

DIVINE INSPIRATIONS MAGAZINE

January 2009
Volume 1 Issue 13

Robert T. Sells:
The Anointed Poet
What Happens When you Get
Married?

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Greetings!

Happy New Year!!

I am so excited about 2009! Divine Inspirations Magazine has grown tremendously in 2008. This month our cover story features our **Poetry Editor Robert T. Sells and his wife**. The body of Christ has many facets and we are excited to spotlight our Poets this month. We have expanded our Poetry Café I recommend that you print this issue out to fully enjoy the expanded section.

We have before us a New Year to do the extraordinary. Start planning and setting goals to do more than you did last year. We will be recommending books to you that will enrich and edify your mind. The book for January is **"Think and Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill**. If you would like to join our book club, please send an email to divineinspirationsmagazine@gmail.com. It is important to increase our reading this year. I challenge you to read one new book a month. Remember reading enriches your life.

Divine Inspirations is expanding. We are advertising in this issue for writers and poets and several editors. If you are willing to share your creativity with the body of Christ, we welcome you. For more details, please view the advertisement for contact information.

In 2009, we are launching new features to our magazine:

1. **Reader's Response Corner.** This column will feature your comments, thoughts, and ideas. This is your chance to be heard.
2. **I've Got a Testimony!** Send in your testimonies of deliverance, healing, and praise reports.
3. **Feature story.** If you would like to spotlight your ministry, your gifts. Or your business, this section is for you.

As always, I ask that you pass this publication to your family, friends, and acquaintances. If you receive this magazine from a friend and would like to subscribe please send an email to divineinspirationsmagazine@gmail.com and type SUBSCRIBE in the subject line with your email address.

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I welcome your feedback and comments!

Blessings!

Qualita Pendergrass
Senior Editor/Publisher



Divine Inspirations 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 these areas:

- Music Editor
- Youth Section Editor
- 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!!

Robert T. Sells: The Anointed Poet



Qualita Pendergrass, Chief Editor/Publisher

Robert is a Christian author with a strong psalmist anointing on his life. His second book, "Words of Inspiration: Speak Healing" was released on April 28, 2008. Robert's first book, "Words of Inspiration: A Collection of Poems for the One You Love" was selected as the WeAreFearless Online Book Club's" Pick of the Month for July 2007. Consistently receiving favorable reviews, his work has been featured in several magazines, including the January – March issues of Christian Voice Magazine, a cover story in the January 2008 issue of Global Influence Magazine, as well as a host of others. He was recently signed by Katapult Entertainment Group (www.katapultent.com), a Christian management agency. His Christian love poem "Empty" is currently featured on the newly-released CD, "Poetry Over Music Volume II: Different Shades of Love." He has also been featured on "Poetry Over Music Volume III: Rhythm & Poetry" with his poem "Here and Now." Sought after by many groups to create personal poems, he makes a regular appearance on a gospel showcase broadcast live on WYCA 102.3FM. Robert has interviewed on many radio programs. Robert currently serves as the Poetry Editor for Divine Inspirations Magazine, where he is

also a contributing writer. He has just released a maxi-single, which has 3-tracks from the highly-anticipated debut CD release, "The Heart of a Man." He has ministered the Word of God at several Women's conferences and was a featured author on a panel discussion for Go' on Girl Book Club's 2007 National Conference in Cleveland, OH and the WAGFEST National Author's Conference in Seattle, WA and Cincinnati, OH. He has recently been featured on an episode of "The John Lanier Show," a syndicated Christian talk show. Robert's work has been featured on ourstage.com, where it has placed in the top 10 in Spoken Word/Performance Poetry category for October, and November of 2008. Following the assignment the Lord placed on his life, he is currently hard at work on the third book in the "Words of Inspiration" series entitled "Words of Inspiration: Through the Word of God," as well as a short story novel he is co-writing with his beautiful wife, a spoken word CD entitled "The Heart of a Man" set to be released by December 2008, and a novel to be released in 2009.

We asked Robert to share some thoughts about the arts and the Body of Christ, here is what he said.

The Body of Christ can benefit from the arts if they are truly anointed. These are new and different ways to celebrate God. In spoken word for example, the Christian spoken word artist needs to be able to minister, not perform, the Word of God to the congregation. The speaking in a passionate way is such like the way a skilled preacher delivers a passionate sermon. Spoken word can be a very powerful ministering tool. We have been blessed to be able to minister, not just in churches, but in the secular poetry clubs as well and it is always received well. I have seen many times when someone has come up to me after ministering in a club and say that they were truly blessed by what I had to say. There was one lady who asked me to pray for her

for healing after I was done - right there in the club! Praise God!!

The arts are something that a lot of churches are passing up on and they are missing a key area where they may be blessed. People get delivered when Christians dance, speak, and minister poetry. I have seen it for myself. I was in one church where the preacher definitely did not want to hear any poetry because the only image he had of poetry was in the movies with the smoky bar scenes and the lustful words thrust through the speakers. But when I came to his church to minister in poetry at a gospel concert, his whole view of poetry changed. He was very accepting of it and invited us back again.

One way I believe churches can begin opening the door to spoken word in their churches is to allow an artist to come in to minister at a special event at the church. This will allow people to get a look at the ministry without allowing them to come before the whole church with their ministry first. This way the church will be able to warm up to the artist's ministry and decide if they are a good thing for them to bring in as visitors on a Sunday morning. I also think there are many outreach programs that can allow the artist an opportunity to be seen by representatives of different churches. There are always special events going on like conferences in different cities around the country. If an artist can get booked at those events, it will allow their ministry to be seen by many pastors and church leaders who can then invite the artist to their respective churches to minister.



The Mantle of Kingship, Part 2



"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus, he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:21- 28).

King David, the sons of Korah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Daniel were just some of the Old Testament (OT) people who understood the kingship of God and received powerful visions and insight into the glory of God. The

prophet Daniel possibly received more revelation and insight about God's Kingdom than anyone in the OT. The entire book of Daniel focuses on the sovereignty of the Kingdom of God. In the aforementioned verses, we see the focus is not on the power of the beast, but on his complete destruction and the saints coming into the eternal Kingdom. Verse 27 lists three things that we receive when we come into the Kingdom: sovereignty, power, and greatness.

Remember we are king/priests created in the image and likeness of the King of the Kingdom. Whether by ignorance or arrogance, it is sad to see believers who would rather have influence among themselves rather than reign as kings and pick up the mantle of kingship! As a king, we have been given sovereignty which means absolute authority. Now understand that God is the only true Sovereign because He answers to know one but Himself. Our sovereignty is delegated, which means only in our own sphere where we have absolute authority. Secondly, we have power. Power to prosper, live a victorious life, maximize our potential, and live a joy filled life. Lastly, we have been given greatness. We were created in God's image, designed to rule over the earthly domain. Jesus showed us the key to true greatness is through humility and service as He divested Himself and washed the disciples' feet. We were not created to dominate each other or to be dominated, but to serve one another equally as kings/priests. The mantle of kingship fits when we fully understand our place and role in the Kingdom.

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Being A Woman in God's Kingdom, Part 3



Being a Kingdom woman means, I have made the commitment to take up my cross and follow Him through until the end. I will not quit and give up; rather, I will embrace the promises of God found in the Word. I will see my own life in those of Scripture's amazing and special women, who also made the choice to follow through rather than give up when discouraged or dissuaded. Rather than take the religious approach and act as if they operated under something I cannot obtain, I will see the Spirit of God at work in their lives, and know He is working in mine, too! I will live by the words of *Ephesians 3:7*: *"I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power."* (NIV)

Ultimately, being a Kingdom woman means I do not lose heart. So many women in history have suffered under the weight of oppression, sexism, abuse, mistreatment, false expectation, and persecution. So many more of us are called to overcome the sufferings we endure as women and rise up to new life in Christ! We have the honor and blessing as Kingdom Ministry women to let all women know they can die to their old lives where they lived downtrodden and mistreated and rise to a new life in He Who

overcame the world. For this reason, I can make the declaration of *Romans 1:16*: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (NIV)

Note that in this article, I am ending each paragraph with the Word, as it is our final Word and authority on God’s call to each one of us. Let us hear God’s call to women in this age, and see what He is doing through us: “...for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.” (Jeremiah 31:22, KJV)

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God Bible Study Series, Part 2



Teaching Objective

The student will comprehend God’s nature and character as a mighty God and loving Father and be able to make the commitment to serve and worship the one and only true God.

