



Allyson Byrd

The Purpose Within

*"The Power of
Relentless Purpose"*

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Walk in Love
The Power of Love
A Female Apostle?
New Year of Change
Warfare Prayer for the Saints
Whose Beard Are You Under?
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Divine Inspirations Magazine



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Greetings!

This year is moving forward and I have gathered momentum. It was exciting and inspiring to see the First African-American inaugurated as President. The season for the impossible is here. This year aspire to become a **Person of Purpose**. Now is the time to start the business, write the book, establish the ministry, just jump right in and get started. There is an open Heaven above us and by faith we can accomplish all God has ordained for us.

This issue's theme is "love." Love is the core foundation of our Christian belief. Love made our salvation possible. The inspired articles and poems in this issue will lift you to another level in your love walk. Please touch the heart of someone during this month, someone who may not know it or feel loved reach out and share this gift with them.

Divine Inspirations has a new look. We have gone to a full digital format. Starting March 2009 we will launch our subscription fee. The cost to receive the magazine will be \$15.00 a year. With this change we can better serve our readership. You will receive subscription information in February. I pray that we can count on you to support this vision.

We are in need of editors in the following area: Youth editor, News and Current Events editor, Health and Nutrition editor. If you are interested in becoming an editor or a freelance writer please contact me at divineinspirationsmagazine@gmail.com. Please pass this publication along. We welcome your feedback and comments.

Blessings!

Qualita Pendergrass
Senior Editor/Publisher



Allyson Byrd is the Founder and Creative Director for The Purpose Within.

For over 10 years, Allyson has inspired women from all walks of life. Previously a high-school dropout and a chronic self-handicapper, Allyson found herself wearing life's challenges in the form of weight. At a stunning 338lbs., Allyson decided that it was time to shed the weight physically, emotionally and spiritually.

In 2006, Allyson embarked on her weight loss journey and to date - her weight loss has exceeded a remarkable 150lbs., and counting! When asked about the most difficult part of this continuing journey, Allyson shares that, "The greatest difficulty was shedding the emotional weight – rejection, hurt, disappointment, and fear."

As an inspirational speaker, Allyson founded The Purpose Within with the desire to reach the world, one WOMAN – one PURPOSE at a time.

Allyson believes that choosing to make changes in our lives is a courageous path and one that requires your complete self to be fully engaged; knowing that some days you will miss your mark but that is not the time to give up; it is time to make the necessary adjustments that will create the

desired success. Purpose fulfilled is worth the Process.

Her professional experience is vast including Business Development, Brand Management with an emphasis in Marketing and Public Relations, and currently Training and Employee Development evangelizing for the Blackberry brand.

She has conducted presentations and seminars on such subjects as, *The Power of Relentless Purpose, Embracing Your Fear Factor, Change that Keeps on Changing and HELP! I Want My Life To Work!*

A woman of purpose, power and passion, Allyson understands that we live in a real world, with real challenges and real circumstances.

She quotes Marianne Williamson in saying, "We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be...Brilliant, Gorgeous, Talented, Fabulous?' Actually, you are a child of God! Your playing small does NOT serve the world."

Allyson loves to engage with the audience by inviting them to discover the source of their discontent and resignation, and reconnect with their greatest dreams. Speaking with ease and transparency, Allyson's messages are vulnerable, authentic, and inspirational.

Allyson personally responds to each email she receives and she would love to hear from you. Email her today at allyson@thepurposewithin.com

Get Motivated!

The Purpose Within is a motivational network dedicated to the empowerment of women. Join LIVE tele-casts and webinars the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Tap Into Your Greatness & Discover Your Passion For Transformation!

Get Connected:

Log onto www.thepurposewithin.com and sign up for monthly E-blasts!

Become a Friend:

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It's Not Too Late - Create a Fresh Start Today!

Schedule of Events

Only 11 Sessions Remaining This Year and All Are FREE!

- January 8th
- February 12th
- March 12th
- April 9th
- May 14th
- June 11th
- July 9th
- August 13th
- September 10th
- October 8th
- November 12th
- December 10th

"The greatest difficulty was shedding the emotional weight – rejection, hurt, disappointment, and fear."



The Power of Relentless

Purpose

Allyson Byrd

I Live For Purpose! While this statement is easier said than done, many have submitted it as a redundant statement.

Well, let's try this on for size. I live to exist. I live to be used to the fullest of my potential and I live with determination and resolve. I define purpose as the reason that we exist; the driving force that fuels our determination and our resolve in life.

Purpose is not only what we do but why we do it! I decree that the cause for existence is NOT redundant.

I often find that discussing purpose with others is generally an ambiguous and broad discussion. Most people I encounter declare they are still in search of their purpose. That's interesting to me because most people that enter my circle have lived at least three decades or more. The question that frequently screams in my head is, "What are you waiting for?"

As I strive, to be transparent at all times, I must share that when God began to speak purpose to me as my keystone message, one of my first thoughts was, "Why? There

are so many books, CDs; even 8-tracks are still available with the message of purpose, why do I have to join the crowd?"

My answer became clear given these statistics:

According to a 2008 study conducted by the Resource Associates Corporation, as many as 66% of all working adults are slaving away at jobs they don't like and for which they're not suited. The study further found that in a research poll of millions of workers, only 33% reported that they are engaged in the kind of work that they do best.

WOW! That means 6 out of 10 people that you know are spending majority of their day feeling unnecessary and powerless to do something about it.

As I continued to study, another statistic grabbed me. The National Institute of Mental Health (2008) reports 1 in 10 Americans are currently suffering from depression. Therefore, a staggering 18.8 million Americans currently suffer a depressive disorder.

Do you see the connection? A life without purpose offers **limited** self-belief is controlled by lack and **devoid** of passion. The by-product of living with lack is a decision that leads to a depressive state that renders us spiritually, physically, and emotionally immobile.

Scripture tells us in *Romans 12:2b (TEV)* "Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God."

At the end of the day, the question must be answered: "Who is ultimately responsible for the fulfillment of our purpose?" Is the answer 50% God and 50% us or maybe we have so much faith that it's only 20% us and 80% God?

May I submit to you the answer that I live by -- 100% Allyson or in translation, 100% Y O U!

President Obama said in his 2009 Inaugural speech, "Greatness is not a gift, it must be earned." Here's how I internalized his words, God did his part in creating or purpose-ing you; you exist and therefore so does your purpose. Whether or not you maximize your existence to its designed potential is YOUR choice and your choice(s) will produce your value and your greatness in the earth.

I could sit back and say, "Let Oprah motivate the people, or let Dr. Maya Angelou shoulder the weight of wisdom." I could rest as Dr. Renita Weems challenges you to think and First Lady Michelle Obama admonishes you to become activists within your world. I have the right to choose all of the above; however, that place of choice discounts my value and subtracts from my personal worth.

Genesis 1:26 (paraphrased) says that God made us in his image and his likeness. Question: If we choose to discredit our existence or contradict our God-essence, how does that reflect our belief or disbelief in God?

Now before you run away and call me a heretic, consider the following statement... Every day of our lives, the reality is that we choose to run clearance sales on our self-esteem and our gifting with our complacency, our conversations about who we are and our engagement with self-doubt.

Jesus decreed that he came to give us abundant life.

Is the life that you are living, smaller than the one predestined for you? If you find yourself in the 66% aforementioned group that is surviving life versus thriving life and you aren't feeling valued, necessary or

purposed for 8-10 hours of your day, my dear friend, here is your call to action!

Answer these questions:

1. What is my Personal Mission Statement? Simply explain what you are committed to in this life. (Example: My personal mission is to or I am committed to)
2. If I honored all that I am commissioned to do (as listed above), who would I impact and what experience would I create for those that I am committed to impacting?
3. Do I trust that God is in this process with me?

In *1 Corinthians 9:23-27 (NIV)*, Paul asks how we are going to run this race, aimlessly or with the goal of winning in mind. The answers to these questions will help you reach your goal. They are designed to facilitate you to:

- Awaken to your life's purpose.
- Engage in your place of personal power.
- Become your purposed and most authentic self.

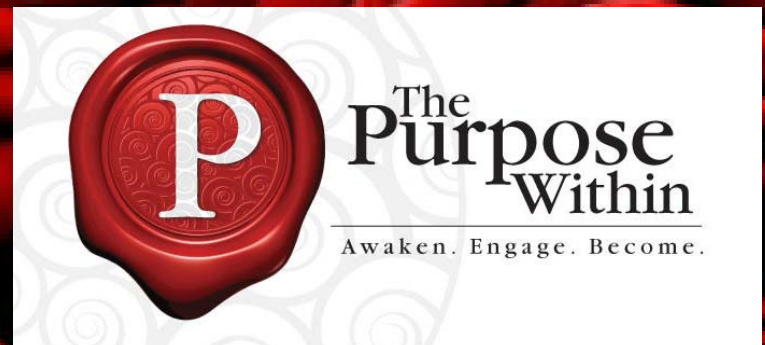
Be encouraged in this journey because you are not alone. The process of fulfilling purpose is a challenging road that requires all that you have and then some. We are all in this race together; the reward is bestowed when you engage your faith and submit to this daring adventure, allowing God's greatest possibilities to unleash in your life.

Oswald Chambers writes, "You will never cease to be the most amazed person on earth at what God has done for you on the inside."

This process of embracing your purpose must initiate on the inside of your being; no external force will ever fulfill the vacancy of

unfulfilled purpose. Pursue purpose with all that you have and watch how this relentless pursuit will produce the greatest return of your life.

Allyson Byrd is the Founder and Creative Director for The Purpose Within, a motivational network of over 2,000 subscribers dedicated to empowering others to live their best lives through purpose-driven and transformational living. TPW offers FREE monthly tele-classes dedicated to inspire and motivate you; join the 2nd Thursday of each month featuring in-demand speakers, authors, and life coaches. Allyson lives in San Antonio, Texas and is available for speaking engagements, workshop development and freelance writing; to learn more about her work, visit www.thepurposewithin.com or email her at allysonbyrd@thepurposewithin.com.



Divine Inspirations Magazine Needs YOU!



If you are inspired to write; then we need you.

We are looking for columnists and freelance writers who have a desire to edify the Body of Christ.

We need editors for the following areas:

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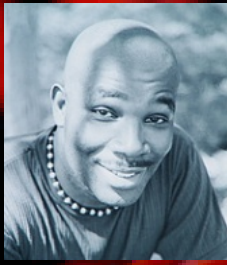
Health and Nutrition Editor

Food Editor

Current Events/News Editor

If you are artistic, our graphics area is for you. To apply to any of these openings, please send an email to divineinspirationsmagazine@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!!!



