the Lord, you will see them again. You are only momentarily separated physically.

Yes, we must walk through the valley to the other side with its various emotions and we will have temporary moments of grieving, but we do not need to allow it to swallow us up. Our life is not over. We are just starting a new chapter. We must allow ourselves space and grace during this time. Remember, the power of praise and thanksgiving can carry us when we do not know how or what to do next.

At first, I lived moment by moment. Eventually, the time

between became longer, and the grieving time became shorter. Having something to look forward to is important. For me, it was getting to fulfill a life dream of going to Israel after several delays. That hope got me through the blur of everything that screamed for my attention those first four months.

Upon my return from Israel, I had two deaths two days apart, a good ministry friend and then my mother on the morning of Christmas Eve, which was the seventh death since my husband's. I had a plane ticket to fly home to see her the following week, which ended up being her homegoing celebration. The time I had planned to spend with my mother was now time spent with my siblings going through the homestead items for a week before returning home. Then the month of January began a barrage of deaths which I found I just could not endure going to another funeral. It was like re-living my husband's and mother's funeral along with the one who had gone home to be with the Lord. I knew the wisdom of allowing myself permission to forego personally attending.

Honestly, the one thing I shared with my siblings that seemed strange was not having the two people I talked with daily (besides the Lord) to share with. The Lord and I had a lot of talks, in which, as I did so, He told me, in giving Him thanks and praise, I would have very special moments with Him, who once more became my husband as when I was single. At the moment, I could not always see it, but there would be times I

realized that through it all, how much I had grown and His anointing on my life had increased. A dear friend who is now with the Lord, Arlene Parker, used to always say, “You have to go through it to get to it.” We just have to trust Him in the moments we feel weak or are wondering what to do next, knowing He is right there beside us. He truly never leaves or forsakes us but is ever present.

There were times when I just needed to escape all the things that needed my attention, feeling overwhelmed and crying, I would call someone (having a list of those who said if I ever needed anything, I would pray about who to call) and ask them to get together. They said, “I came to cheer you up”, but it often would turn with me ministering to them through something the Lord showed me or a word of knowledge for them. I shared that it blessed me as much as it was blessing them, as it allowed me to take the focus off me and use the gifts God had given, letting me know I still had purpose.

There are moments that take you by surprise, like a wave coming from behind and knocking you off balance. It may be something so simple that triggers a memory of your loved one and the tears become a waterfall.

I remember the first time I went to the grocery store after his passing, I just stood there looking around like I had landed on another planet unsure of what to do or buy. The reality that I was only buying for one, plus not having an appetite, seemed

daunting.

One day, while baking a tray of squash and scooping it out, a bucket of tears came. I didn't know why until I was talking with a friend. I realized it was one of his favorite foods which he never ate until we met. I was cooking portions as if he was still here with me.

A key to walking through the valley is—***don't stop doing your assignment in the midst of it all while in the valley.*** I not only kept the flow going, but increased it as doors opened, and kept my focus on the Lord, heaven, and others. The enemy would love nothing more than to get us to have a pity party or lock ourselves up in our home with its walls becoming a prison. We have abundant life from God. Allow yourself time to be alone with the Lord. You may have days you just exist, but then the next day you're up and running the race. Avoid becoming stuck.

Most of the time, I feel the Lord's peace and joy, loving to worship Him, share what He has shown me, and live life. The other times, I had to allow myself grace to be human and rest in His Presence.

The Lord, knowing that my husband loved to surprise me with flowers, made sure that throughout the first year, I continued to receive them. Two months later, someone we had not seen for a few years came by with a lovely mum plant. I

don't recall seeing one so full and round. On our anniversary, which most people who are not family don't remember, a couple from our home Bible study came over on our special day with a dozen red roses like he would have given me and brought a meal. We fellowshiped and played a game with a mixture of laughter and tears. It touched my heart deeply and was a blessed evening. Another couple remembered me at Passover with flowers. Such precious touches of God's love.

God truly watches over his widows. There were times I had a financial need, and without saying a word, someone would walk up and put money in my hand or slip an envelope in my purse only to discover the blessing.