Introduction

God is the Eternal being who existed before the beginning of time. He is the architect,

creator, and sustainer of the universe and everything that exists within it. He is the mighty, supreme Master and Ruler of everything that has ever or will ever exist.

God is far too great for us to understand completely – for He has no beginning and no end. There is no place, where His presence is not felt. The Bible asks in *Job 11:7*, “Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?”

God lives in Heaven and He rules over the whole earth. The Bible tells us: “This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool.” (*Isaiah 66:1*)
“God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne” (*Psalms 47:8*)

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

1. His Nature

God is a Spirit. “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (*John 4:24*)

2. His Divine Attributes

- a. He is All-Powerful (Omnipotent) –
He created the universe out of nothing. Nothing is impossible with Him.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (*Genesis. 1:1*)

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (*Genesis. 1:3*)

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and their entire starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas, and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.” (*Nehemiah 9:6*).

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” (*Psalms 139:13*)

- b. God is All-Knowing (Omniscient) -
Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and lay bare before the “eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (*Hebrews 4:13*).

"...God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." (1 John 3:20).

- c. God is Eternal – He has no beginning and no end.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God." (Psalms 90:2)

- d. He is Omnipresent – His Spirit is everywhere at one and the same time.

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there." (Psalms 139: 7-8)

- e. He is Unchangeable – He does not and cannot change.

"I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." (James 1:17)

3. His Moral Attributes

He is Holy

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." (1 Samuel 2:2).

- b. He is a Loving Father

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

- c. He is Righteous

"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." (Psalms 116:5)

"The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all he has made." (Psalms 145:17)

4. God is too Great to live in Temples

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And human hands do not serve him, as if he needed anything, because he

himself gives all men life and breath and everything else... 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your poets have said, 'we are his offspring.'" (Acts 17:24, 25, 28)

WE ARE:

1. Created By God

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. (Psalms 139: 14-15)

"When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalms 139:15-16)

2. Owned By God

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)

3. Called To Worship God

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:11)

MAKE A DECISION.

Jesus said, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* (Mathew 22:37)

The Bible tells us about a man called Joshua. He was a great leader of the nation of Israel. The people had been wandering for forty years in the wilderness, without a land of their own. Joshua, under God's direction, led them in victory against the evil nations living in Canaan, and possessed their land for the homeless nation of Israel.

Joshua then challenged all the people to make a decision:

"Choose for yourselves this day that you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers

served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.**" (Joshua 24:15)

The same challenge is posed to each of us. Will you make the same commitment of Joshua this day?

My Commitment

This day I give my worship to the only true God of heaven and earth, and surrender my will, my life, and possessions to Him. From this day, I determine never to worship any other gods. My worship is for Him only, and I will teach others the truths about God.

Pastor Cely Togle
Philippines

The Word Made Flesh



John 1:1, 14

Let's begin this discussion by asking what do we know about John, the writer of this gospel? We know that John was one of Jesus' original disciples and of His inner circle. Also, John was the fore runner of Jesus Christ, and verse 20 John clearly states that he is "not the Christ." Then what makes John presentation of Jesus different from the other gospel writers? John focuses primarily on the deity of Christ by stating, "*that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name*" (John 20:31). Next John presents Jesus as "the Word," with this presentation of Jesus, John presents Jesus "as the personal Word of God." Scripture tells us that at different times God has spoken to

humanity through the prophets, but speaking through His Son represents, (a) the perfect nature and wisdom of God, and (b) Jesus as "the Word" reveals the heart and mind of God (KJV).

Additionally, by John presenting Jesus as "the Word" points out three main characteristics of Him being "the Word" as it relates to (a) His Father, (b) His relationship to the world, and (c) His relationship to mankind. If we look at each, we will find that Jesus existed with His Father before the creation of the world. It is through Jesus Christ that God the Father created and sustains the world (Colossians 1:15). This means that Jesus Christ was in existence with His Father from eternity and having the same nature as His Father (Colossians 2:9; Mark 1:11, note KJV). Finally, verse 14 talks about the "the Word was made flesh" this is the relationship with humanity in that Jesus was born of a woman (Mary) bringing salvation to man. Let's look at verse 14 and glean some facts, first, we have "the Word" being made "flesh" this goes to the heart of Christ's birth as man. Jesus Christ entered the human race while remaining the eternal God, who had been in existence from eternity. This is where humanity and deity came together, in Jesus Christ. Second, let's look at the phrase "the only begotten." This phrase further authenticates Jesus' deity and His Trinitarian sonship is on display here. In addition, verse 14 refers back to 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Third, the phrase "and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory)." This means that Jesus Christ as the Word and the Son of God came to earth to live as a mortal man while maintaining His deity; as the news of His glorious birth spread many came to worship the baby Jesus. In His humble birth, He was being glorified by angels (the heavenly host), the shepherds who were tending their flock, and the three wise men.

Question, what are we going to do? In looking at the last two phrases of this verse,

let's pose a question, why is Christ's "glory to behold"? He is the "only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." If we look at the word "only," which signifies uniqueness, or one of a kind; in laymen's terms, there is no other like this one, Jesus Christ. The word "begotten," means that God is His Father-- Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. Finally, we see Him being "full of grace and truth." This is because He is God's Son and being in existence with God in the beginning, He knows all things. How do we see grace? It is often referred to as *God's Righteousness at Christ's Expense* (Dr. Charles Stanley).

In closing this dialog, let's look at how the other three gospel writers presents Jesus; Matthew present Jesus as the Son of the living God and the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets. Mark presents Jesus as the Son of God and the Suffering Messiah by focusing on what Jesus did as oppose to what He said. Luke presents Jesus as the Son of Man, thus tracing His genealogy back to Adam. Luke's presentation of Jesus focuses on His ministry in three components (a) His Galilean ministry, (b) Jesus' ministry during His final journey to Jerusalem, and (c) Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Concluding the gospel writers' presentation of Jesus Christ, it is proof positive that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and on His birth, "the Word was made flesh." Glory to the Word, Jesus Christ!

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WILLIE B. WHITE



"A new level of faith, to resist FEAR"

Isaiah 41:10

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Happy New Year to each of you! I hope that this year proves to be a year of "great MIRACLES!" Each New Year presents a time of new opportunities, renewal and restoration, but it also presents new challenges. Our strength is renewed, our joy is restored, and our faith should increase, as we say goodbye to the old and usher in the new. With this transition sometimes, the enemy will slip in a spirit of fear. Fear of the unknown. What will this year hold what obstacles will I face what test and trials will I go through? Isaiah 41:10 is a declaration of confidence in our God. The LORD assures us that He is with us and we do not have to be distressed or troubled about what the New Year will hold. "Tomorrow's economy, political issues, or wars, hold no terror for those God has chosen as His own." God promises to strengthen, help and uphold us with the Righteousness of His right hand. We do not have to fear our enemies because God will cut off anyone who opposes us. Our resolve should be "come what may," I will not be overtaken by FEAR. I submit to you today that "the exceeding great promises of God will be yours in 2009, but you must believe it by FAITH." Embrace this New Year with fervent anticipation of "great MIRACLES." You have trusted God with

your eternal soul, now trust Him with your New Year as well. *"You are next in line in 2009 for awesome MIRACLES. God is going to show Himself strong & mighty in your life this year!"*

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You Never Have to Make a Resolution If You Have Faith



2007 was an emotional roller coaster for me. I went through a divorce, I lost my job, I lost my house, and I entered into a custody battle for my daughter. I've always been a strong woman, but 2007 tested my strength like it had never been tested before. As 2007 came to an end and I reminisced upon the ups and downs and ins and outs of my life, I realized that with everything I had gone through, there was an instance I could have done something differently that would have allowed me to avoid the hardships. The decisions that I made lead me to the roller coaster and my insufficient way of dealing with my situations, sat me right in the front seat.