The Love Myth

Blaine C. Vann

Falling in Love

Falling in love is a very natural thing to do.

Television, movies, and pop music show a way of love that is not biblical. It encourages people to give their hearts and bodies to the one they love. This - the true Myth of Love - is what the world teaches.

Wisdom, on the other hand, is not to marry someone just because of being in love, but because they are, the man or woman meant to be their husband or wife.

God said to marry the one He sends ... out of obedience.

Far too many people marry their boy friends and sweet hearts, only to be devastated later, because they bypassed the Isaac/Rebekah principle, that is: letting God, the Father bring those who are to be married together.

Genesis 24:67; "And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her."

A boyfriend by definition is an immature male. He lacks understanding. The same is true for a woman.

Marriage does not change a man into a husband. Neither can a wife's love change them, but only God who does the work in a man's heart. This happens way before the wedding vows.

To base an eternal relationship on an earthy emotion is shifting sand at best. Notice the

Word of God, *"He took her, she became (his wife), then he loved."*

The word 'took' means: to choose, to seize, to accept, to marry, to snatch away, and to lead. So the work for her to become his wife had already been done in his heart, before he loved her.

Can an immature male do that? Listen...he accepted her to become...he snatched her away for her to become, he SEIZED her to become his wife. Now that's a husband!

Dark Lights

Having sex before marriage is the very worst position for a man to gauge if a woman is to be his mate. In that position, he is out of the will of God and his understanding will be darkened. Once the "false honeymoon" is over he will wake up with a stranger in his bed and she won't get out.

It's just like the club days. They all look good under those red club dance lights, but outside in the true light, he will see what he is really getting! Premarital sex blinds the mind and the spirit. It is unlawful in the Kingdom of God, so a man's body will not be under divine protection. They both will wind up in a ditch, body, soul, and spirit.

If you are in this situation, the premarital sex must stop! It is not love! Stop and repent. Clear the air. Start anew. If, after a period of cleansing, you have your senses back, and still want to marry, you should go for it!

Take heed, though. Making the decision to marry while under hand of satan is foolish and will be trouble. I speak the truth here.

Hope

Know that God wants you married, that you are not alone. God has you in his sights. He can see into the walls of your heart.

When the time is right, he will send you into Boaz's field to meet your mate. This is a key

element in God's timing. The book of Ruth is here to give you direction in the season of singleness. Read the Word and pray over it. The wisdom the book contains will sustain you as the world pulls at you to become something that is not your purpose. Chose God's way and you will never be ashamed.

In the mean time, serve God with a passion that only an unmarried man or woman can. Be full of zeal for Jesus!

Print this out and keep it close. Read it over and let this wisdom sink in. Please let me know how things are going.

Be brave,

Blaine C. Vann 2009 ©
www.praisecity.com



"A Word in Season"

From the Christian Therapist
Sophia Avery

Reader question: When we get saved and accept salvation in the pardon of their sins. Many times, there are issues that are swept under the rug or hidden behind a mask. There are so many in the Body of Christ who are walking around with issues that are not being addressed, causing them not to be whole. How can we in the Body of Christ be taught that sometimes we need to seek professional help?

Response from Sophia Avery, Christian Therapist:

In order to answer your question, let's look at the Christian experience. When we are saved, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sins. At that point, our spirits are free

from sin, but the issue becomes, the freeing of our minds. The memory of sins we have committed and/or sins perpetrated against us remains, even after our salvation. We are in the "forgiven, but not forgotten" phase of salvation. We're forgiven, but still carry the guilt, shame, habits, patterns, and behaviors of our past.

So, how can we edify the Body of Christ, making them aware of the fact that sometimes, you need professional help to break out of the "forgiven, but not forgotten" phase?

First, we look to the Word. "Counsel" in some form, is mentioned 182 times in the Bible, while "tithe" is mentioned only 32 times. Yet, we wholeheartedly believe in tithing, while seeking wise counsel is ignored. If God allowed "counsel" to appear 150 times more than "tithe" in the Bible, why do we as Christians not take it seriously, as something we should do on a regular basis, just as we do tithing?

These scriptures tell us why we, as God's people, should seek counseling.

Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

Proverbs 15:22 says, "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established."

Proverbs 19:20 says, "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

Proverbs 1:5 says, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel..."

These scriptures sum up the reasons why we, as Christians, should seek counseling. Then we have the following passage that explains what can happen to us when we deny the need for counselors.

"I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.

I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.

You ignored my advice (counsel) and rejected the correction I offered.

So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you."

"When they cry for help, I will not answer.

Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.

For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord.

They rejected my advice (counsel) and paid no attention when I corrected them.

Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.

For simpletons turn away from me—to death.

Fools are destroyed by their own complacency. But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm."

This powerful passage from *Proverbs 1:24-33(NIV)* tells us exactly how we can get on the wrong side of God--Don't respond to when He calls, or reaches out and ignore His counsel and reject His advice.

Many Christians don't see counseling as being a necessary part of their relationship with God, despite scriptural evidence to the contrary. Some do go to their pastors for counseling, but all pastors aren't anointed

or professionally trained to counsel. Some talk to friends, but friends aren't impartial parties, nor are they trained to help with the more serious issues.

There are Christians who are professional counselors and therapist, psychologists, and psychiatrists, who have studied to show themselves, approved unto God to give wise counsel, and are blessed with the gift of exhortation and can give direction to God's people. We go to doctors, not the pastor or a friend when our chest hurts, when our feet hurt, and when our teeth hurt. Why not go to a professional counselor or therapist when our spirits are wounded and hurting, instead of the pastor or a friend? It's much easier to cure a toothache than an aching heart or wounded spirit, so why entrust these serious issues to anyone but a professionally trained person?

I've heard many people say or imply, "Only weak people go to get counseling." But Paul, in *2 Corinthians 12:10* says, *"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* Many Bible-toting, Scripture-quoting Christians appear to be strong, but on the inside they're the walking wounded, suffering from painful events from their past that continue to affect their present life and relationships, unable to effectively minister to anybody.

Why are there so many unhappy marriages and divorces in the church? Is divorce, unhappiness, or spiritual unrest a sign of weakness? No! Then why do we continue to suffer, losing everything that's dear to us, when the answer may be as simple as talking to a professional counselor or therapist? Are we too proud? Too strong? Too smart? Too private? Too afraid?

As Christians, we are to delight in hardships, persecutions, and difficulties because they give us an opportunity to be weak and be ministered to about our situation, get some

personal attention from God, sometimes, through those who have been anointed to counsel. Then, and only then are we made strong. And once we are strong, and have survived a trial, we can be used by God to understand the lesson from the trial, and correctly minister to others who are going through a similar experience.

Once we, as a body, understand the critical role of counselors, and seek guidance from God through His professionally trained counselors, we will experience healing on an unprecedented level, as God intended.

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Whose Beard Are You Under?

Apostle Chiffon Foster

"It is like the precious ointment poured on the head, that ran down on the beard, even the beard of Aaron [the first high priest], that came down upon the collar and skirts of his garments [consecrating the whole body]" (Psalms 133:22). In this hour where "apostles" are popping up like popcorn, it is important to discern what true apostolic ministry is. We are in another wave much like when "prophets" began to pop up everywhere where "apostolic ministries" and "apostolic coverings" are on the rise. With this in mind, we must use biblical standards and the pattern of the First Century apostles to determine authentic apostolic ministry. We must be careful in

this hour of the beard we are under! Just like the anointing flows from the head of leadership so does other things (greed, lust, jealousy, rebellion, ego, compromise, selfish ambition, pride, etc.). This is not to say that authentic apostolic ministry doesn't exist, but it must be weighed against what the pattern is according to the Word of God and not man made organizational rules, denominational doctrine and counterfeit ability.

There is a difference between a covering and a corporation. True apostolic covering is not flesh driven, self seeking and measured by quantity rather it is based upon: being sent, servanthood, maturity, protocol, integrity, quality ministry, and the ability to operate in dimensions. Too many "apostolic coverings" are being released without any oversight from anyone. A lot of these organizations have simply been birth out of church hurt, church splits, renegade spirits, and those who have the ability to seduce ministers who are looking for platforms, credentials, and credibility. The full counsel of the matter is that there are ministers who want to be in right standing with having a covering, but have found themselves aligned with corporations who seek to prostitute their gifting, rape them financially, and provide no true accountability or fathering.

As we look at the life of the Apostle Paul and the First Century church in the Book of Acts, we find the pattern of what healthy and authentic apostolic ministry should be. An apostle is one who has been commissioned by God to raise up, mentor, and father, instruct, encourage, correct, support, guide, teach, train, etc. their spiritual children into the ways of righteousness, holiness and walking in the fullness of God. In return, churches, ministries, and believers are "birthed out" that are integral, whole, humble, yet powerful in the Holy Ghost. Paul along with

the other apostles took upon himself the care of the churches. Paul said In I Corinthians 4:15-17: *"After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel). So I urge and implore you, be imitators of me. For this very cause I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lord, who will recall to your minds my methods of proceeding and course of conduct and way of life in Christ, such as I teach everywhere in each of the churches."*

Understanding what authentic apostolic ministry is supposed to look like and function is outlined in the Scripture. God has given us a model, a pattern as to what to look for as we seek accountability, apostolic oversight and to be in divine order. The beard you sit under is very crucial in this hour. It should not be based upon public opinion or popularity, quantity, or any other fleshly idea. Allow God to direct you to the right covering before you find yourself aligned with a corporation.

Reigning in the Kingdom,

Apostle Chiffon R. Foster

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"Understanding what authentic apostolic ministry is supposed to look like and function is outlined in the Scripture."



D.I.V.A.S.

(Divinely Inspired Visionaries Anointed Servants)

A Love Jones

Elder Mae Davis

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after you; you alone are my heart's desire And I long to worship you.
(Martin Nystrom).

Have you ever had an extreme desire for something or someone? You may have desired a particular person, food, drink, or drug that caused you to become addicted. Addiction is a state of mind in which you experience a strong mental or physical desire toward something or someone. Unfortunately, having this kind of desire can bring you sorrow, especially when the desire was not fulfilled or unfulfilled in that you did not enjoy it. This extreme desire is defined in the urban-dictionary as a "Love Jones."