There have been so many blessings that were unexpected. But with perfect timing.

The depth of friendship is so meaningful, and I value each person in my life and have discovered the treasure in others as I have gotten to know their testimony. Sharing and learning from one another is one-way iron sharpens iron, as we strengthen one another becoming trees of life for others.

Proverbs 27:17: *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."*

Proverbs 11:30: *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;"*

WHAT IS COVENANT¹¹

Understanding the significance of covenant, with a growing knowledge of what we have with Him and our oneness in Him is of utmost importance. Following are the nine steps of characteristics of a covenant partner in Biblical times and what it means for us today.

- 1) **Exchange of coats or robes:** Robes symbolized identity. Jesus took our coat of self-righteousness and sin, exchanging it for His robe of righteousness. As we see in Luke 15, where the Father said, bring out the best robe—“His”, for the return of the prodigal.
- 2) **What the belt holds:** He gave us the belt of Truth that gives us the Lord’s weapons and ensures our battles are dealt with jointly.
- 3) **The cutting of a covenant:** It was a sacrifice with an unpleasant aroma, symbolizing dying to self because the desire for a covenant relationship is greater. A figure eight was made as each party would enter from the side

¹¹ Source of “What is Covenant” from <https://www.curtlandry.com/characteristics-of-a-covenant-partner-walking-in-covenant-knowledge-7/>

of the animal that was split down the middle, walking through the pieces to the other side. Eight is the number of new beginnings, or two rings joined as one.

- 4) **Raised right hand; mixed with blood:** The two parties entering the covenant would make an incision on their right palm (representing the hand of fellowship and agreement) then raise their hands mingling their blood together. Blood represents life. Doing so said, “Your life is mine and mine in you. We are one.” Christ shed His blood on the cross, dying for us, so we are one in Him and He in us. It also said that what is yours is mine and what is mine is yours.
- 5) **Marked with a scar:** The scar of covenant was a permanent mark and testimony of that partnership. Jesus’s nail scars mark His covenant with us and who He is.
- 6) **Giving of the covenant terms:** Includes the terms, conditions, and benefits. God gave us **Himself**, **all** that **He is** and **has**. He understands that all we have to offer Him is sin and sorrow; yet He still engages in covenant. He makes us complete.
- 7) **Names were exchanged**, just as in a marriage. As part of the family of God, we have a new name. Christ took our identity as a “sinner” and gave us the name of

“anointed one.”

- 8) **Eating a memorial meal:** Then the two parties would eat a memorial meal signifying their relationship and fellowship. When Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” every time we partake of communion, it is a call to remember **our covenant relationship with Him, who** it is with, and the **power** it holds. It is also a foreshadow of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, just as in marriage there is a meal after to celebrate the marriage with family and friends.
- 9) **A tree is planted:** A tree of life, to remember the faithful promises. The cross is our reminder of His blood shed on Calvary’s tree and God’s covenant made with us.

MARRIAGE ONENESS

As I mentioned earlier, my husband and I were blessed to grow and experience a covenant marriage. This chapter is about some things we learned along the way.

First, you must have oneness with God, as the Trinity makes you whole, and then oneness with your spouse as one flesh—in unity. The Lord is your threefold cord that makes it work. The best marriages are when both are givers, just like the Lord.

It is not about the right to be right, nor who is right, but expressing what you sense the Lord (not your emotions or opinion) is saying. Listen to each other, kiss, and pray, leaving in the Lord's hands with willingness to accept what He shows and tells you. Realize God's timing is not yours and when you talk together pick an appropriate time—not when emotional, just home from work, nor on an empty stomach, not in front of the children or when rushed. Remember, two things: 1) Timing is key. 2) What you rehearse, you will tend to nurse and not think clearly, so ***go to God first before you speak***. Run to the throne of God, and not the phone.

If having an off day, don't use your spouse as a punching bag or trash can. They are too precious and remember what you do to them, you are doing to the Lord, as well as yourself.

Treasure each moment, whether it is small or a special

event and make memories together while you can as time passes as quickly as clouds on a windy day going by like a movie reel—there one moment and gone the next.