When 2008 rolled around, I opted not to make a resolution, but to consciously shift my paradigm; or change the way I perceived things. I decided there would not be a

situation I would consciously consider "bad"; I resolved to be optimistic about everything. I took the circumstances that were uncomfortable for me and either swallowed my fears and dealt with them head on or I figured out a way to change them so that I could be comfortable. In the beginning, this was not a simple task as I did not realize how many things actually made me uneasy. I also did not realize how often I tried to avoid an obstacle or pretend one did not exist. Eventually, I started not to only deal with things immediately, but I began to be proactive about them; and I quickly realized things ended up a lot better. I also noticed that in most instances, my fears were way worse than the actual outcome of the situation.

After awhile things that use to upset me, no longer upset me; and I was actually better equipped to deal with adverse situations as I no longer looked at them as "bad." I would take a situation and say to myself, "Okay Eddie, what can you do about this?" I then assessed my options, picked one and moved on. I grew increasingly confident in my decision making and in myself as a person. I was no longer indecisive, and I did not attach my emotions to every circumstance, as I realized I was not my circumstance. There are no words that can describe the feeling of just letting go; I felt so liberated and things became amazingly clear; so clear that not only could I see the vision God put before me, but I was able to follow His instructions in order to obtain it.

In January of 2008, without a business background I started my own business. As I lay in my bed one night, still unemployed, I could clearly see my future; it was as if I was watching television and I was the star. This feeling of immense pride came over me; it was like I had already started the business and it was a success, yet I had not done anything, except have a vision. At that very moment I jumped out of my bed and started to write the book in my vision, *The Comprehensive Guide To Healthy, Beautiful,*

Black Hair. I wrote the entire guide in one day as the words just flowed through me and my fingers just started moving.

The next morning I went to my bathroom and pulled out all of my natural ingredients that I had been using on my hair and decided that I could probably formulate some seriously awesome products. So, I started experimenting with formulas and the very first batch was an overwhelming success. The entire process was anointed as I had no idea why I knew what temperature to heat; or to cool down the ingredients or where the appropriate measurements came from. My process is very time consuming and detailed, yet it came to me step-by-step in my vision. In less than 6 months, I had over 100 testimonials on my website for Sweet Nature by Eddie Healthy Hair Care System.

After formulating the products, I had no idea how I was going to sell them because I did not have money for a website and I was not quite ready to go and bust down the doors to the beauty salons. One night I saw my website in my dream and when I awoke in the morning, I did a mock version of it in Word. Although I did not have the money for a website, I still wanted to get quotes on it (I knew that the money would come as everything else had). After completing my mock site; I found a resource that actually showed me how to build a website and not even a week after the mock; www.fabulousblackwoman.com was up and running.

I cannot really recall any period in 2008 that I felt depressed, overwhelmed or unhappy. I am a single-mother of two children, I work full-time as an Executive Assistant, and I am running my business from my home dealing with every aspect of it solo, yet I constantly feel rejuvenated, motivated, and inspired. I believe the major reason, is, I make it a point to write down, every day, all of the wonderful things I am grateful for. I really believe the more you appreciate what He has blessed you with; the more He will bless you; and I am grateful

for every-single-thing He has allowed me from the ability to smell; to giving me two wonderful children.

Now that I am facing 2009, I am positive that God took all of those things out of my life so that He could make room for the new and improved. I had to let go of these things without resentment, in order to receive my blessings, which seems to continuously pour out of the sky, chase me down and jump all over me! I know that there are no obstacles I cannot overcome and there is no goal that I cannot achieve because my faith is unshakable; He's showed me too much to believe that I can be defeated. So I no longer need a New Year's resolution because I have faith and with faith; I will never fall short.

Ms. Eddie

GOD HAS A PLAN



Jeremiah 29:11 (Amplified)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

I am so excited about the coming New Year 2009. Whether good, bad, or indifferent to how the last year ended; I am looking forward to God's plans unfolding in my life. There is a spirit of manifested blessings in the atmosphere

and I can feel it way down in my sanctified soul. In faith, I am rejoicing and giving thanks to the plans of God right now; I am not waiting for what I do not see in the natural, but I am rejoicing for what I see in the supernatural.

Over the last few months of 2008, I recognized that some of my best plans had failed, but God's plans are flawless. God's word teaches us to be prepared and to be good stewards over those things he has given us. We must recognize God's will supersede our own. ***"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us": (1st John 5:14).***

I know that there are many of you who are still struggling in different areas of your lives, but you must be confident of the work that God has begun in you: ***"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 1:6).*** The key word is confident. Many times when I ask a sister or a brother in Christ how they are doing or how things are going for them their response is usually "I'm just going through!" Please! My sisters and brothers, stop confessing that you are going through every time you are asked this question. Yes, you may actually be experiencing some real challenging situations but trust in God. Use these challenges as an opportunity for God to show himself to you as the strong and mighty God that he is.

Everything that we go through has a purpose in the plan that God has for us: ***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).*** There is nothing new under the sun. All of the challenges that we have gone through and all of the challenges that we are going to go through have already been worked out in our favor. God has given us instructions, words of encouragement, and principles that give us illumination and insight into the plans he has for our lives — it's in his

WORD. Pastor Troy Davis of the New Life Worship Centre (Lansdowne, PA) says the way to be connected to God, to your pastor, and to the ministry is through: (1). Rehearsing the word of God and the vision of your church; (2). Reciting what you hear – faith cometh by hearing; (3). Through Revelation - understanding God's plan; and (4). Through Rulership - the ability to manage your life and reproduce kingdom principles.

So as you approach the New Year, be encouraged. It does not matter what the situation looks like, but be confident that God has an awesome plan for your life. If you follow the principles of God's Word, you will reach your goals — remember **GOD HAS A PLAN!**

Elder Mae Davis



Better

A couple of years ago, Jim Colin's book Good to Great made quite a splash in the area of organizational development. The book discussed how even the dowdiest of companies could make the leap to outperform recognized market leaders. We, who

are believers, could learn an important lesson by applying some of these same concepts to our daily life. We each have been endowed with a little something "extra" to help in our transition from good to great!

For just a moment, I would ask that your turn your attention to a point on the spectrum somewhere between good and great. For purposes of explanation, let's call that point better. I, personally, do not think we spend enough time rejoicing in the state of better.

Many of us constantly petition God for that next "big thing": a new house, a better job, a loving spouse, healthy children, etc. Yes,

we have been told and we believe that the fervent effectual prayers of the righteous availeth much, but I think that there are times that instead of the next “big thing”; we should just thank God for being better!

We have all heard the adage (which is actually scriptural, *1 Corinthians 10:13*) that God never puts more on us than we can bear. I think that adage is true in the affirmative as much as it is in the negative. God is not going to bless us beyond our level of appreciation, meaning, that God is not going to give us more than we can handle. God knows just how much we can stand to be blessed before losing our mind! So, for all of our uttered prayers, God watches what we do with what He has already blessed us with before blessing us more.

That is the reason that I encourage you to celebrate the state of BETTER more! I may not be all that I have been called to be, but I am BETTER than I was. I may not be at the level of financial stability that allows me to be the distribution warehouse that God has ordained, yet I have become BETTER at giving, tithing, and saving my talents, time, treasures, and traditions. I may not be at the level of physical health that I desire to do the things that I need to do weekly, yet I am BETTER at taking the stairs instead of the elevator, walking when I can, and limiting my intake of fried and high caloric foods.

It could be that many of us are unfamiliar with the definition of the word BETTER, so we are unsure how to celebrate this state. The Webster dictionary defines BETTER in the following ways:

1. of superior quality or excellence
2. morally superior; more virtuous
3. of superior suitability, advisability, desirability, acceptableness, etc.; preferable
4. larger; greater
5. improved in health.
6. completely recovered in health.
7. in a more appropriate or acceptable way or manner

8. to a greater degree; more completely or thoroughly
9. more
10. to increase the good qualities of; make better; improve

Some of us get stuck on definition number 9. More is not always necessarily BETTER! In fact, sometimes less is just what we need: less stress, less fat, less friends, less temptation, etc. Sometimes it is when we have less that we realize that we truly are BETTER. I went from serving on several charitable boards; working 70 hours a week, being active in my church ministries, hanging out with family and friends on the weekend, and maintaining a household to almost no outside activities. At first, I was sad that it appeared that I had no life!