¹⁻³ A white-tailed deer drinks from the creek; I want to drink God, deep draughts of God. I'm thirsty for God-alive. I wonder, "Will I ever make it— arrive and drink in God's presence?" I'm on a diet of tears— tears for breakfast, tears for supper. (Psalms 42:1-3, Message Bible). When I read Psalms 42, it rekindles my strong and fervent desire to be in the presence of God. I have a "Love Jones" for God. The dramatic opening to this Psalms describes a person's holy-desire towards God. I get the feeling that if a person could not be in His presence, they would not be able to survive. When we do not have a

relationship with God, we are as dry bones in a desert. True communion with God is important to our faith. It aggravates the devil when he sees us giving praise and worshiping God in spite of our sickness, pain, trials, and tribulation. Our “Love Jones” for God should be addictive. When people —the people who think they know your story— observe you worshiping God through your tears they will try to figure out how you can still lead the banner-of-praise and worship. Be encouraged, even the *true* worshiper loses focus from time-to-time, but that is when we must rehearse the Word of God repeatedly in our hearts and minds. We must continue to sing the songs of Zion. As we offer God our praise, we will begin to regain our focus on God and recognize that our praise and our worship are not predicated on where we are, but where we are going.

If you are at a place in your life where you have not experienced true love or intimacy and you have tried using money, sex, drugs, alcohol, family, friends, or church — ritualistically going every Sunday and feverishly serving and yet no feelings of euphoria [happiness] — then you must begin to cultivate your “Love Jones” toward God.

How does one begin this type of love affair? Do what any lover does when he/she wants to become intimate with the object of their desires. Tell God how much you love and adore him. Give his name glory. Magnify him with your praise. Give him the fruit of your lips: *“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.” (Psalms 63:3)*. God finds pleasure when we give his name the praise. *“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalms 22:3)*. To inhabit means to live or reside in — God is present. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, God dwells right where you are. True intimacy comes with trust in God. Israel

may be his chosen people but we have been adopted into the family through Jesus Christ. *“In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust (Psalms 31:1)*. We need to become one with God as with a man to his wife *“And Adam knew Eve his wife” (Genesis 4:1)*. God wants us to know Him in the totality of intimacy. *“O taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalms 34:8)*. No one can fulfill your deepest desires as God can, but we must commit our ways to His. *“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” (Psalms 37:4-5)*.

Let your love for God be addictive and intoxicating; let it take your breath away as you begin to breath in God’s love. His love will cause a chain reaction that will make you love everyone — even your enemies. *God loved us so much that He gave his only begotten son Jesus (John 3:16.)*. In turn, Jesus’ Love Jones for us was so great that with his last breath he gave us everything we will ever need in our lives — for the rest of our lives and even through eternity.

DIVAS

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Walk in Love

Willie White

Ephesians 5:1-2a

Why is it important to walk in love? *Ephesians 5: 1 -2* states *“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. 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.”* These two verses answer why believers are to walk in love.

Additionally, if we as believers are to follow God's example on love who gave His best for humanity's sins, then Christ's Calvary encounter was the ultimate display of love for mankind. This display of love depicts the true heart of God and the obedience of His Son. Furthermore, being a Christian means being Christ-like, then we are to walk humbly in love to God. Amy Carmichael's saying on love, "If I put my own good name before the other's highest good, then I know nothing of Calvary love."

The question is how do Christians show the world love? *Romans 12:10*, states, "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*" Scriptures instructing believers on love are *1 Thessalonians 4:9b* states, "*ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*" In *1 John 4:11-12*, "*If we love one another, and "God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."* Love has been the message since the beginning of time will continue to resonate throughout the ages as we are to love God first then one another; love begins and ends with God. What greater love that a man will lay down his life for his friends, which is what Christ did for humanity. Jesus called His disciples friends and you and I are considered friends upon establishing a relationship with Jesus.

We have discussed how Christians show the world love; let's discuss the benefits of walking in love. Christians are commissioned to serve as God's ambassadors who carry His message throughout the world. As Christ's ambassador, we are let our light shine before God so men may see our good works and want to be saved. The world is to see Christ manifested in our daily lives. Believers are the salt of the earth; seasoning the earth with the gospel message of Christ. *Matthew 28:19-20* is known as the great commission for all believers who are commissioned to go into

every nation making disciples not just converts. Christ is with His ambassadors in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Christ promised to be with His followers to the ends of the world, and believers can stand on this promise. What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower of Christ who is committed to following Christ with their whole hearts, minds, wills, and has committed themselves to Christ and His kingdom purposes. Believers are to live separated lives as sojourners in a foreign land, which is what we are; because Heaven is our true home.

What is the believers' lifestyle? Believers practice a lifestyle of daily holy living, because believers are of the royal priesthood which sets us apart as a holy nation for a special service for the Lord. Some of those special services include, (a) being a living sacrifice of holy obedience to God and not conforming to this world, (b) offering our petitions, prayer and praise to God on behalf of others, (c) performing good deeds, (d) giving material possessions as required, and (e) presenting our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness (KJV).

Final question, what are the blessings from walking in God's love? The blessings from walking in God's love result in believers being made holy, which separates us from the world and delivers us from the bondage of sin that we may have an intimate fellowship with God and gladly serve Him until we reach our Heavenly home. Believers have separation by accepting Christ's atoning death on the cross through faith. Sanctification is an ongoing process that requires believers to remain in constant communion with Christ. Believers are blessed with the Holy Spirit who leads, guides, and protects us while calming the troubled waters of our souls. We are kept in unity with God by the constant anointing of the Holy Spirit through daily Bible reading

and prayer. How is your Christian walk? Is it in love?

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WILLIE B. WHITE, Author



The Power of Love

Minister B. Michelle Horton

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor death, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

This month many people will celebrate the holiday we know as Valentine's Day. It's a day where flowers are delivered, chocolates are given, and couples get engaged and others get married. There will be candlelight dinners at romantic restaurants or special home cooked meals being prepared with love in the air. Mates will be trying to convince one another that they really do love each other and Valentine's Day has been set aside to prove it. Yes, Valentine's Day is a day of love.

Usually, if you forget to acknowledge your loved one on this day, you will be in big trouble for quite awhile. In fact, messing up on Valentine's Day will cause some people to question the love one another. And although it is inevitable that we humans will mess up and cause someone to question our love, I'm glad I do not have to question the love of God. God's love is so amazing. It is the greatest supernatural force and authority that binds everything together that is good, perfect, and holy.

As I read scripture and grow in Christ, I realize more and more that the power of God's love is one of the most profound and foundational themes penned in the book of life. The love of God is displayed from the very first verse to the very last verse in the Bible. In between these words are the heart beat and the essence of God's divine character. The Bible is overflowing with examples of the faithfulness, righteousness, holiness and the power of God that stems from His divine, complete, and holy love for humankind.

God's love is always and forever. It is always available and God surely doesn't have just one day set aside to prove His love for us. Instead, God demonstrates His love to us day-in and day-out. Time-after-time, God's love is offered; giving us another chance. With every minute of every hour of every day it is given. God's love is evident. Just look at creation. Jeremiah declares *"...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee... (Jeremiah 31:3)*

The power of love that commands the stars to twinkle, the sun to shine, and the moon to glow. It's the power of love that make the oceans roar and the seas billow. It's the power of love that instructs the rain to drop from Heaven and water the world. It's the power of love that tells the wind which direction to blow. It's the power of love that allows our lungs to expand and contract taking in air to live. It's the power of love that strengthens our hearts, minds and bodies for the days ahead.

Romans 8:31 declares God's love with these words ... *"If God is for us, (and He always is) who can be against us."* Think about it! What say we shall then, in this world there is evil, but God's powerful love demonstrated in justice fights evil on every hand. Christ has already won every battle. *Romans 8:32* *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how*

shall He not with Him, also freely give us all things?" We must put everything into the right perspective. God's word must be our foundation for truth. Okay, so on Valentine's Day we may be without a human sweetie pie, boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife, but we have the love of God. And if you are blessed enough to have a spouse, you really need the power of God's love to endure the rigors of Holy matrimony. The love of God is alive and well in The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. This love fought and won the battle over sin, the grave, and death just for us.

Romans 8:33: "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?" I agree with God that no one can. It is God who justifies and the power of His love says; *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit"*
Romans 8:1.

As you read *Romans Chapter 8*, it just keeps getting better. Paul lets us know with all certainty that *"we are more than conquerors through Christ and nothing will separate us from the love of God"* *Romans 8:38-39.* Death won't separate us, *"oh death where is your sting, oh grave where is your victory."* Life won't separate us, no matter how hard things get, because *"He came to give us life and life more abundantly."* Angels, principalities or powers will not separate us. *"Is anything too hard for God?"* *Things present (no matter what is going on). Things past (no matter what already happened or didn't happen) can separate us from the God's love.*

Some people have disappointed us, but it didn't separate us from the power of love. Some of us have been separated from the one we love because of divorce, death, etc., but it didn't separate us from the power of God's love. Somebody may be struggling with addiction, heartache, depression, financial issues and the like, but it will not

separate us from God's love. The power of God's love is so mighty that absolutely nothing can separate, divide, or ever break us apart from God's holy and perfect love. The love of God is in the blood. Christ shed His blood because of the power of love that He has for humankind.

In the midst of struggle, failure, sorrow, grief, lost, despair, hurt, delay and the like, God is there surrounding us with His power of love. There isn't a problem God can't solve with His love. This powerful love saw past our selfishness, sinfulness, trickery, and deceit and captivated our heart. God's love was demonstrated on The Cross thereby extending grace that leads to salvation.

The power of this love dries tears. The power of this love mends broken hearts. The power of this love brings hope in the midnight hour. The power of this love soothes our soul. The power of this love fills that empty space in our heart even on Valentine's Day. The power of this love brings us out of the deepest despair. The power of this love meets our deepest need. The power of this love gives meaning to our life. The power of this love heals, mends, restores, and reclaims.

It's the power of love that compels us to trust, to believe, to rest, to pray, to fast, to stand when everything is falling down around us. It's the power of love that makes a way out of no way, turns us around, and allows us to smile when we should be crying. It's the power of love that gives us peace in the midst of a storm.

God's love is so powerful nothing can come against it. It can't be corrupted, it can't be denied; it can't be diminished. It can't be eliminated. It can't be harnessed. It can't be restrained.

I pray that we meditate on this great and ever present powerful love. Within this powerful love, there is mercy, grace, justice,

illumination, peace, and assurance. The Spinners sang *"Mighty Love"* and oh, they got that right. Earth Wind and Fire sang *"After the Love is Gone."* We can thank God that will never happen. Tina Turner sang *"What's Love Got to do with It."* I say everything! Whitney sang, *"The Greatest Love of All"* and I concur. Stephanie Mills sang; *I Never Knew Love Like this Before* and I say neither do I. Taylor Dane sang *"I'll Always Love You"* and we can be assured that God will. And in the words of Max Lucado, "It wasn't the nails that keep Christ on the cross. It was His love." It was the power of love that kept Him on the cross and it will be the power of love that will walk with us each day of our lives and take us home to Heaven. The power of God's love is yours and mine to have and to hold from this time forth and forever more. Amen!