Sincerely tell your spouse “I love you” and be sure to demonstrate your love according to their love language, not yours. Spend quality time together and do things for each other to express your love.

Just because you are married is no reason not to still say, “Thank you.” It demonstrates recognition and prevents assuming others have to do for you. Compliment the other and notice details like their haircut, “You look good in that color, it brings out your smiling eyes”, etc.—like you did when you were dating.

We should communicate with love and avoid taking offense. For example, Dan would say, please don’t wear those sweatpants, as they are not flattering on you. You look so good in....

Learn to flow, like the ebb of the sea, knowing it is first about giving, love begets love. If you need to, pray until you feel God’s love overflowing from your heart. It is not important which one of you God uses as you are “one.” But if not pure in your heart and mind, then flesh versus spirit, rises like a mighty wave. Competition and envy and strife will arise. A house divided cannot stand. If one speaks against the other, it is against you, too! Too many enter into flesh, and it becomes a boxing match of

words.

Carve out time to not only pray individually but as a couple.

Marriage mirrors the intimate and holy relationship with the Lord, deepening one's connection with Christ. It is a spiritual discipline preparing for eternity, not an end in itself. ***Don't make an idol out of your spouse.*** Only God can fill and complete us.

When whole and doing what He calls us to do, your paths will cross. He will bring you together with His love flowing through you for a richer and deeper relationship with the Lord. You become a witness and vessel of His desire for a relationship and family for His purposes, making Him real and visible to others. In the family unit is where we learn the value of each, honor one another, and honor Him also. Family is also where we learn to overlook offenses, forgive, appreciate one another's differences, and be there for one another. The best legacy we can leave is "faith," a family rooted in love and built by grace.

Your God-given gifts will compliment, not compete with the other. We learned that your gifts will be in the same grouping, but not the same. He operated in the gift of discernment, and I in the word of knowledge. While praying and asking the Lord for the gift the other one had, he answered us, "I can't give you the same gift twice. You are one."

Like being saved, the spirit is instantly a new creation, but in our soul, we must work out our sanctification, as we renew our

mind with the Word of God and learn to make Him Lord of all our life, so too in marriage. When you enter covenant, you are one flesh but need to grow spiritually as one. Also, in marriage it is no longer yours and mine, or his and hers, but us and ours.

Being made in the image of God, a spirit, when we seek and have His heart, we feel what He feels. If it grieves Him, it grieves us.

Part of being in covenant with God is our oneness with Him because we are in Christ Jesus when born again. [See John 3] Just as they are both one:

- John 10:30 AMP: *"I and the Father Are One [in essence and nature]."*
- John 10:38 AMP: *"But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe Me or have faith in Me, [at least] believe the works [that I do, admit that they are the works of God], so that you may know and keep on knowing [clearly, without any doubt] that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father [that is, I am One with Him]."*
- Just as in an earthly marriage, two become one, Jesus makes us a new creature in Him so that we may be one with Him and the Father living by His Spirit and not ruled by our flesh of the old man. 1 Corinthians 6:17:

“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMP: *“He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God], yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.”*

This is why we find no satisfaction in anything or anyone except Him. He has planted a part of Himself, the Trinity, inside us for us to discover Him—the only one who can fulfill us and gives meaning to life as **He is life!**

God is truly our threefold cord so we can stand, and His Word is life and health to our flesh! [See Ecclesiastes 4:12 & Proverbs 4:20-23.] His power is ever-present to help us.

I am so thankful for the honor of experiencing God as our threefold cord in our marriage which took us through the bad times and fires, as well as through the good times.