I soon realized that I had more free time to live my life BETTER. I spent time searching for a church home where I could learn, grow, and fellowship BETTTER. I had the opportunity to step back and look at some of those charitable boards to see if I was making a difference or merely serving because I did not know how to say no. I am now a BETTER board member because I have limited my involvement to three charitable boards where I am able comfortably to distribute my time and talents to their perspective missions.

Learn how to recognize BETTER on your way to great! It is not a bad place to abide.

Faith M. Thompson

Reflection and Renewal

At the end of each year, I begin what I call a “reflection and renewal” process. I take the time to ask myself hard questions about how I lived the past year,



what goals or desires should I set for the upcoming year and of course praying and asking God for continued direction and guidance to abide in His will. The year 2008 was historic and complicated. There were personal victories and defeats, moments of utter elation and some sadness, the year was filled (as Frankie Beverly sings it) with joy and pain, sunshine and rain. Yet throughout the year, I continued to find solace in the ever present presence, power, and provision of our Almighty God.

So no matter what has happened or not happened, nothing happens in this world without God's permission. God can stop and/or change any circumstance and situation whenever He chooses. Growing in grace means, we must accept God's sovereignty in our life. God uses everything in our life to grow us up, strengthen us, and show the world His glory as we go through our trials and yield to God's will.

Reflecting upon (not regretting) last year can fuel us forward in faith in this New Year if we listen to the Holy Spirit, accept responsibility for our choices, and grow from our mistakes. We made it through. We are still standing. We are still trusting. We still believe. We are still here. Our hope for a New Year and New Day should be in Christ and Christ alone.

God's word declares *"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth..."* Isaiah 43:18-19. How about 2nd Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."* Need more; ponder Jeremiah 3:21-23 *"This I recall to my mind. Therefore, I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies, we are not consumed. Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."*

God sends constant reminders hope, assurance, and rest not only day after day after day, but year after year. Just writing

this makes me excited about 2009. We have an endless, unceasing, continuous bounty of blessings of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.

And if we need a reminder of how great and mighty God is, we can look back to 2008 and see how the hand of God moved in America. Although, I was hopeful to some degree concerning the Presidential Election and that process, I still had a portion of doubt that I would live to see a qualified, intelligent African American become the President of the United States of America. Yet it did happen and we have a new slogan to quote that has it's foundation in the Holy Bible; *"I can do all things through Christ of strengthens me"* Philippians 4:13. Oh, Yes We Can!

From the spirit of my heart and the cries of our ancestors, God has given me this powerful poem in reflection of the political and historical events of this past year. I pray you hear the soul; the spirit and the release in the poem God gifted me to pen entitled Yes! Yes! Yes! Please feel free to send any comments or discuss questions to the email address listed.

All scriptures are from the NKJV.

Minister, B. Michelle Horton

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Yes! Yes! Yes!

For every whip beaten back and name calling
tongue

For every limb severed and every neck hung
For every tear held down and every dream
deferred

For every scream unheard and every sunrise
blurred

For every time we were told to be still in shame
For every one who ran but was caught and
beaten until lame

In each of these moments the spirit still believed
Although all was against us, saying we will never
achieve

This moment in time has given way to truth
That with God all things are possible
As seen by what took place in the voting booth

We went in believing and trusting that the time
had arrived
All the efforts of those who went before us had
survived
We shouted within and demonstrated without
Yes we can! Yes we can! Oh yes we can-now
beyond doubt

For all the years of rights that were denied
For all the voices from lips that lied
For all the times of heartache and pain
For all my brothers who've been restrained
For all the moments when tortured souls cried
For all the slaves who believed in the freedom
ride
For every innocence taken by force
For all those who never felt any remorse

Yes we did! Yes we will! Yes we can!

For the cotton field pickers and those who
labored from sunrise to sunset
Farming for master and using us to pay their
debt
For those who were taken screaming from their
mothers arms
Castaway, driven right into danger and harm

From Selma to Philly and cities wide
From underground railroads and mountain sides
From dirty roads and slums unknown
From our thoughts taken, then given as their own
From the spilled blood of all who gave their life
Let us never look back-turning like Lot's wife
What mattered then is what matters now
God had a plan and evil had to bow
The tide has turned to a new day rise
We must continue - seeking to live wise

For in this moment that is clear and bright
God's sun is glowing- there is always light
It shines from sea to shining sea
It shines for you and it shines for me
Be at rest! Be at peace!
God's power to make things right will never
cease

There is always love. There is always hope
We have the strength to do more than just cope
The truth of God's word breaks every yoke

For the rich and the poor and everyday folk

We celebrate this victory not just of one man.
We celebrate this victory of God's holy plan
Today we can shout raising our voice and taking
our stand

Yes we can! Yes we can! Yes we can!

Debt FREE Living Principles



If you missed previous issues, please view
Archives at

<http://www.prosperityrenewal.org> to get
the introduction to this series of articles.

We will begin this year as we ended last
year. We will continue listing Debt FREE
Living principles out of God's Word. The
beginning of a New Year is the perfect time
to begin debt FREE living. This article is more
interactive than any of the others.

Principle #8 Who Are You Listening To?

1 Kings 17:1-10

*1 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."*

2 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah:

*3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the
Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.*

*4 You will drink from the brook, and I have
ordered the ravens to feed you there."*

5 So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there.

6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

7 Sometime later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

8 Then the word of the LORD came to him:

9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."

10 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?"

Who are you listening to?

We have a lot of gadgets to make sure that we stay in touch with the latest. We have voicemail, answering machines, pagers, cell phones, call forwarding, call waiting, Iphone, Ipod, mp3, etc., you name it--we have it. We have all this to make sure we do not miss anything.

We even have commercials that tell us that when E. F. Hutton speaks, everybody listens.

We are at a loss if we leave home and discover that we have left home without our cell phone. We have a need to stay connected. We seem to be listening to everybody but God. Applying the 70-20-10 Rule (see Principle #5 for detailed explanation of this rule) will require divine intervention because it cuts against the grain of almost everything you have been taught.

In 1 Kings 17:1-10 we learn from the life of Elijah why it is important to listen to God.

What did Elijah tell Ahab (verse 1)?

Elijah found himself in the middle of a dry place based on something he had said and did. Who delivered Elijah from the famine (verse 2)?

What direction was Elijah told to go (verse 3)?

What direction did Elijah go (verse 5)?

What would have happened if Elijah had gone in another direction?

When was Elijah's need provided for (verse 4)?

Ravens are the type of birds that do not feed their own young. What does it say about God if He used ravens to feed Elijah?

The land was experiencing a dry season but God led Elijah to a brook that had water? What does this say about God when we find ourselves at our wits end?

What happened to Elijah's situation in verse 7?

Do you think Elijah would have left his place of comfort if the brook had not dried up?

When was Elijah's blessings provided for in Zarephath (verse 9)?

What did Elijah do after He received instructions from God (verse 5 and verse 10a)?

Who are you listening to?

Are you listening to God?

There was an email floating around that asked several questions about how we stay connected to the Word of God versus how we stay connected to our cell phones.

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phones.

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we could not live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
What if we used it as we traveled?
What if we used it in case of an emergency?
What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?

Oh, and one more thing; unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

Who are you listening to?

The 70-20 portion of the 70-20-10 Rule will be just another rule if there is no divine intervention. Get connected to your power source and stay connected to that source.

TO YOUR SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY!!!

Forward any questions or comments to info@prosperityrenewal.org--we respond within 24 hours.

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



The Passionate Display of Christ

The passionate display of Christ is a life lived out in reverent fear of

the Lord.

Of sincere obedience in the keeping of one's faith, shallow wisdom tells us to find a hole and stay put, to not rock the boat and be part of a dying religious system that keeps you bound.

All hell is set against you as you try to clear the boat and walk on the waters of "I can do all things..."

Hell is firmly set against you-who dare to believe the report of the Lord and follow with your whole heart his teachings and principles.

You cannot climb the hill of Zion without heart wrenching obedience, for there is a realm of evil that comes against the faithful. That intimidates with legalistic, letter of the Law, mandates and bottle necks the righteous into a massive pileup of dry pew sitters.

David found himself "saved" but in a system that was doomed. To shed the religious garments of Saul, his armor and his intellectual reasoning, David, a man after God's own heart, went back to what he knew.