Minister B. Michelle Horton welcomes comments and dialogue. Please feel free to email her at Bebe0520@aol.com



God is The God of Vision and Order

Evangelist, Debra Savage

***"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."* Proverbs 29:18**

Oftentimes people confuse goals with vision. Goals are objectives, ambitions, targets, or aspirations. Goals differ from vision because visions are divine revelations directly from God; whereas goals are set by

ones own *"self-discipline"* and are usually put in writing. *"If you can't put it on a sheet of paper, you probably can't do what it takes to achieve the goal."* When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But when one obeys the laws of God (and man), he is joyful. One reason for a nation's spiritual or moral decay is its neglect of the revealed Word of God. In order for society to function in concert with the laws of God, one has to have a vision or directive sent from God. When people are allowed to just *"do their own thing,"* you will find a people unrestrained, out of control, and lawless. Many people are living hopeless, purposeless, and desperate lives, but God has ordained and orchestrated for his people to be governed by those he has set in authority. God is the source of all authority, governments exercise power by his permission. It is a dangerous thing to have communities, cities, or churches that are led by leaders who do not have clear visions given to them by God. When leaders are set in positions of authority, three of the most critical tools needed for that person to lead the people are: right standing relationship with God, the Bible, and a vision. Without these key elements, the possibility of lawlessness is inevitable. They have no direction, no ambition, and no vision.

As Kingdom Ambassadors let's make sure that if God has placed us in a position of authority, that we earnestly seek his Face for guidance and direction. Keep your lines of communication open to receive clear directives for those that you are responsible for overseeing.

And remember: *"Stay organized to mobilize. Plan ahead to move ahead in the plans and purposes of God and to move those under your auspices onward. For we walk by revelation and not situation, because we walk by faith and not by sight!"*

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A Female Apostle?

Apostle Dr. Lee Ann B. Marino

"A female apostle?" "Women can't be apostles!" "I thought women couldn't even speak in church!" Statements like this are frequently, if not almost always, uttered when people find out that I am an apostle. Responses range from shock and horror to surprise and delight as people begin what is often a complex journey with the concept of female leadership in the Christian church. As it is no shock to state that male patriarchy has often won out within cultural Christianity (separating it from that which is true), many still read statements about women (not to mention other things) into the Bible that simply aren't there. As a result, those of us who walk in this call often face a lot of repeated questions, which pertain to who, what, where, when, and why of our calling from God.

In order to establish the question as to whether or not a woman can be an apostle, we have to clarify a few other things first. The first thing we must do is establish whether the office of apostle is needed, active, or present for this modern day. As

there are many who theorize the office of apostle (and the five-fold ministry by extension) was exclusively for the first century, only to establish the church, we must take a little time to examine whether or not this theory is indeed found in the New Testament.

Surely if people make such a grand statement as to say the five-fold ministry is no longer in place anymore, there must be Biblical backing for it, right? There must be some verse that points to it--something that validates such a point; right? Some-where?! Nope. There is nothing ANYWHERE in the New Testament that states that the five-fold ministry would cease at the end of the first century. There is nothing to bespeak a belief that the five-fold ministry represents an "era" of church history and would one day be replaced by only part of the ministry offices. If we read *Ephesians 4:11-16*, we in fact see the opposite become true: *"It was He Who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."* (NIV)

If the expressed purpose of the five-fold ministry is to prepare God's people for works of service, to grow up the Body of Christ in faith and knowledge to maturity,

to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ, to no longer be tossed to and fro by deceptive teachers, and to be built up in love as each part does its work, then we can see God has established an important and expressed purpose within the five-fold ministry that must be accomplished before it can cease. As nobody can look me in the eye and tell me the church has received such maturity (it's a joke if anyone thinks it has), or that the church has even begun to scratch the surface on the essential stated purposes of the five-fold ministry, this means all five offices must still be essential for church leadership. As the apostle is mentioned within the five-fold ministry, it is only reasonable to understand and conclude that apostles are still alive and active today, serving their purpose as the foundation, along with prophets, for the church, of which Christ Jesus is the cornerstone (*Ephesians 2:20*).

Thus, we have established that there is still an apostolic office and apostles in today's church. This begs the question, how do we know a true apostle from a false apostle? Is there criteria, or can just anyone be an apostle? Can anyone come along and claim to be one who reveals the mysteries of God? Naturally, anyone can claim it (just as with anything else), but not everyone can prove it. God has, within the Word, established the criteria for one claiming to be an apostle, even in our modern times. According to the Scriptures, the criterion is as follows:

1) The word "apostle" in and of itself means a delegate, an ambassador, a messenger with a special message, or one who is sent forth with orders (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible). This means one who is an apostle has been sent by Christ with the special message of His Gospel revelation. It is different from the general call all disciples have to share the good

news of the Gospel with others in that the apostle serves as God's ambassador. Right here, in this understanding, we've set a high standard. An apostle is one who is directly sent by God endowed with a special message from Him. The office is received by grace and the individual has the power to represent Christ. We see in the Scriptures that He was the first apostle, sent to represent the Father (*Hebrews 3:1, John 12:46-50*).

2) The apostle is directly called to be an apostle by God Himself. One cannot receive an apostolic call from a church representative or from ordination. One cannot be "promoted" to the apostolic office; it is a calling, not a step up on the corporate church ladder. Apostles are not just a minister, but also a witness to the grace received through Christ. To receive this experience, one must have an experience with the resurrected Christ unto their calling (*1 Corinthians 1:9, Galatians 1:1, Acts 26:14-18*).

3) An apostle must be taught by Jesus Christ through the revelation (*Romans 1:5, Galatians 1:11*) and sent by Christ for the work of the Gospel (*Ephesians 3:1-7*). The apostle makes known the mysteries of God (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*).

4) Apostles must have a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures (*2 Timothy 2:15*).

5) The ministry of the apostle is proven by their ministry: through their teaching, preaching, and work of the Gospel (*1 Timothy 2:7*).

What about the criteria for an apostle established in *Acts 1:13-26*? Notably, the criteria set forth there was to replace Judas among the twelve and they set forth a criteria to establish an individual who could testify of Jesus' resurrection. Their requirement was that an individual had followed Christ from John's baptism to His

ascension (*Acts 1:22*). If we are going to be fair, not even all of the original twelve met the criteria set forth to replace Judas, if we are going to use this standard for apostleship. It would also leave out the apostle Paul, who we know was an apostle called directly by Christ. This criteria was established to define an individual who would be added to the apostles of the Lamb; but Paul's experience for apostleship introduced the criteria for apostles of the new covenant, as found above. To argue modern apostleship is impossible on the grounds of *Acts 1:13-26* is to display a lack of proper understanding in New Testament ministry.

Now we will focus on the more specific issue of women in the role of the apostle, as it is clear we can establish both the validity of the apostolic role for modern times and signs which accompany a true apostle. The Bible mentions approximately 20 apostles or individuals who functioned in an apostolic role in the Bible, which right there means at least 8 other individuals aside from the original 12 were apostles in the first century church. Would you believe that the Bible mentions by name a female apostle? Yes, it is true. Her name is Junia, and she is mentioned in *Romans 16:7*: *"Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me."* (KJV) Junia was an apostle of note among the apostles - in other words, she was well-known for her apostolic work - and clearly commended in this passage by the apostle Paul. In and of herself, Junia has an interesting story; for many centuries, her name was deliberately altered in translations of the Bible to lead readers into thinking she was male. It was just too much for many male Bible translators to fathom that God would call a woman to such a position in the Body of Christ, and severely proved their own system of male power and control to be unscriptural.

The very fact that a female apostle is mentioned by name in the New Testament should be in and of itself enough to prove that women are called to the apostolic office. We also see women such as, Mary Magdalene (*John 20:1-18*; also proven to be an apostle in the New Testament apocrypha) and Priscilla (*Acts 18:26, Romans 16:3*) who fulfilled apostolic duties. Mary Magdalene meets the criteria to be an apostle as we find in Paul's experience; and she has been rightly spoken of as "the apostle to the apostles" in church history. Seeing women in this role clarifies the issue that women can indeed teach, preach, and lead in Christianity (even the men!); individuals who claim otherwise are both inadequate students of Bible study and of church history. I acknowledge approaching the Scriptures in a contextual application and understanding what is said beyond a translational understanding takes time; but we must recognize that we are responsible for what we say the Bible says if we take it out of context when there is adequate information to prove the contrary of our statement. The acceptance and proof of female apostles is not a matter of mere opinion or disagreement--it is a part of the Christian leadership establishment. Female apostles are a part of what God ordained and commissioned, and who is anybody to think they can do better than God? The Bible alone can prove that the "Jesus only picked men" argument totally false - not to mention the vast resources we now have of the first century history, which can do likewise - and the Bible therefore raises up the work of female apostles as notable to disprove the arguments of those who would like to keep us out.

It's been said that when women gather together to pray, mighty and amazing things happen. I can only imagine what will happen when female apostles gather-together and realize the importance of the apostolic deposit placed within them. We're

not playing church; we're not here to sit idly by; we are here to stand with our great cloud of witnesses (*Hebrews 12:1*), those female apostles who have gone before us and continue our call as history makers in this place and time.

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The Wonderful World of Beauty

Beauty Editor, Kelly Laws

During my run as a beauty advisor, many women would ask me questions that pertained to their beauty routine. So I decided to devote this article to answering your important beauty questions. I will also have those updates on the best spas in your area in the near future but for now, here are some commonly asked beauty questions.



Question: Is it ok to wash my face with water?

Answer: No! Water is never enough to remove the dead skin cells, the day old makeup, and the oil and pollution that are present on your skin. It is best to purchase a skin care set that is recommended for your skin type.

Question: My skin gets dry and itchy in the winter, what should I do?

Answer: Because the moisture in winter air is sapped due to the excessive heat, it is best to use a moisturizer that is not water based. You need one with ingredients such as honey, olive oil, or Vitamin E oil just to name a few. FYI, apply the moisturizer while your skin is still damp and make sure that you take a warm (not hot) shower. Hot water will dry out your skin especially in the winter.

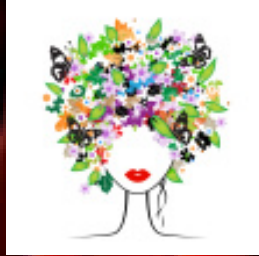
Question: How do I get flawless skin when I apply my foundation?