THE JOURNEY

In the journey of experiencing a death, it is very important to *stay focused on what you do have and refuse to listen to the lies the enemy will whisper*. When I see others who are loving their spouse the way we did, I rejoice and thank the Lord for their love and His love for me. Or, when I see others receiving their healing on earth and being allowed to enjoy their spouse, being granted more time together, again, I rejoice. He promised me if I would not question but give thanks and praise, I would not experience depression or despair, but that He would show me things I never knew. He tells us in his Word to give thanks in all things (1 Thessalonians 5:18 “*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*”) And to rejoice with others, (Luke 1:58; 15:6, 9; John 4:36; Romans 12:15: “*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*”)

This is not as the world does. But I can tell you from personal experience, *He will give you great peace and a deep awareness of His love and joy when you obey and do things His way*. You will see in a new way and enjoy a beauty in life you never knew existed. He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and desires to do the same for you. All He asks is for your total surrender and obedience, and in turn, He will fill any void you may have and reveal more to you like He promised, as you walk the ancient high road of holiness. Until we arrive, He carries us and

surrounds us with His comfort and love.

I can attest to the importance of being rooted in a church family. Every individual's presence is important to the body of Christ, and ***you are God's handwritten poem read by others***, and you carry His message just by your being who He created you to be. All who love the Lord are His gift and blessing to those whose path crosses yours as we no longer belong to ourselves, but TO HIM who is good all the time.

Romans 14:7: AMP: *"None of us lives for himself [for his own benefit, but for the Lord], and none of us dies for himself [but for the Lord]."*

When we treat others, showing them, that they are important and honoring who they are, we are vessels of God's love. Love them like it is the last opportunity you will ever have to show them that love. Know that in heaven, not only will you look into our Lord's eyes, a pool of love, but everywhere you go there is only love and light. Everything is pure and transparent yet with a color so vivid and uniquely its own. He designed us to live on Earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). Our assignment is to reflect that in this present moment despite what is going on in or around us. Yes, we are not yet in our glorified body and can easily get caught up in the cares of life.

But we must remember, though we are not yet perfect He thought we were worth dying for! When one is born again as John

3:1-8 says, ultimately, we belong to Him who purchased and paid the price with His precious blood.

THE SILVER CORD AND ANGEL'S WING

Ecclesiastes 12:5b says, *“because a man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken or pitcher be broken, at the fountain, or wheel broken at the cistern.”*

On January 5th of 2015, I kept hearing in my spirit “the silver cord” and wondered what it meant. I prayed and asked the Lord for revelation and understanding. Here is what I received –

- The long home is our eternal place in heaven or hell, depending on our life choices.
- The silver (redemption) cord is like an umbilical cord that is between our Creator God and us when He breathed the breath of life into us and we became a living soul.¹² Genesis 2:7: *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*
- The golden bowl is our prayers. Revelation 5:8: *“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having*

¹² This cord is severed at death.

every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.” These are the prayers of God’s people as a sweet smelling fragrance unto Him, represented in the altar of incense in Numbers 7. Ephesians 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”

- The pitcher is us. Lamentations 4:2 *“The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how they are esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the potter!”* 2 Corinthians 4:7: *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”* 2 Timothy 2:19, 21: *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”*

- The fountain is the Lord, and the cisterns are what man has made. Jeremiah 2:13: *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”* Jeremiah 17:13: *“O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.”*
- This verse is possibly what Jesus wrote on the ground in John 8:6, 9 *“This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, ‘He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.’ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”*
- The wheel is the spirit of the living creature. Ezekiel 1:16, 21: *“The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they*

four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.”

Why do I share these truths? To help you understand that We, as Ephesians 2:10 says, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*” We are His handwritten poem, written by His finger and created for a purpose in His Kingdom. That is why, as Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMP says, “*He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a*

mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God], yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.”

How we live this life determines our eternal destiny. I have witnessed this side of that truth on Earth, being present at the moment of the silver cord being severed.

I was present with others when they were passing and actually saw two angels coming to escort them home to heaven. I do not know why these experiences are not seen or felt every time, yet I know with surety where they are, and one day I will see them again when it is my time.

On one occasion, I was present with a dear friend in Hospice. The man across the hall was dying and did not know the Lord. He was acting like the man in Gadarene (Mark 5:1, 20, Luke 8:26, 39, Matthew 8:28, 34) possessed by a legion of devils and would scream as they tormented him. While at the same time, my husband and I witnessed two angels outside our friend's door. Less than 48 hours later, alone with her in the room, the tip of one of the angel's wings tapped me on my upper chest and I witnessed the silver cord severed and the peace as they took her home. I still can feel that touch of the angel.