Being lead of the spirit of God, base on a intimate knowledge of the Holy One, and attack that which was offending God. An uncircumcised giant, and a wall of corrupt flesh that was challenging the will of God and his people.

David unleashed a passionate display of Christ, through over the top, valiant courageous faith, and heart wrenching obedience. He threw himself in war, knowing the battle was Gods.'

Not caring for his life but for the emancipation of God's people, he slew the flesh openly and inspired a race. False titles kill. Non-scriptural rituals choke and destroy the very life force of the spirit of God.

Great heroism is needed at this time, to slay what has become normal but non-biblical.

Who will raise up and stand for right in a religious system based on name dropping, false coverings, ego center preaching, and titles that convey no power or the authority of Christ. Where are the David's' who refuse to wear Saul's armor to do battle?

Stand for what is right and release the passionate display of Christ through heart wrenching obedience. Be Brave!

Also released is an audio book titled *Sound Wisdom*, based on the books of Proverbs with Hip-hop music tracks. Made for his teen age son, Blaine has found that many young people in the Body of Christ has been greatly encouraged by it and at the same time has sown the Word of God in them in a deeper way.

Blaine C. Vann

Founder of Praise City America
An Evangelistic Ministry to build and equip
the Body of Christ through teaching, video
production and praise dance.

www.praisecity.com

A New Year Perspective...



"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14, NIV)

As Christmas ends, we anxiously await the words "Happy New Year!" My best friend and I have this tradition we do every year for the last five years usually around the end of December. We go to our favorite beach spot, where we talk and pray about the past year and look ahead to the New Year.

We ponder and discuss all the interesting occurrences that happened the past year; the good times, the bad times, the frustrating times and the fun times. We share what valuable lessons we learned from our

experiences, what God showed us and how He was faithful through all of it.

We do this as a closure to one year and then an opening to the next. After we have laughed a while and then cried, we begin to look forward with great excitement, wondering what God has for us this coming New Year. What new experiences will we go through and what new lessons will we learn. It is all fresh and new and that is exciting.

In doing this, I believe it helps us to view each year as a season, understanding that God is Sovereign and has new seasons of experiences and growth to make us more like Christ. I can testify there were times we went through seasons of grief and there were times we experienced seasons of joy.

It helps me to remember that God is in total control and that we are constantly growing as His children and that He knows the plans He has for us. Plans of new wisdom, insight, and understanding that He wants to impart to us, if we will allow Him to.

It also gives us a fresh new outlook of the coming year and enables us to leave the past where it belongs, not that we forget the past, but learn from it and move forward into our present future with opened hearts and minds to receive whatever God has for us.

With that said, I put together eight ways we can view the New Year and every year as. A Year of:

New Beginnings: Start out the New Year with a fresh point of view to new experiences, memories, and blessings. Having an opened mind and heart to where ever the Lord may take you with full assurance and confidence that He is with you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

New Possibilities: There is no limit to what God can do in your life and nothing is impossible with God. God opens doors that no man can shut and closes doors that no man can open. The possibilities are endless

with God that is according to His will.
(*Philippians 4:13*)

New Plans: Every year is a new season, be prayerful of what God has planned for you and be willing to walk by faith in obedience as you follow His leading. Remember that His plans are always for good and not for evil to give you a future and a Hope.
(*Jeremiah 29:11-13*)

New Purpose: As you forge ahead, God always has a plan and a purpose for what you will go through and experience. Remember that God always has a reason for what He allows in your life and through it, you can trust Him completely. (*Proverbs 1:3-5*)

New Provisions: The Bible says to not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow has enough worries of its own. Trust in your Heavenly Father who knows everything you need, who is your God and your Provider. He is faithful and He will do it. (*Matthew 6:1-33*)

New Growth: When we are willing to let go and let God work in us and through us, He will always stretch us and grow us. It is an important part of the growth process. Continue to grow in your relationship with Him and in His Word. Pray for God to mold you and make you pliable in the potters hand and then watch the master craftsman work on His masterpiece; which is you!

New Wisdom: With new experiences and new lessons come new wisdom and insight. Always make it a priority to seek out wisdom as hidden treasure or fine gold. In Proverbs it says that it will be like a garland of grace around your neck and honor you and present you with a crown of splendor. (*Proverbs 4:7-9*)

Renewed Peace: As you go through new experiences and new adventures whether they are good or bad, my encouragement is to keep your eyes fixed on Christ and He will give you rest and peace, because He is our peace and loves you and cares for you deeply. (*John 16:33*)

Keep in mind that if even the wicked give good gifts to their children how much more will your Heavenly Father give to those that ask Him? (*Matthew 7:7-11*)

Let us give thanks to the Lord for getting us through another year as we look forward to what He has for us up ahead and praise Him that He is faithful and worthy to be praised!

Our God is an Awesome God
Who Reigns on Heaven and Earth
With Wisdom Power and Love
Our God is an Awesome God!

May the Lord bless you and your family with a blessed New Year!

Filoian M. Wiedenhoff is a pastor's wife, work at home mom, Woman's Biblical Counselor, Bible Teacher and Writer. View her website for more articles
<http://www.filoianmwiedenhoff.com/>



What Happens When You Get Married?

Genesis 2:15-25

¹⁵And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. ¹⁸And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. ¹⁹And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature,

that was the name thereof. ²⁰And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²²And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. ²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

The foundational scripture describes purpose God intended for us before we were on this earth. He clearly explains to Adam what He wants him to do. Then once he explains this, he then presents Adam with the woman who will help him to accomplish all of this. We know that God wants us married because of this initial passage of scripture. It is through our marriages that God can bring His plan forth on this earth. So this month we are going to look at seven things that happen when you get married. These are by no means an exhaustive list. This is just 7 of the many things that happen when we get married. So let's take a look now at them.

1. You fulfill the original plan and purpose of God for your life.

Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God originally wanted us to be fruitful; His plan was to fill the earth with images of himself. In other words, perfect copies of God on earth. But that plan got put off course because of the fall of man in the next

chapter of Genesis. Yes, the sin of Adam and Eve caused us to become flawed or sinful when God originally intended for us to be representations of Him on earth. God's plan was for us to rule, to reign over all creatures in the earth. We were to then become fruitful and add to the earth's population. This would fill the earth with millions of "people like God," but it did not happen that way when sin entered in. What is God's plan for your life? God said in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." His plan for your life as a single may be different from His plan for you as a married couple. But I can most readily assure you that God's plan for you as a single and your spouse as a single will perfectly compliment each other. You will begin to go forth through your covenant agreement fulfilling the plan of God in your life as a couple. You see when you are in perfect covenant union with the person God intended for you to be with, you will begin to do great things for the kingdom. Seek God as a couple if you don't already know your plan for your life and He will tell you. Be diligent and your diligence will be rewarded when you begin to operate in your calling.

2. To become one with each other.

This applies to the man and the woman. Yes both. Follow this:

Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

The King James Version says to "cleave" unto his wife. Please read below the dictionary definition of "Cleave": [Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary](#), (1.) adhere closely; to stick; to hold fast; to cling; (2.) unite or be united closely in interest or affection; to adhere with strong attachment; or (3.) fit; to be adapted; to assimilate. [Poetic.]