Answer: The key to flawless skin is making sure that you choose the right shade of foundation. Not sure, what shade to choose, go to your local department store and have a beauty advisor do a foundation match. This process is extremely important if you want to enhance your skin tone with foundation. Also, make sure that you purchase the right foundation for your skin type. Water-based foundations are great for oily skin while dry skin needs an extra emollient to add moisture. If you have combination skin, there is also a foundation for you with the right amount of water to balance out the oil and moisturizer to take care of the dry areas.

Question: Should I apply setting powder to set my foundation?

Answer: My answer to this is, yes and no. I say yes if you are using a liquid foundation or a foundation that is not a cream to

powder. Cream to powder foundation has setting powder mixed in the foundation that gives the skin a flawless look. However, liquid foundations need a powder. These powders help keep the makeup flawless and in place for normal wear.



These are just a few of the beauty questions that many women asked as they have visited my beauty counter. If you have more questions, email me at kellyl219@sbcglobal.net Be blessed until we meet again.



Debt FREE Living Principles

Flora M. Kynard

If you missed previous issues, please view **Archives** at <http://www.prosperityrenewal.org> to get the introduction to this series of articles.

Principle #9 Seed Into Your Need

1 Kings 17:9-16: *"Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your*

God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." *Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'* *"She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.*

Elijah makes an odd request to the widow who found herself without a way to make ends meet. Elijah requests that she *"first make a small cake of bread"* for him from what she has and then, make something for herself and for her son. Nothing we try to hang onto will produce the harvest that we need, but anything we put into God's hands will be ours for eternity. Whenever you don't have enough for a harvest, plant a seed.

Elijah was impressing upon the widow to *"go home and do as you have said,"* but give first to God. Everything we do we should do as unto the Lord so when the widow was requested to give to the man of God she was requested to give to God. Do as you normally do every morning, but give God the first minutes of every day. Eat as you normally do, but give God thanks first before eating. *Matthew 6:33* tells us to *"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."* Solomon, the richest man that has ever lived, tells us in *Proverbs 3:9-10* to *"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then*

your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

All we have belongs to God, the first part and the last part. He returns and multiplies to those who give freely and without thought for profiting. God is under no requirement to multiply our gifts. He does so because He loves us.

Just like the story of the widow in Zarephath God is looking to bless you, but He will start with what you have in your hand. Look for ways to start giving God your first of everything.

Why did Elijah go to Zarephath?

What did God promise Elijah?

What part did the widow play in her deliverance?

The widow was down to her last. What portion of what she had did she give to Elijah?

What did the widow give?

What did the widow receive in return?

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

-----Jim Elliot

TO YOUR SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY!!!

Flora M. Kynard, Senior Personal Financial Trainer
Prosperity Renewal Ministries

P.S. Please forward any questions or comments you may have to info@prosperityrenewal.org. We respond within 24 hours.



Persecuted Saints Within the Church Walls, Part 1

"The Perfect Church"

Prophetess Teresa G. Myers

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

We all dream of "The Perfect Church" with a beautiful sanctuary decorated with the most updated state of the art accessories. When we envision this church, we also picture a dynamic praise and worship team that flows with the Spirit of God. The Pastor is perfect in every way; he is kind, compassionate, forgiving, understanding, thoughtful, giving and exhibits all the characteristics of God. We want to believe that he has a direct line to God, and therefore can do or say no wrong, or err. Isn't this "The Perfect Church" that we all have in our minds as we struggle to find the perfect place that God has called us to?

Within this beautiful, state of the art sanctuary are the perfect saints that are our friends for life. We can share our most deep dark secrets and never have to worry about gossip or repercussions. Our hearts can be laid wide open for the entire church to see and they will embrace and love us regardless with no condemnation or judgment towards us.

The saint's love is unconditional and when we stumble and fall, they will be there to lend a loving, helping hand to help us up, and a gentle reassuring arm to lean on.

They show only love and they give grace and mercy when we need it the most. They do not hold anything against us, and desire to see us grow in God developing our spiritual gifts for the strengthening and edification of the church body.

There is no condemnation, judgment, hostility, jealousy, bitterness, or envy. These saints are perfect in every way because they are the children of God. After all, isn't God the one they desire to please, not man?

"The Perfect Church" offers solace to those on the outside of the church, the ones they label as "non-believers." These "non-believers" need "The Perfect Church" to provide for any physical, mental, and spiritual needs they may have. The saints within this body of believers are pleased to help in any way they can. They will provide food for their growling stomachs and send them to a place to rest their heads. Spiritual food is also provided because this is the main food that is the major source of healing for all their aches and pains in life.

"The Perfect Church" does not judge or have any preconceived ideas of these "non-believers" because they are there to do exactly what Jesus would do. Their motto is "What Would Jesus Do?" this is what they base all their decisions on. Every situation that comes their way is handled in the way Jesus would handle it. Jesus gives His children love, compassion, encouragement, grace, mercy, hope, peace, and forgiveness. Therefore, it is only natural for the saints of "The Perfect Church" to treat others the way Jesus would.

In fact, the "non-believers" would be welcome in "The Perfect Church" without worry or fear of condemnation, judgment, and hostility or shunning. "The Perfect Church" with the "Perfect Pastor & Perfect Saints" would never dream of treating the "non-believers" any other way than what they have been taught. After all, their

motto is and always will be "What Would Jesus Do?"

Now, in this awesome body of believers no one displays any motives of the heart that would be contrary to the Word of God. If another believer is promoted in the church, they all rejoice because they love one another unconditionally. They do not have ulterior motives to move up the church ladder. There is no desire to use someone else to secure a position in the church leadership. To step on another person's heart to get where they want would never enter their minds. Recognition is not their motive or plan. After all, this is "The Perfect Church" with the "Perfect Pastor" and "Perfect Congregation" within the most beautiful state of the art sanctuary.

There are no flaws or boundaries, within these walls there is total freedom to be what God wants you to be and do what God has called you to do. "The Perfect Pastor" desires for you to move towards the mark and high call God has placed on your life. He encourages you to move forward to fulfill the plan of God. The Pastor would never dream of holding you back from anything and desires to only guide and direct you to the feet of Jesus.

What I have just described to you sounds great, doesn't it? I would love to find a church like this; unfortunately, "The Perfect Church" exists only in Heaven.

Let's take a look at The American Heritage dictionary view of "perfect" and see if the church lines up with it.

The word "perfect" is defined as:

(1) *"Lacking nothing essential to the whole; complete of its nature or kind. Being without defect or blemish: a perfect specimen."* (The American Heritage, pg. 1305)

(2) *"Entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings."* (The Random House, pg. 1436)

How can anyone fit that mold? There is no way I can, as much as I try. My days are filled to the brim with life, anxiously waiting to overflow just to see how quickly I adapt to the mess or crack under the pressure as I frantically mop up the overflow while trying to close the lid to keep more from escaping.

Who has the time or energy to be perfect when there are dirty dishes in the sink, tubs that need scrubbing, after a dozen or so uses, and in order to clean the initial layer of grime you have to first scrape off the multiple layers that have piled up on top of it, and then there's the kitchen trash that needs emptying after a dozen or so dirty diapers have been disposed of from my absolutely adorable granddaughter, Madison Lyn, who I love more than life itself.

We definitely cannot forget the refrigerator that is stockpiled to the brim with everything and anything, making me wonder if my children are preparing for a debilitating catastrophic event that will leave us thanking God and them for the moldy block of something that resembles cheese, or the fruit that was stuffed at the bottom of the frig that is now completely black and unrecognizable let alone edible, and the two slices of pizza in a very large container that has been in there before the beginning of time just waiting to be fruitful and multiply.

Last, but surely not least, is my miniature Schnauzer, Kalie, who you would think has a bladder problem and should be wearing doggie diapers because she wants to go outside every fifteen minutes like clockwork. It's no wonder I don't get anything done, I am too busy letting this crazy creature outside only to find her back at the door less than a minute later ready to be let back in and expecting a treat like she

did something miraculous that no other dog can do. Like I said before, who has the time or energy to achieve perfection?

Not me!

What is it that we are really expecting from the pastors and Body of Christ? Do we really believe that we can be the perfect image of God without fault or blemish? If we are really-ready to face reality then there should be a resounding – NO, we are nowhere near perfection and will never be able to obtain it.

Therefore, if we now know that no one can achieve perfection then we are ready to deal with all those crazy preconceived ideas that the majority of people have concerning the children of God. Let's move forward and focus our attention on "The Real Church," warts and all.

In today's modern times, we find ourselves faced with; priests who have betrayed their calling, youth leaders who prey on the young, and clergy who hide their dark secrets behind closed doors. Sometimes it is hard to know who or what to trust.

Next month I will discuss the "Real Church" and the realities within it. Look for it because you don't want to miss it.

Blessings Always,
Teresa G. Myers

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Inspirational Leader

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WARFARE PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS

FATHER, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, I SUPERIMPOSE YOUR PROPHETIC PURPOSE CONCERNING MY LIFE OVER AND AGAINST ALL DEMONIC AND SATANIC ACTIVITIES. I BRING DOWN EVERY MANIFESTATION, OPERATION, MANIPULATION, RESISTANCE, LIMITATION, EXPLOITATION, SET-BACK, DISAPPOINTMENT, FEAR, SPELL, UNSCRIPTURAL PRAYER AND DESIRE, EVERY DEMONIC AND SATANIC DEMAND AND CLAIM UPON MY LIFE. FURTHERMORE, I UPROOT AND DESTROY ANY ASSIGNMENT OF THE ENEMY WHATSOEVER TO HINDER YOUR PROPHETIC PURPOSE FOR ME IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

I SUPERIMPOSE THE PROPHETIC PURPOSE OF GOD OVER THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, OVER THE WALLS OF OPPOSITION AND RESISTANCE, AND OVER SATANIC AND DEMONIC PREDICTIONS AND PROJECTIONS IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

I PLEAD THE BLOOD OF JESUS AGAINST PERSONS WITHOUT BODIES ASSIGNED TO FRUSTRATE, HINDER, AND TO DISORGANIZE ME IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM IN THE NAME OF JESUS, I PLEAD THE BLOOD OF JESUS AGAINST THEM, AND BY THE BLOOD, I NULLIFY, I OVERRULE, I CANCEL, I REVOKE AND REVERSE ANY DEATH WISH, AND ALL OF THEIR DECISIONS AGAINST ME. BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I HALT ANY ACCUSING FINGER, I SILENCE THE VOICE OF THE ACCUSER IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

AMEN!