I recall the first time I knew the silver cord was severed was while being escorted to the hospital with my husband driving, myself, and a dear friend whose husband had a heart attack as we

were weeping, praying and declaring the Word of God, suddenly a presence came inside the truck and a quiet hush. We all felt and saw a brightness before hearing the angels sing. We joined in, going from the valley of tears to the mountain top.

Initially, we thought he was healed, but upon arrival we knew in our spirit that was when the angels escorted him home.

I remember my father telling me of his encounter when my grandpa died. He and my grandma felt a presence in the corner of the room, my grandpa smiled and said, “Oh, the face of Jesus!” he convulsed and died with a smile on his face. It meant a lot to me, as he had prayed the sinner’s prayer with me several months prior. His death was my first experience of understanding that this Earth suit made of dust is like a tent, only a temporary dwelling until our spirit and soul go on to eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (AMP): *“For we know that if the earthly tent [our physical body], which is our house is torn down [through death], we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

He truly is, as 2 Corinthians 1:3 says, *“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;”*

BROKEN DREAMS

When you are left holding only memories, our carnal mind wants to wander and take us to a place of broken dreams and disappointments. Draw strength from God's Word:

Isaiah 55:9 (AMP): *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts higher than your thoughts."*

Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP): *"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'"*

Remember, God has a better plan than anything you could ever dream. ***Know your dreams are not shattered, just altered*** to a better way. Think about the Book of Ruth.

- When Naomi married, she probably dreamed about her life as wife, mother, and grandmother, never dreaming her marriage would involve leaving her homeland for a foreign country, and there having her husband and sons die.
- Ruth probably thought her life would only consist of living and dying in Moab, not marrying a foreigner and moving to another country.
- Boaz probably thought he would never marry but always be a bachelor. Yet, look what God did! He

turned Naomi's sorrow into joy, expanding Ruth's vision and life to become part of Israel, for a greater purpose in God's plan that would make a difference, and Boaz not only realizing something he thought would never happen late in life, but blessing Him for his faithfulness, realizing something about it, God used all three as part of Jesus's lineage! ¹³

➤ Another Book to consider is Esther, she had many challenges in life and it didn't turn out as she envisioned it, yet we learn:

- God is ever-present with us, accomplishing His purposes as He guides and prepares us for our part in His story.
- Even when we can't see or feel Him, He is working things out for our good, to fulfill our destiny.

We can trust Him and His promises, for He did not randomly select but chose us, having put eternity in our heart, as Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP) says: *"He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God], yet man cannot*

¹³ Source from Sapphires–Daily Devotional—from Jonathan Cahn/Hope of the World.

find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.”

Ephesians 1:3-6 (KJV): “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Psalm 33:4 (KJV): “For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

Romans 15:13 (AMP): “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.”

2 Corinthians 1:20 (AMP): “For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] ‘Yes.’ So through Him we say our ‘Amen’ to the glory of God.”

2 Peter 1:19 (AMP): “So we have the prophetic word made more certain. You do well to pay [close] attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and light breaks through the gloom and the morning star arises in your hearts.”

From Genesis to Revelation, there are countless examples of those who trusted God: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Peter, John, Jesus, Paul.... all those in the cloud of witnesses that have gone before us.

Hebrew 12:1-3 (AMP): *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God’s absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work]. Just consider and meditate on Him who endured from sinners such bitter hostility against Himself [consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

Even though you may feel your dream is broken and unfulfilled, God is transforming it into something greater. **Take courage, don’t be discouraged!** You will see that everything God does and allows has a purpose, and you will see another miracle and dream again.

God is love. Because He lives in you, when you are born

again as His child—made in His image—you are able to love. Whether through a breakup, divorce, or death, you will love again, with His love flowing in and through you to others. His love has no limits; it keeps flowing endlessly. Our love for each person in our life is unique and individual.

Embrace what you do have. Don't be like Lot's wife and look back to what is no longer! You cannot receive the gift He desires to give you if you keep clenching your fist, holding on to what was. Let go so He can place something new into your life.