In other words, when God said to cleave unto our mates, He wants us to be as one,

yes He does. But what will end up happening because of your cleaving to your mate is that God will cause such an adhesive bond that it won't be able to be breached by the plan of the devil. You see what happens is when that bond is not there, then there is room for the devil to put something in to the mix and stir it up a little bit. And that is all it takes. It just takes introducing one woman to the husband, or one man to the wife, and rest assured if this is the plan of the devil then that person is going to be everything your flesh thought you wanted in a mate, even though you already have your mate – the one God intended you to be with. You see, this is one of the most effective tools the enemy uses to come against a godly marriage, and it is very effective when the cohesive bond between a husband and wife is not there. One other thing to keep in mind is when we are one it also means we are together physically as well as spiritually. As a married couple, you should not deny your spouse sexual relations for an extended period other than to come together in prayer so that the mind will not begin to wander outside of your marriage. Do not think this cannot happen to you because it can. The lure of the flesh is very strong and it is at that moment when you take it for granted that the devil cannot get to you that he begins to get to you. Why? Because you believe you can resist the enemy through your own power and this edges God out. Do not leave God out of your life. I promise you if you do, you will leave a lot of room for the devil to get in, and he will get in. Let's look at the word in 1 Corinthians 7: 1-5

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.^[a] ²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a

time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

3. To be in spiritual alignment so you can further God's concept of agreement on this earth.

What does this mean? It means that whatever happens to you happens to your spouse, good or bad. So if you are blessed with money, your spouse gets the same blessing. When you are blessed with a new house, your spouse gets the same blessing. If you are blessed with a new car, your spouse gets the same blessing. Conversely, if you lose your job then your spouse is equally affected by this. During that time, it is so vital that you and your spouse touch and agree against the forces of evil that are trying to come against you. When you are a couple working toward the plan that God has for your life, the enemy will be extremely busy to try and derail your plans. How do I know this? Because the devil has a legal right to attack you now that God has spoken a Word over your lives. Jesus said in *Matthew 16:13*, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." Jesus was telling us this because He knew that Satan would attack us as soon as we begin to live our lives for Him. Because he has the right to attack and believe me, he will. So be prepared with the Word of God in your hearts so you are ready to deflect the flaming arrows of the enemy against your marriage and watch God operate in a magnificent and incredible way in your marriage. You see we have to go through the battles, the storms, and the attacks. Why? Because for one thing, the Word of God says we do. But the other thing is we are building a testimony not just to build up our own faith that God will do what He promised us, but we are also building up a testimony that we will tell others so they will

be able to be delivered and set free from whatever is keeping them bound.

In the 12th chapter of Genesis, God told Abram to leave his father's family and go to a place he will show him. And we know the blessing he spoke over Abram's life.

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Then it says Abram left, and Lot went with him. But he also took his wife Sarai, so the wife benefited in the blessings of Abraham. How do we know this? Look at Chapter 13: 1-2; ¹So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ²Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

So Abram, who later God called Abraham, became very wealthy. So because his wife was in agreement with him, she became rich as well. When we are in agreement, whatever happens to us, good or bad, happens to our spouse.

4. You become committed to each other (not friends, family, or other folks who like to interfere).

How do we know this to be true? Let's look again at Genesis 12, where God told Abram to leave his family. And He specifically told Abram to go to a place which He will designate. This means God did not even tell Abram where he was going. He just wanted

to get him away from his family's influence. Why did God tell him to do this? Because he knew the family could cause Abram to be derailed by his family and friends. God knew that family could possibly move Abram out of the spot that He was trying to get him to so He could bless him with what He promised him.

When we are married, we should not bring other people into our personal marriage issues. As a couple, we will go through things that can cause friction. Oh yes, you will argue at times. You will disagree with each other at times. But when you take these troubles outside of your marriage and talk to other people, especially of the opposite sex, they become opportunities the devil uses to hammer a spike between the two of you. For example, if the husband talks to another woman about the problems in his marriage, a seed is planted with that woman and she may or may not begin to think that this marriage may end one day. This seed begins to grow and before you know it, you are hanging out with that other person, then before you know it, you are having sex outside of your marriage. This is the plan of the devil and it will happen because that's what he wants: to destroy our marriages. Please read and meditate on the following scriptures.

Genesis 2: 24 for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*****Let me say this. "You cannot resolve what happening in your marriage by going outside of your marriage." *****

5. You have a friend that you can enjoy good times with.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is

your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

Your mate should be your “best friend.” You mate should be the one you share your triumphs and tragedies. Your mate should be the one you can open yourself up to. You now have a friend who you can talk with about little everyday things, like how much you like poodles, or how you love to sit in your favorite chair, drink coffee and listen to the rain drops gently knock on the roof, or how much you love the fact that your car has a gas tank on the left side of your car so you won’t have to walk around to the other side of the car to pump the gas, or how she needs you to go kill the spiders in the basement before she will go back down there.

You see guys, it is the little things that make a marriage wonderful, and it is the opportunity to enjoy the things that you might take for granted. But if you stop among the craziness of this world and take time to enjoy the little things with each other, it begins to create the “unbreakable shield” that surrounds you and your mate. You see once this shield is created by God there is no man that can get through it. And a shield that strong is what is needed to defend you and your mate against the attacks of the enemy. What is this shield? It is the shield of faith that is part of the whole armor of God—it will protect you from the arrows of the enemy.

6. You get an opportunity to reap the rewards of your labors.

When you work hard to make your marriage secure, you will begin to reap the reward of your labor. What is this? This is the blessing of God, which will be brought to your marriage because of your obedience to Him. When you are a good steward over your mate then God can begin truly to bring you into His riches and glory for your lives. And yes, I do mean money too. Because this is how the kingdom of God works. When we are working in His purpose, He will begin to pour out abundant blessings on us so we can

be a blessing to others. That woman needs \$10,000 to start her business – you give it to her. That man needs \$5,000 to start his Christian greeting card business and you give it to him. You see in this way God’s people will not become borrowers, but lenders. That is what the word of God says.

To the men:

If you work to get your wife, then you should work to keep your wife.

Genesis 29:20-21 – So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

If you are not willing to work hard for a woman, then either you are not ready to be married, or she is not the woman God wants you with. Then leave her alone and return to prayer and relationship with God.

To the women:

If your husband worked hard to get you, then he should continue to work to keep you and you should work to keep him happy.

Proverbs 12:4 – A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Ladies, let me say this: a man will go through the fire to obtain what he wants. If a man is not willing to go through the fire for you then either, he is not ready or you are not ready, or he is NOT the man you are supposed to be married to.

7. You become a living representation of Christ and the church here on earth.

Ephesians 5: 22-33 - ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love

your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."^[c] ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

This is God's intention for us. We are to become examples of God here on earth. We should strive to have our marriages represent the perfect union of Christ and the church, which is what God had purposed for us since the beginning. Our marriages should cause people to want to be married. As married couples, we should be walking advertisements for God's goodness and grace. When people see married Christian couples, the light of Jesus will shine so bright that it will not only cause others to want to be married, but it will cause other married couples to become better in their own marriages. This is the down-reaching effect that God wants for His people here on earth.

Summary

We must understand what the principle of marriage is all about. God had one major purpose in mind for marriage. He wanted us through our covenant agreement to become a representation of Christ on earth and to fill the earth with examples of God on the earth, which He gave to man.

Everything we do in our marriages and relationships is a representation of God. How are we representing Him?

Are we showing God's presence to everyone we meet?

Are we showing God's love to everyone we meet?

When we leave people's presence are they saying to themselves, "That's the type of marriage I want," or "Those two people look like they're really in love," or "I want to be married."

We must always remember that the principle of agreement is important to our marriages. It is what marriage is based on. The principle of agreement can either prosper us or destroy us.

Adam agreed with Eve and ate the fruit and you know what happened.

Abraham's wife agreed to go with him leaving her family too and you know what happened.

Noah's wife agreed to go with him on the big ark he built and you know what happened.

Joseph agreed with Mary when she was pregnant even though he has not slept with her yet and you know what happened.

Ananias and Sapphira agreed to keep back part of God's money for themselves on a real estate deal and you know what happened.

Pontius Pilate did not agree with his wife and allowed Jesus to be crucified and you see what happened.

When we allow God to work in our marriages then we will see the fruits of our labor. That does not just mean money. It means all of the souls that will be affected either in a positive or negative way by our relationships. We must practice the presence of God in our marriages so that God may continue to be a light through us to reach the souls of the lost.

Every time someone tells you what a beautiful marriage you have, that is an opportunity to minister.

Every time someone is blessed in your presence, that is an opportunity to minister.

Every time you are sitting on an airplane and people notice how great you both are together, that is an opportunity to minister.

Every time you are in a store and someone walks up to you and says that they notice how you are so attentive to each other, then that is an opportunity to minister.

Do not miss an opportunity to minister to ANYONE because you were not showing God's love or you were not being an example and promoting God on this earth.

The purpose of marriage on this earth is to expand God's kingdom.

When you are out in the streets either with your mate or talking about your mate, you are representing something – either the kingdom of God or the kingdom of the devil.

Which do you want to represent?