AUTHOR-ANONYMOUS
SUBMITTED BY PASTOR JANN MINOR
THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING TRUTH
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Speak What You Want to See in Your Marriage

Poetry Editor, Robert T. Sells

Mark 11:22-23: 22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

How many times have we said things we regret to our mates? Do you remember that time when you were so angry that you said something hurtful, just to appease yourself? Or maybe you said it in revenge for an attack against you. How did it make you feel? Some people would say, "It made me feel good to get it out," or "I am so glad they're hurting like I am," or "I just wanted to get that off of my chest," or "I'm glad I finally put them in their place." But in reality, what you did was you spoke something into existence over them. And here is the confirmation of that: maybe not that second, that hour, that day or that week, but eventually you are going to feel remorse for what you said. Why? Because you know the power of your words over someone else, especially the person you have vowed before God to love for the rest of your life.

But the truth is we get upset with our mates sometimes. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that marriage is like it is in the

stories and fairy tales. People get mad at each other. You are not going to go through your entire marriage without ever getting mad at your spouse! But it's how you handle that anger that will reflect in how you honor your mate and respect the power of your words. How powerful are our words? Let me start with scripture. Let's look at *Genesis 1:1-25*. This scripture sets the stage for the beginning of creation. In it, God creates the world in six days. But how does He do it? He speaks it into existence. Why should we speak what we want to see? Because that's what God did. Let's look at what God did:

Genesis 1:1; ¹In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

In Genesis 1, verses 3 thru 25, God teaches us the principle of speaking what we want to see. Every time God spoke something, it happened, and then He saw it happen and He said, "It is good." Read it for yourselves. That IS what it says. But then in verse 26, God further elaborates on this principle in this way. He says, "*Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness ...*," meaning we now have the same power as God to speak what we want to see because He created us in His image and His likeness! Hallelujah and Amen!!

The Prophet Elijah understood the power of speaking things to existence. Let's look at *1 Kings 17:1* says, ***Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As***

the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

Then in verse 7, we see the results of what Elijah spoke when it says, ***"Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land."*** Truly, Elijah had faith to call things that be not as though they were. And we can do the same thing in our marriage. Why? We can do it because we are made in the awesome and powerful image of God.

I remember when my wife and I were first looking to buy our home. It was 2006 and we had only been married one year. We were in a beautiful luxury apartment that the Lord blessed us with and we thought God had done an incredible thing for us. But we didn't know God truly had much more in store. We knew we heard God say we were going to be moving into a house that year but we couldn't see how it was going to happen since our lease was about to expire in two months and the management company was hounding us to decide on if we were going to stay or not. So, we signed our intent to leave with only two months left on our lease without beginning our house search. We immediately prayed and asked God to reveal to us where we were going to live. He told us to pack our apartment up so we packed everything in boxes. We kept speaking 2 Corinthians 10:5 everyday out loud to each other and in all of our email correspondence; we called each other "homeowners," even though we weren't as of yet. With one month left on the lease, God showed us the house we were going to live in and we signed an offer to buy the house with no financing in place. We applied with a company the Lord sent us to and we were approved for the FULL AMOUNT OF THE OFFER!! Two weeks later, we went to the closing table and signed papers to move into our new beautiful

home in a wonderful and peaceful subdivision with no money down and no closing costs! We didn't know in the beginning how it was going to happen, but we just believed it was going to happen so we spoke over it everyday until it came to past in our lives.

You see God has given married couples, two powerful weapons: the ability to speak what we want to see in our marriages and the power of agreement. When we speak in agreement over the things God promises to us, we see them happen in our lives. Conversely, when we speak bad things over our spouse and our marriage, we will see those happen as well. If you as a husband are constantly saying, "My wife is making my life hell," or "My wife is a terrible cook," or "My wife is terrible with the children," then we are going to get exactly that kind of wife. If you as a wife is constantly saying, "My husband is nothing but an alcoholic," or "My husband never does anything useful around the house," or "My husband can't keep a job to save his life," then that is exactly the kind of husband you will get.

When you only speak faith-filled things over your mate, you will begin to see the manifestation of the things you spoke over them. The same goes true for your children. There are so many of us that speak out of anger when talking to our children. We forget that the things we say can impact them for years to come. Telling a child they will never amount to anything will surely produce a child who does not amount to anything. Let's look at another example of someone in the Bible who spoke things into existence.

King David wasn't always a great king and warrior. He was in the beginning a humble shepherd boy. However, when he heard about Goliath cursing his people, he stepped into action and spoke some incredible things in faith. Here's what he said in 1 Samuel 17:45-47: ***David said to the***

Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give all of you into our hands."

King David, then just a shepherd boy armed with a slingshot and a bag of rocks, stood before the Philistine army led by Goliath and told him in front of everyone present that this was Goliath's last day on earth! Can you imagine the faith it took to do that? But because he spoke it in faith, the Lord caused him to have the victory and what he spoke came to pass. Many of us are facing giants in our marriages that seem to be larger than what they really are. When all we need, is to speak a word in faith followed by an action and this will cause our situation to line up with the Word that God has spoken over our marriage. Remember, no matter how big our situation may seem to us, God is always in control. *"We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us."* (Philippians 4:13)

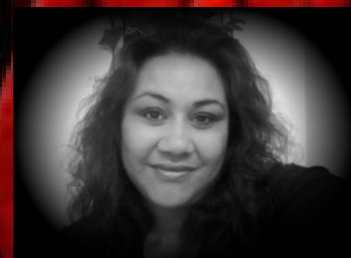
So let's speak over our marriage only those things we want to see, not what we see. It's the things we don't see that God wants to bring to pass in our lives. It's the things we don't see that are the promises of God. It's the things we don't see that God is waiting to bless us with. All we need is to exercise a little faith. And remember, *without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).*

Men and Women of God, if you want faith-filled things in your marriage you have to

speak them. Speak faith-filled things over your husband. Speak faith-filled things over your wives. Speak faith-filled things over your children and you will see these faith-filled things come to pass. Conversely, we know that if we speak things are not faith-filled, we will see that too.

So just remember if you want to see God work in your marriage in amazing ways, speak what you want to see because when you do, God will cause some incredible things to happen and then you will see your marriage as God does – a union brought together by God and your marriage will be so cohesive that nothing that man tries to do will cause it to fail. Your marriage will be bonded with the security that God offers when you put Him first in your relationship. And your marriage will prosper beyond all that you could ask or imagine and it won't be because of you, it will be because of God.

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New Year of Change

Filoiaann Wiedenhoff

Upon entering a new year, I ponder on the prior year and remember the good and the bad but most importantly I try to examine whether or not I have grown spiritually over the last twelve months or have I stayed stagnant in my walk with God or worse digressed. I do this every year to remind myself that no matter how long I have been a born again Christian, I still have much to learn and new growth waiting to spring up in me if I would just allow God to continue

to water and nurture my life with His living water.

The word "Change" has been coming up a lot lately and I believe that word is from God for me. Do you think that word may also be for you too? One day I was in the midst of prayer and I was praying my usual, "God help me in this particular area" prayer when I felt the Holy Spirit remind me of this scripture;

"And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this? They said to Him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith let it be to you.' (Matthew 9:28-29, NKJV)

When I remembered this passage, I immediately responded as the blind men did and said, "Of course I do God!" After some thought, I realized God was asking me a rhetorical question and already knew the answer. He wanted me to see myself as I really am, which is that I have abundant faith in certain areas but in the areas, I struggle with; it is as if I have no faith at all. Yes faith that God can certainly heal or change others but for me, Nah...I will just have to struggle with this the rest of my life.

God impressed on my heart that He wanted me to change the way I viewed His power in my life. At our last women's retreat, I shared a devotional from Reverend Charles Spurgeon who wrote with beautiful transparency. He wrote how easy it was for Him to believe God could move mountains for others, but for himself in certain areas he did not always think it possible. He was confessing how easy it is to have faith for others to be healed, but for ourselves we think it impossible. I was encouraged to know that I was not alone and confessed that was how I viewed my struggles. Yes, for everyone else it is not impossible for God but for me, not so possible.

Can you relate? Do you have certain areas in your life you want God to give you victory in but you just don't think it's going to happen? I believe God wants to change our hearts and point of view to a faith that believes and receives that He can and that He is Able... especially for us.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrew 11:6, NKJV)

That same night I asked God to help me in my unbelief and made a conscience decision that I was going to believe God in this area and the very next morning my heart was definitely changed. I had a fresh new outlook and went from a heart that felt defeated to a heart that believed God could do this in my life. I just needed to believe and as I took active steps by faith, I began to see a transformation take place and I am still seeing it as I keep moving forward in His direction.

I understand now that in order to experience victory in my life in these areas, I first needed to change the way I viewed God in light of His power in my life and I needed a change of heart from unbelief to believing by faith He was able.

Did you know the Hebrew definition for "repentance" is having a *change* of mind, a fundamental and thorough *change* in the hearts of men and women from sin towards God? As we take a deeper look at the word "change" in regards to repentance we will also find that change is only the beginning or shall I say the starting point of a new direction. Real and true change comes when we confess our sin, stop walking in that sin, turn and go towards God and walk in His direction.

The interesting thing about change is once you walk along the path in a new direction it now becomes a new destination and for

us who walk in Christ, we are walking in new life. *"Therefore If anyone is in Christ, is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV) There is no condemnation, God in turns forgives us of the past and then gives us new life in Him.

I would like to challenge you by asking you to take a moment to examine your heart and your life soberly and see if there is anything you believe God would like to change in you, grow you or give you victory in. Also, if you need to repent-by-all-means repent; perhaps repent from unbelief and ask God to help you believe. God is a forgiving God and is able to do above and beyond what you can imagine or think and is faithful to do it!

God loves you and has a plan for your life and would like nothing more than to see you fulfill His plan for you according to His will through Him. It reminds me of the worship song,

"Change my heart O God"

*Change my heart O God
Make it ever new
Change my heart O God
May I be like You
You are the Potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray*

May the Lord bless you with a change of heart that glorifies Him and makes you anew and afresh in Him.

Filoian Wiedenhoff is a pastor's wife, woman's biblical counselor, Bible teacher, writer, and columnist. You can visit her website at www.filoianwiedenhoff.com



***House of God or an
Entertainment Center?
(you tell me)***

Michelle Pumphrey

I have always thought of church being the house of God a house where the spirit of the Lord dwells. A house that provides refuge for the lost and hurting souls; a hospital where all that are sick can come to get a healing word for their lives; a house that embraces people from all walks of life; a place where the sweet sound of praises are going up to our Father in Heaven, with up lifted hands worshipping the most-high God. The church, a place where the Word of God is ministered to the issues of people lives, a house where salvation is the top priority. Hoping that the Word of God touches someone's heart, and after seeing, the saint's sing praises with up-lifted hands and hearing a life changing word, and experiencing the fellowship and love from Jesus through his people, one might run to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

But tell me, where did all that go?