Learn to take everything to Jesus, allow Him to heal and bring His peace. Choose to forgive. See those who hurt you through His eyes, whether they are a lost soul or themselves wounded and hurting others—do as the Lord says: love your enemies and pray for them. He is not asking you to be their best friend, only to love them as He loves you. Sometimes we have to love them from afar and set healthy boundaries—but love them as a soul lost that God is waiting to come home like the prodigal son. Press forward, ***leave the grave clothes of the past in the Living Waters of Jesus!***

I am reminded of this when hearing “*Trust in You*”, a song by Lauren Daigle.

WHAT'S NEXT

Everyone's journey is unique, just like each relationship we have with another. We can only understand if we have been through it, but cannot truly know what another is feeling. It is an individual journey that the Lord meets us where we are and brings us through to the next chapter of our life.

When there is a death, one of the challenges can be our identity, and now what? You will always have moments and your memories of the one who is no longer with you, but to go forward we must let go of the past and keep our eyes on the Lord. Like our Christian Walk, we are ever moving upward and forward. Any other position is a backward one, even if you are stagnant.

If the role you fulfilled in life (being a husband or wife, caregiver, etc.) was defining who you were, you can find yourself in an identity crisis; you may even feel worthless. Even though each season of life brings change and it may look different, the key is to remember who you are in Christ and what He has called you to. While you embrace the moment, give yourself grace to be human, knowing it is ok to cry and offer it as a prayer; it is okay that you have times you just are. Allow the Lord to walk you through, experience the different dimensions of the journey and you will be stronger and closer to Him than ever before. You are never alone; the Lord is with you 24/7, never sleeping or slumbering. Saturate yourself in His Presence regardless of how

you are feeling. He will show you things you would never otherwise know, if you do.

There were times I felt so weak, yet others would tell me how strong I was. Remember what 2 Corinthians 12:10 (AMP) says, *“So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God’s strength].”*

Early in our marriage, we were praying, asking the Lord for the gifting the other had, when one day we both heard at the same time: “I can’t give you the same gift twice, you are one.” We discovered that when it is the Lord who draws you together, you will compliment, not compete with one another, and it will be in like grouping of gifts. We were both teachers, with his gift being discernment and mine, word of knowledge. So, when I did not have him by my side in ministering, I wondered how I could continue, but the Lord has taken me to a new level and definitely been with me.

Each new season requires a shift and being open to something new. The Lord will use the things you are passionate about with freshness. Do you enjoy cooking, but now just for you? Let the Spirit guide you to use that passion for others, perhaps for shut-ins, and those who have had surgery, or for someone who is alone. What a blessing. Or perhaps for a retirement community or

school. Do you enjoy gardening, or yardwork, or handy work? What about being part of your church's Helps Ministry or helping your neighbors? Just as we move through different stages of life, ***your core calling is the same just expressed in a new way.*** You are still needed and important. God has a plan and a purpose for you, that is why you are still living!

THE FATHERS LOVE

His love for you goes beyond any words. It is a truth that is ***unshakable, unbreakable, and undeniable!***

The proof of God's love is:

- He sent His love wrapped in the flesh of Jesus, born as a baby in Bethlehem...
- He stretched His love on a cross at Calvary...
- He sealed His love with an empty tomb!

My prayer is Ephesians 3:17-19 (AMP): *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God’s people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God’s presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].”*

- The WIDTH of His love is expressed in John 3:16, 36:17:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

If you have not yet made Him your Lord and Savior, know He loves

you with an everlasting love and when you genuinely believe Him in your heart and confess Him with your mouth, with His tender mercies He forgives you regardless of what you have done in the past. From that moment forward, when you live for Him, He only sees the precious blood that Jesus shed for you on Calvary, so you might be His child.

As the Word of God says, you are no longer a sinner living that lifestyle, but a new creation in Christ Jesus!

- The LENGTH of His love is revealed in Ecclesiastes 3:11. He gave every individual their own unique fingerprint, even identical twins have different fingerprints.
- The HEIGHT of His love is seen in Ephesians 2:5-7, 4:7-10.
- The DEPTH of His love is proven in Matthew 12:4, 1 Peter 3:18-22, and Revelation 1:18.