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2009 - Expect the Unexpected

It's January, it's a new season, and some would say there is time for a chance to start over.

But, as Christians, every day that we wake up Jesus gives us another chance to start over, a new day to trust and believe, and grow in his Grace and stand firm in our walk with Elohim. (*Lamentations* 3:22-23) Praise God!

I've really been thinking about the month of January and the year 2009. I heard someone say that 2009 was a year of unexpected miracles. I don't know who said that, but I know that it's been stuck in my



spirit ever since. January is derived from the Latin word "iauna," and it means door; January is the door to the year to come.

Make this year a year of walking through doors that God has opened and not ones that were opened because of sin. Remember that sin begets sin, so in the Name of Jesus we close all doors that were opened because of sin.

We have to expect the unexpected this year. When it is naturally impossible, know that it is supernaturally possible, already done, and is eternal.

Don't fight change, but pray and ask God to reveal His truth and His will in the situation. Is it a test from God? Listen and wait for direction.

When we focus on Jesus and His love nothing else matters. Can you imagine having the love and admiration for someone so much, so that you give your life for them? That is what Jesus did 4 U. That is salvation; it's about Love – God's Love for us. Today, we walk tall into the doors of change that God has opened.

Matthew 7:7 shows Jesus telling us as he gives his Sermon on the Mount assuring us, *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."* Here Jesus is talking about expectation. You have to understand that when expectation gets in line with the Will of God, than your blessings just flow.

The root word expect is a verb meaning to look forward to; to believe as probable; to presume. The prefix "un" means not or opposite; reversal or cancellation of an action; release or removal from. The suffix "ed" means to form as past tense; having. So what does it mean to have an unexpected miracle? It means this:

In 2007, we had some things come to end, and 2008, we had some very new beginnings and experiences, and therefore, in 2009 we have to expect something from God that we have never even imagined

before. That is the miracle. Our minds cannot fathom it. In 2009, we will have miracles happen like never before. God is going to show up in the lives of those that have expectancy. And when your expectancy has the prefix “un” in front of it, it releases your flesh from controlling what it is that God has for you. The “un” in front of expectancy releases your mind from trying to control God with what it is that you think you want or need. A lot of times, we pray and ask God to bless us or show us favor, but because we put our own selfish desires and stipulations on it, we cancel out what God has for us. See, He wants to bless us beyond measure, but because our faith has been tainted and we cannot conceive in our natural minds ALL, than we ask for mediocre and mediocrity is what we get, but still walking around not understanding why “it’s never enough.” What you ended in 2007, gave life to your new beginning in 2008, and 2009 is going to propel you forward into your miracle! Remember that the suffix “ed” is for past tense... so, it always means that it is already done.

So, while you look forward in believing what is probable (expect), God is releasing you from believing what is not only impossible (un) or cancelling out your expectation (doubt). He is saying that it is always, already been given, just move into it! Before you begin to allow the enemy to cancel it out... know that it is already done, received, and given! See the “un” cancels it out what you expect, but the “ed” indicates that it was always right there, and so you just have to keep your heart open to God, and not yourself... grab hold to whatever 2009 has in store for you and live...EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED IN 2009!!!

Remember this, you have already prayed, cried, praised, and worshipped God for what is going to happen in 2009, which is why no matter how you try; you won’t be able to place a meaning onto your unexpected miracle. You just have to expect

the unexpected and give God the Glory due!!!

Teshia M. Payne
DIM, Editorial Director

2 whom it may concern...



Dear Mothers and Fathers: I know there are many people that believe in the celebration of Christmas and all that comes with it. You prepare your children for the big day because that’s the anticipation of your little ones.

When I was led to separate the days: *Christ Day* and *Child Appreciation Day*, it was hard news to the children until I explained to them the objective. I explained to them that we all have our special days, so why can’t Jesus Christ have His exclusive day. After all, He went through so... much for our lives? I explained to them that they will have their day and that I would allow them to make a list of their hearts desires (within reason: smile), but we would prepare for a very special day for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to pay tribute and give Him, His hearts desire which is this: SOULS – more siblings in the Kingdom of God and that we all live the life of TOTAL fulfillment and *Eternal Freedom* that He died for us to have.

So, on *Christ Day* we prepare a box addressed to Jesus Christ and our Father, God (Jehovah). That is the only gift that anyone gets in our house on Christ Day.....What is in the box? Read the story...

THE STORY OF "CHRIST DAY"

Some years ago, a group of people decided to acknowledge the birth of my Brother on the same day every year. To celebrate this day, they decided to make giving a part of the theme because that is the story of my Brother. He was created with a purpose to give His life, so that we may live a life of TOTAL fulfillment as an example of who our Heavenly Father is and for our Spiritual Equality and Freedom so that we may experience our Heavenly Father and others too as a result of the example of our lives.

They also invited another honoree, whose name is St. Nicholas and for some great party theme, they would call him Santa Clause. They decided to dress him up and create a story for his character. I guess they thought the kids would need something to do at this party, so they decided to make it a big day of toys with Santa Clause so that all could participate regardless of their belief in Jesus Christ or not.

The problem that many people never realized was that Jesus Christ was real and Santa Clause was not. So, in order to partake in the whole party idea, most of the world agreed to celebrate with the Truth and the Lie.

The lie for Mr. St. Nicholas A.K.A. Santa Clause was that he lived in the North Pole and he watched over the little children. All of the little children would ask Santa Clause for their wildest dream toys and if they were good, they would get what they asked for. So the parents all supported this theme of the party and still today, lie to their children about Santa Clause. According to a Christmas movie classic, "A Miracle on 34th Street" one of the lines of an attorney fighting to keep St. Nicholas out of jail was, "...would it be better to tell the truth about St. Nicholas and disappoint our kids or to tell a lie and keep the smiles on our kids' faces?"

To plan for this day, all participate in giving, the planning for the children to have surprises, and for the joining of the families

and friends to celebrate the Holiday with a big dinner and gift giving around a big tree (for those that can afford to attend this festivity).

I guess it is not too bad because some organizations have decided to remember those that are less fortunate so that they too can participate in all the activities of the party, the toys, and both honorees: Jesus Christ and St. Nicholas or we will just say the lie and the truth, the good and the bad.

Because of how this party was organized, there is sadness, loneliness, depression, excessive behaviors, addiction, murder, and so many other things, even lust. How sad? There goes that bright idea for a party. It seems that the concept of the lie as a whole, over shadows the truth in this scenario and the TRUTH is barely hanging on. It is a wonder why the "main" honoree, Jesus Christ is off in the shadows, and the focus is on St. Nicholas, who is imaginary to begin with.

I imagine this as the day of the party: Jesus Christ is sitting at the table and He has some people crowding around Him, but He is sad. He appreciates the idea, but He's looking at all of the others that are sad, lonely, depressed, lost, addicted, still spiritually lost, etc. on "His" day. All that have attended the party are doing their own thing with their personal families and friends. I guess as I look from across the room at Jesus Christ sitting there, he appears as though He is alone in His own way (His mind is drifting and I imagine Him thinking...what happened?). He is probably wondering, "Why did I even come?" "No one gets the point." He really did not need this party especially if it was going to misrepresent His true purpose of existence. Hmmm... Thanks, but no thanks, huh?

Well, even though I did not organize this party, I apologized to Him because the party just did not turn out right. From the beginning, there were a few separate planning groups. A group that believed in Him, a group that did not believe in Him at

all, and a group just came because of the festivities of the party. I do not know why they would even coordinate His day with another honoree, less alone an imaginary one. Why....would they try to combine the Truth with a Lie? Why?!

Well, I am going to coordinate a day exclusively for my Brother and my Father, representing all that Jesus was created for (Love, Spiritual Freedom, Spiritual Equality, Hope, Peace, TOTAL Fulfillment for our lives, and all good). To plan for this AWESOME day of worship, those that believe in God will share in the planning and coordination. The coordinators will plan to share the news with those that do not believe in God all over the world. People will come together for this day from different Religions, Nationalities, and Cultures! I am going to call it the "Christ Day" organized with the participants and coordinators that join the Bountiful Group's "Christ Movement." This Awesome day, December 24th will be the National day of Worship, where there is so much joy, happiness, and peace that spreads continuously throughout the earth because of this day and its planning. Hmm... On this day, there will be Worship Services, Concerts, and Parties. Throughout the year, there will be fundraisers for the needy, car washes, marches, etc. Wow!! I can just imagine – this is AWESOME!