What I see now is one big entertainment center; there is dramatic interpretation, miming, dancing, exercising clubs, etc. there is very little talk about Jesus and salvation is the least on the priority list. Now I know some of you will have a problem with this. Don't get me wrong those things are beautiful and praise God for the Gifts in the Body of Christ, but it is the Word of God

that will break the yokes in someone's life. We have got to preach and teach the Word of God to his people so that they may grow into that peculiar people, that royal priesthood and that holy nation. We, saints of God must make sure that we are to conform the world to the church, and not let the church conform to the world. Some of the praise dances have more wiggling and giggling than those dancing about in the clubs and streets. The church is not Star Search, if you miss that calling in the world, don't try and achieve it in the house of God. If you want to be a star, be one for the Lord and shine with obedience, truth, holiness, and righteousness.

As believers, we should love our neighbors, share the Word, and lead someone out of darkness. That's the thing that God is more concerned with, are we going out into all nations and compelling the lost to come to Christ? Are we feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, are we looking out for the orphans and widows and showing them the love of Christ in the earth or are we just having entertainment? So saints of God I ask you again are we the house of God or an entertainment center?

You tell me?

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and you would like to have a relationship with Him, repeat this prayer:

"God in the Name of Jesus The Christ, I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died that my sins are forgiven and in three days God, you raised him from death with all power in His hands (Romans 10:9-10). I am no longer living in darkness, but I am of God and living as a light shining in a dark world. Lord, I give you ME! In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen!"

Pray (believing God for your prayer) and ask God to lead you to a church where you are taught the uncompromising Word of God, so that you may grow in our Lord.

Below are some scriptures based on the Eternal, Agape Love that flows from Heaven.

Use these scriptures this month and meditate on them. Type them up, print them out and leave them over your house, room, or bathroom, any place where a loved one might see them and know that you love and appreciate them.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the satisfaction for our sins."

~John 4:19~

"We love Him because He first loved us."

~1 John 4:9-10~

"And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

~Ephesians 4:32~

"Then said Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do ..."

~Luke 23:34~

We Love you and Praise God for New Life!!!

Upcoming Events

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Don't let The Devil Do It

A MUSICAL STAGE PLAY



DWight Bazemore

"Tears of a Teenage Mother"

Nina Coleman

Author of "The Weight That Binds Us"

Barbara Allcea

"There's Not A Friend"

Radio Personality "WIP 610"

Shirley Dash

Sat. March 14, 2009

@ Sharon Baptist Church

**3955 Conshohocken Road
Philadelphia, PA 19131**

Doors Open: 6:30pm

Showtime: 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25.00

For More Information Contact

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Reader Spotlight:



Paulette Harper is an emerging Christian Author making her debut with her first inspirational book **"That Was Then, This Is Now, This Broken Vessel Restored,"** a compelling story of deception, heart-ache and ultimate victory. In 10 chapters, she masterfully uncovers the hidden obstacles she faced as the "first lady" and how she eventually broke through those barriers.

A native of Pittsburg, CA, Paulette travels as an Inspirational speaker and licensed minister teaching people how to overcome life's unexpected experiences by delivering a strong message of hope.

Beyond her writing ability, she has a passion to lead people to a clear and precise understanding of how life challenges can become one's ultimate source of victory by sharing solid, biblical principles that will enable people to find a way out of every trial so they can reach their God given potential.

Paulette has been featured in Grace and Mercy Magazine, WOW Magazine and will be featured in Inspired Women, Mentoring Moments, and EKG Literary Magazine.

She has been interviewed live on Channel 26, Gospel Search TV, San Francisco Radio Station KPOO, Artistfirst Radio Station, Access TV Channel 29 San Francisco.

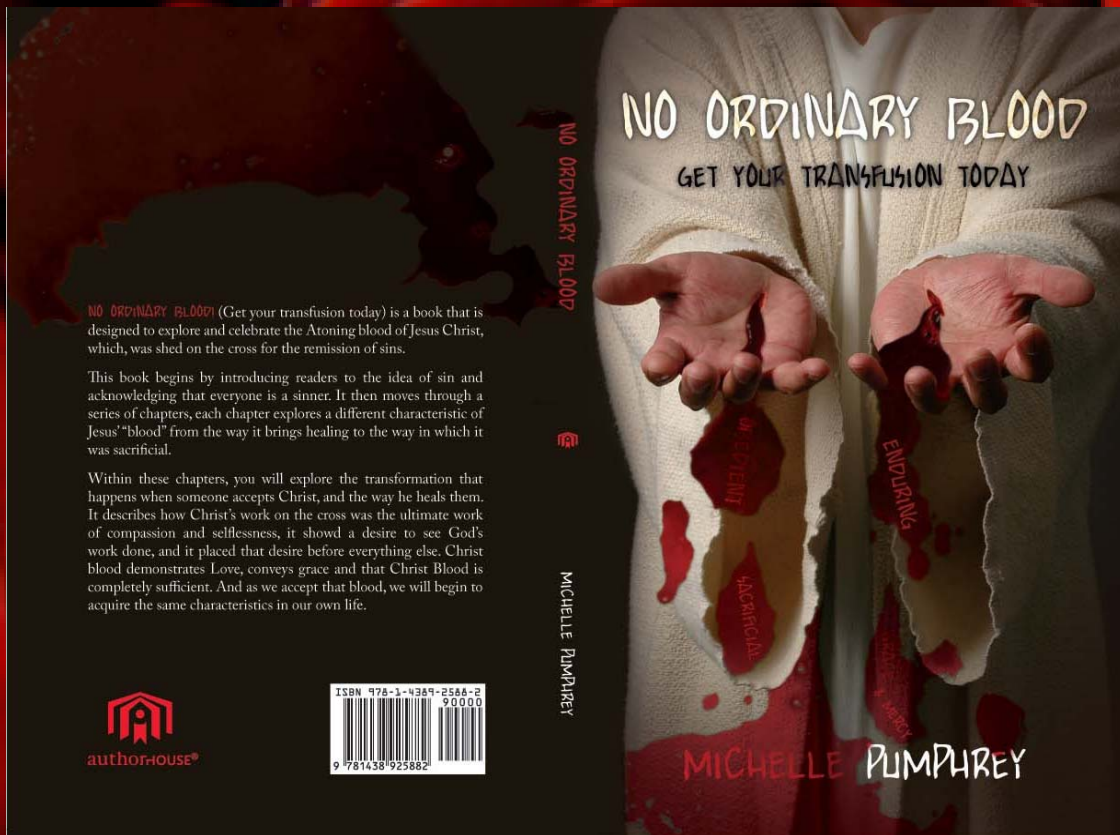
Her online articles can be found in aakulturezone.com, Urban Christian Fiction, Victorious Café, and Christian Women on line.

Paulette resides in Northern California and is a member of NewBirth Church in Pittsburg, PA under the leadership of Pastor Carl Smith.

To schedule Paulette Harper for a book club meeting, interview, book signing, speaking engagement, workshop, seminar, or other appearance, please contact her at paulet_harper@yahoo.com.

For more information about Paulette and "That Was Then, This Is Now" visit: www.bvministry.org, www.pauletteharper.blogspot.com, www.myspace.com/pauletteh.

Book Spotlight:

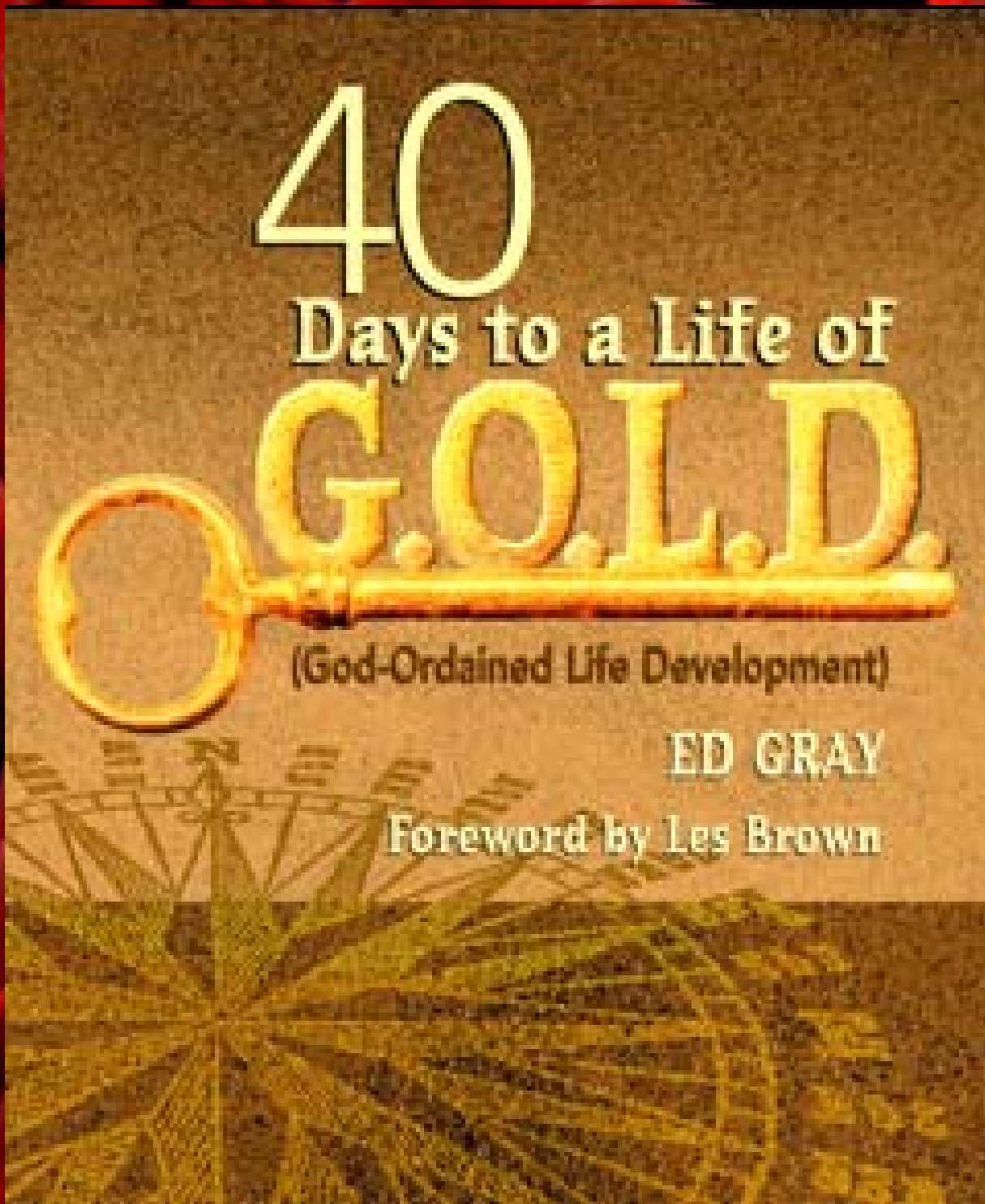


No Ordinary Blood-Author, Michelle Pumphrey

\$12.99

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This book is about the atoning blood of Jesus, and the characteristics that are in his blood. This book introduces the Reader to the idea of SIN and acknowledges that everyone is a Sinner. It then moves through a series of chapters, each chapter explore a different characteristic about the Blood of Jesus, from the way it brings healing to the way in which it was sacrificial. Within these chapters, you will explore the transformation that happens when someone accepts Christ, and the way he heals them.