Our Heavenly Father gave us free will. He is constantly drawing us with cords of love, watching vigilantly for us to come home so He can run to us, and throw His loving arms around us, and take our filthy rags and put His robe of righteousness on us like the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. His love knows no boundaries, it is limitless. You don't have to feel like "The Ugly Duckling," but can become a beautiful jewel in His eyes. Look into them, they are like a warm pool of love washing over you, embracing you gingerly,

unlike anything you have ever known!

Make sure that you are in right standing with God. If you have never received Him as your Savior (being born again, as John 3 talks about, receive the gift of God that John 4 and Hebrews 2:3 shares with us.) Or if you are not where you should be spiritually with the Lord, repent and make things right with Him now. Pray from your heart or say this prayer: “Father, in the name of Jesus, I repent of my sins, desiring to turn from my ways and to please you. With Your tender mercies that are new each day, please forgive me and root out of me anything that is not like You. I do believe that You love me so much that You sent Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus who died, was crucified in my place, and rose again, so that I might have the gift of eternal life—knowing You, my Heavenly Father, and Your Son, Jesus Christ.”

I close with my husband’s favorite saying: “God is Good, all the time,” which became our motto as we went through life’s challenges. As I continue my journey, God has continued to prove Himself to me, and this remains my motto: GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME!

SCRIPTURES FOR

CHAPTER – THE

FATHER’S LOVE

Ephesians 3:17-19 AMP: *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God’s people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God’s presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].”*

WIDTH: John 3:16 (AMP) *“For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Eternal life is defined in: John 17:1-3 (AMP) *“When Jesus had spoken these things, He raised His eyes to heaven [in prayer] and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, so that*

Your Son may glorify You. Just as You have given Him power and authority over all mankind, [now glorify Him] so that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him [to be His, permanently and forever]. Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true [supreme and sovereign] God, and [in the same manner know] Jesus [as the] Christ whom You have sent.”

John 3:36 (AMP): *“He who believes and trusts in the Son and accepts Him [as Savior] has eternal life [that is, already possesses it]; but he who does not believe the Son and chooses to reject Him, [disobeying Him and denying Him as Savior] will not see [eternal] life, but [instead] the wrath of God hangs over him continually.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP): *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].”*

LENGTH: Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP) *“He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God], yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.”*

HEIGHT: Ephesians 2:5-7 (AMP) *“even when we were [spiritually] dead and separated from Him because of our sins, He made us [spiritually] alive together with Christ (for by His grace, His undeserved favor and mercy, you have been saved from God’s judgment). And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, [because we are] in Christ Jesus, [and He did this] so that in the ages to come He might [clearly] show the immeasurable and unsurpassed riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus [by providing for our redemption].”*

Ephesians 4:7-10 (AMP): *“Yet grace [God’s undeserved favor] was given to each one of us [not indiscriminately, but in different ways] in proportion to the measure of Christ’s [rich and abundant] gift. Therefore, it says*

*“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE,
AND HE BESTOWED GIFTS ON MEN.”*

(Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had previously descended [from the heights of heaven] into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very same as He who also has ascended high above all the heavens, that He [His presence] might fill all things [that is, the whole universe]).”

DEPTH: Matthew 12:40 (AMP): *“for just as JONAH*

WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

1 Peter 3:18-22 (AMP): *“For indeed Christ died for sins once for all, the Just and Righteous for the unjust and unrighteous [the Innocent for the guilty], so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; in which He also went and preached to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the great patience of God was waiting in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons [Noah’s family], were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that [rescue through the flood], baptism [which is an expression of a believer’s new life in Christ] now saves you, not by removing dirt from the body, but by an appeal to God for a good (clear) conscience, [demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God [that is, the place of honor and authority], with [all] angels and authorities and powers made subservient to Him.”*

Rev. 1:18 (AMP): *“and the Ever-living One [living in and beyond all time and space]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of [absolute control and victory over] death and of Hades (the realm of the dead).”*