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The Water Experience

If I decide to take a walk out of the boat, will I drown or will He carry me?

Is my faith stronger than my own insecurities?

I will never know the truth until I step out of my comfort zone.

God will never forsake me or leave me alone.

So I must go on and not second guess,

Wavering is not an option.

Faith will arise and pass the test.

The Lord has prepared me for something great.

I will not be stagnant as I sit and wait;

I will walk with confidence and stand my ground.

I will launch out into the deep as my spirit moves my feet.

As I begin to walk out on the sea, I realize God's hand is guiding me.

He will begin to unravel the manifestation.

As he erase the former things of my past.

An overflow will generate a double portion of more,

The Lord has many things in store for me.

But first, I must desire to walk out on the sea.

The Water Experience.....

It defines my destiny.

Stylicia A. Bowden

John 3:16 **The Love Letter**

Dear Love,

I want to thank you for all the years we have been together. You have truly made me the happiest woman on earth. I never knew love could be so beautiful. You have truly captivated me with your love. I have been looking for a love like this for years. You just came into my life and I have been happy ever since.

What is it about you that make me love you more and more everyday? Maybe it is the flowers I see when I wake up or when I am weak, you make me feel strong with your encouraging words. Or the ways you make me feel joyful when I feel sorrow. I just want you to know how much you mean to me.

You are the light that brightens up my day. You are the fragrance of fresh flowers in spring. You are the first snowflake that comes down in a winter storm so pure and beautiful. You are like a nice breeze blowing while walking in the fall evenings, so refreshing. You are the welcoming summer sun that warms my days and nights.

You put the "L" in love. You are love in its entire splendor. If anyone were to ask me why, I love you so much. I would simply say, **He** is the air that I breathe, **He** is the author of my love story and **He** will love me till the end. He is the food I eat early in the morning to give me strength through my day. **He** is a well of living water that has never and will never run dry. **He** is my all and all. He is the love that loved me before I knew me. **He** is the love I feel everyday. **He** is my peace of mind when I am confused. **He** is the love I felt when I was lonely. The bottom line is **He** is love, and love moved every mountain in my life.

He is Jesus. Jesus the lover in my life, Jesus the lover of my life, Jesus the lover of my soul. Jesus will and always will be the perfect love I have ever known.

Love you,
Bridgette Whitney

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Here and Now

I remember that first day
I sat there amazed
At what I was seeing
Angels sang an amorous lullaby
Into the spirit of my being
The wind whistled through the recesses of my mind
While a small pilot light lit in my heart
"I couldn't possibly be in love again"
I would say to myself
I never felt anything for this woman since the start

We sang on the praise team at church together
We spoke in passing, gave high fives,
Laughed and joked with each other
Who knew we were equally yoked
Who knew I would fall in love
After all, I've been through in my life
Who knew that after all that pain I experienced
All the doubts that had developed
Over the years of being loved wrong
Who knew I would ever find another wife

God knew because He sent me you
And he told me what to do
At the proper time, at the proper place
he told me to
Look at the woman He affectionately called "you"
As I turned to look, He showed me you
Not the "you" I'd seen many times
But the "you" God knew
The "you" that was the only "you"
He knew would be the only "you"
Who was meant for me

I knew at that moment it was love
As I caught your passing gaze
My heart worked out a way
To convince me it wasn't a fleeting feeling
For God had showed me the rest of my days
With the most beautiful woman I've ever known
So I quickened my thoughts
Forward to the day

When I knew I would be your husband

Just one look propelled me through 13 dimensions
My love grew instantly
I felt sensations of love
Creations of forever danced in my heart
Palpitations drumming to the beat of always

And at that moment I knew
That I would confess my love for you
At that moment I knew
That I would be faithful in everything I do for you
Sweetheart you're all I need
You are the one with whom I'll be
So I dedicate my life to you
I profess my love for you
I can no longer be afraid to love
Because now my dreams have come true

I move forward in my commitment
And I thank God for a woman so sweet
I thank God for allowing me to see
The woman He destined for me to be with
So from this day forward I share my life with you
From this day forward, I give my love to you
From this day forward, I promise to love you
You are my wife from this day until forever I vow
To become your husband and your one true love...

...Here and Now

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"God Will Make It So."

*The more you try to hide from God,
The more you'll become enlightened.
And the more you try to brush Him
off,
The more you'll become very
frightened.*

*The more you turn your back on
Him,
The more you'll sense His Presence.
And the more you try to forget that
Presence,
The more you'll sense His Existence.*

*The more you try to rebel against
God,
The more He will appear to help
you.
And the more you try to deny His
Name,
The more He will bless and forgive
you.*

*The more you do your best to destroy
Him,
The more of His Mercies you'll
receive.
And the more you curse Him with
your mouth,
The more, of Him, you'll believe.*

*The more you try to show your hate,
The more He will reveal His Truth.
And the more you fight against His
Power,
The more you will waste your Youth.*

*The more you train your mind to
doubt,
The more Love He will pour out for
you.
And the more you try to block Him
out,
The more real you'll know Him to be
True.*

"To God Be The Glory"

Anonymous

Love

*Love is the greatest gift
The greatest gift, so the good book
says*

*Let your love show
Let your love grow
Love is the greatest gift*

*Love will never fail
Love never fails, so the good book says
Patient and kind
True peace of mind
Love is the greatest gift*

*Love can do no wrong
Love does no wrong, so the good book
says
A gift from above
Our God is love
Love is the greatest gift*

*Let your love show
Let your love grow
Love is the greatest gift
God is love*

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Looking for My love

*Can you help me find My love?
When you find them, tell them they are
all that I think of
Some were last seen trying to deny me
While others were looking, but didn't
know how to find Me*

*I am looking for my love, I want
them to know that I care
I want them to know I haven't left
them, that I'm still there
You can find my love on the corners
getting high
My love doesn't think I see their
wounds or hear their cries*

*You can find My love on a hospital
bed
As they find it hard to accept, what
the doctor just said
You can find My love behind prison
walls
Who need to know that their wrongs
doesn't stop My love at all*

*Please help me find My love who has
everything that money and fame can
give
Let them know that life without me is
not a smart way to live
Look on the playgrounds, homeless
shelters, Drug rehabs and foster care*



*Search homes, jails, jobs...turn every
stone unaware*

*Check crack houses, gangs, mansions
and even foreign lands
Take the sword I've given you, fight
for their spirit-man
Don't forget most of all to check my
house as well
For some of my loves have been hiding
from me in there for a spell*

*So let's plan out the search, I'll tell
you what to do
But let me start by saying, I'm so
happy that I found you too.*

Lorraine Minor

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Give a Gift of Hope

Prosperity Renewal Ministries is located in the southern part of the United States to meet the needs of our world. The need is great, no matter where you look. Whether it is on the side of the highway or the bustling streets of the city, the needs are many: some that we see, and many that we don't. The problems are real - alcoholism, drug abuse, crime, poverty, illiteracy, broken homes, homelessness. And something has to be done.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

But what can be done? Government and social programs have tried with limited success. But programs that treat only the body and soul and not the spirit will inevitably fail. Only spiritual power can overcome physical and psychological bondage, whether it is drug addiction, a dysfunctional family, or a life of crime.

With God's power first, and through His guidance, anyone can overcome his or her problems and addictions to lead a life of deliverance with Him. But they will need "a hand up, not a hand out." They need someone to show them the love of Christ and Prosperity Renewal Ministries is here to meet that need.

Established in 2002, Prosperity Renewal Ministries is a worldwide ministry, which includes the teaching of finance, goal setting, and life skill classes to prison inmates in prisons and in prison aftercare facilities. These classes along with GED preparation and job preparedness classes are designed to meet the needs of adult offenders and address the legislatively-mandated goals of reducing recidivism, lowering the cost of confinement, promoting positive behavior during confinement, and increasing offenders' success in obtaining and maintaining employment.

Prosperity Renewal Ministries is not a United Way agency and does not receive any government support. We are only able to continue to teach such classes through the grace of God and the generosity of others.

Won't you help offer a hand up to those in need in our communities?

A donation of \$5 will provide the books, workbooks, and supplies for one inmate. Won't you sponsor one inmate so inmates can return to their families, communities, and churches changed by the power of the Living God through Jesus Christ?

100% of the funds collected from this drive will be used solely for materials for the teaching of classes.

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/stat/unitdirectory/all.htm>

"I thought your class was excellent. It will help me once I'm released. I'm so excited I can hardly wait. I know God is going to bless me abundantly as long as I'm obedient to Him. Thank you."

K.D. (Dawson State Jail inmate), Texas

"This class has been instrumental in helping to see with spiritual eyes God's plan of how to live debt free. I have always believed God to be debt free and in Dawson He has given me the tools necessary to enable me to live this way when I go home. Thank God for you!"

S.S. (Dawson State Jail Inmate), Texas

"Your class was very informative. It made me aware of what would bring abundant life to me biblically."

M. H. (Dawson State Jail Inmate), Texas

Prosperity Renewal Ministries
2300 McDermott Rd
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Plano, TX 75025

Thank you for reaching out to the needy men, women, and children by participating in this ministry. As you share the light of the world, you give these inmates hope and help in their time of desperate need.

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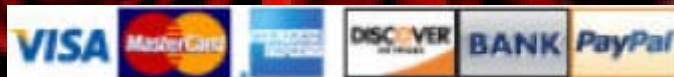
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