Although throughout the year the Christ Movement participants will be witnessing and giving to the needy, on this day, there will ONLY be one gift box at all parties all over the world, which will be addressed to: God the Father (Jehovah) and Jesus Christ, our Savior and Brother. In the box will be all of the names that were won to the Kingdom of God that year and hopefully most of those new believers would be in the audiences as we celebrate. Giving PRAISE and WORSHIP (highest Thanks) for the life of eternal freedom, peace, happiness, joy, LOVE and fulfillment without condemnation that we've all been awarded as a result of

the sacrifice made by our Father, God (Jehovah) and our brother, Jesus Christ!

I think that Jesus will be ok with attending this party....what about you?

To join the "Christ Movement," email us at <mailto:signmeup@christmovement.org> so that you may receive more information regarding the Christ Movement – "Radically and Strategically building the Kingdom of God." <http://www.christmovement.org> (.org not .com) will be up soon. You may visit us now at Blog Spot at <http://www.christmovementbg.blogspot.com> / and coming soon is www.youtube.com/christmovementbg, Don't forget to listen weekly to www.blogtalkradio.com/quietnomore

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"Be still"—God



Often, we as Christians find ourselves in uncomfortable situations where we feel unhappy, dissatisfied, confused, and unloved. During these times, our temptation is to do something about our situation, take action, and make a change. But how often in our haste to end our suffering, do we consider the fact that our difficulties may be the perfect setting for God to do a miracle in our lives or increase our faith?

In my life and in my practice as a Christian Therapist, I have learned some interesting things about people. Most of us hate any type of waiting, discomfort or suffering. For example, if there are more than three people ahead of us in the checkout line at

the grocery store, we search for a shorter line. If there are not any shorter lines, in our impatience, we search for the line where people have the fewest products to purchase, believing the line will move more quickly. Once we find the shortest line of people with the fewest products, we are still not happy, but we are satisfied knowing we have done everything in our power to lessen our wait. But Lord, do not let them call for a price check! Our impatience quickly turns to frustration and even anger in the face of our discomfort.

How often do we take the same approach with God? After all our efforts to find the most comfortable situation, heal our bodies, lessen our discomfort, or prevent our suffering--fail, do we stop to consider the fact that suffering gives God a chance to show Himself as being strong and mighty in our lives? Do we believe the loss of the person or thing most dear to us may be God's way of removing the idols from our lives? Or could it be God allowing us to suffer as a way of teaching, training, strengthening, or preparing us for our life's work?

Instead of responding to our feelings of frustration, sadness, rejection, failure, would we be better off sitting still and realizing God's presence, even in our despair? Should we take a moment to sit still and listen to God?

Many of my clients ask, "Why does God allow us to suffer?" Although long-suffering is one of the Fruits of the Spirit, it does not seem important when we are in the midst of a trial. *James 1:2-3 instructs us to, "...count it all joy when you fall into trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, "another fruit of the Spirit.* However, when we're suffering, learning to be patient loses its importance.

James goes on to say in verse 4, "...let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." But do we ever thank God and praise Him

when we're suffering knowing it will increase our patience and in the end, make us perfect and complete, having everything we need? Clearly, when we're in despair, our inclination should go toward being still and enduring the pain, knowing that God's hand is at work in our lives—the refiner's fire, molding us and making us perfect. It is with this mind that I prepare for 2009, knowing that all things, especially the suffering, trials, tribulations and difficult seasons, work together for my good, and in the end will make me perfect, lacking nothing.

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

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BEAUTY
it's more than skin deep

Let's Talk About the Spa!

Picture a beautiful, serene, and peaceful room where the only noise you hear is the sound of a waterfall lightly flowing to enhance the scene. Your massage therapist enters the room and asks if you are here for a deep tissue or a Swedish massage. You quietly enjoy your tired muscles relaxing under the pressure of the therapist firm yet gentle hands. After your massage you are lead to a whirlpool where your body is engulfed in a sea of foaming bubbles that whisk you away from every care and concern that plagued you before you entered this oasis. Dreaming? Not hardly! Visit your local, full service spa and you could enjoy the above scenario complete with a healthy and filling lunch.



Pampering in the 21st Century has reached an all time high in every economic status. Women and men have taken time out of their busy schedules to enjoy the benefits of a professional massage, facial, full body facial, waxing etc... Some have even gone to the great lengths of making the spa experience a vacation priority. Check out the travel section of your local newspaper and you will see that the spa vacation is on the rise. In Nevada as well as Arizona, several spas cater to the out of town visitor. They will book your flight and room, plan your itinerary, and create a menu to meet your dietary needs as well as pamper you so that you will make their resort a priority for your next vacation. Not sure which one to choose; let me give you some tips on how to choose the right spa. First, you must make sure that the spa is state approved. You do not want to visit a place that is not board certified. Certification deals with licensing and cleanliness. Do not make the fatal mistake of trying to save money at the expense of your health. Cleanliness is a priority in the spa industry and you need to know if the spa you will be visiting has any violations on its record. Second, you must know exactly how much money you are willing to spend because budgeting is particularly important. If your budget is light, then choose a spa that will give you your money's worth, but does not slack on service. If you just want to start out with a facial, make sure that the spa caters to your ethnicity. Many women have chosen an exclusive spa for name and reputation and

found out that they were not familiar with their skin type. There are certain procedures that can damage certain skin types, so do not be afraid to ask before you book. Remember you are paying for a professional service and this question is not racially motivated, but just a concern before you book your first appointment.

Next, do your research if you are going in for a massage. There are different types of massages and you need to know the difference between them and how they will affect your body. A deep tissue massage is just what it says, "Deep Tissue." This massage can be somewhat uncomfortable due to the deep pressure on certain parts of the body. But do not panic because it is well worth the discomfort that you may experience.

Not sure the type of facial you want or need? Go into the spa and ask for a complimentary evaluation. Usually a reputable spa will not mind a free consultation or just a general tour of its facilities. Many spas will encourage the prospective client to visit and to evaluate personally what services they offer.

I will have more information on the spa experience next month with a listing of spas that I feel are on the rise. Until then remember that pampering is not just for the rich and famous. Be blessed and don't forget to take care of yourself!



A Brand New Man



Well Man of God, it is 2009, and we thank God for it, but what will make it different from 2008. Fortunately, you have the opportunity to fix what did not work in 08' and improve in 09'. That sounds all good, but the question is how. Well let's deal with it my brotha and see if you can become a brand new man.

First, you must admit to yourself that the things in 2008 that went wrong were not all someone else's fault. Wow, that is a hard pill to take right. However, you must agree that is the truth. It would be easy to say that someone caused you to holler and scream, someone caused you to have a bad attitude or something made you treat your wife horribly, but truth be told, you allowed it. You must take responsibility for your own actions in that revelation you will find peace and the fuel for change.

Second, decide to change your own behavior. That sounds very simple but it is powerful. Our behavior toward anything will determine its effect on you. If you want to lose weight, you must change your behavior toward food. If you want to be treated with respect, you must change your behavior toward other people. The Bible teaches us one great principle that says, *"to have a friend you must first show yourself friendly"* (Proverbs 18:24) The point is you

must change your behavior to get different results. Too often as men, we refuse to change the way we do things because we hate conflict or disturbance of what is working. But really is it working?

Because I know, I am getting on your nerves this will be the last point. To be a brand new man you have to start today. Look man stop saying you will get to it. Stop coming up with excuses for not doing what you know you need to do. Why does your wife or that special person in your life have to tell you 20 times? You know you need to do it so just do it. One day or some day is not a day of the week but today is.

Finally, 2009 is the year of possibilities if you can dream it you can live. Do not let the problems and negative issues of 2008 follow you into this New Year. Become a brand new man surprise your spouse, your children, your siblings, and transform right before their eyes. I believe in you and I look forward to hearing about you becoming a brand new man. Many blessings!

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Revelatory Word, Relevant Message,
Revolutionary Mind Set





Use My Spirit Lord

Use my spirit to your will in Your image
 I am Your child
 For every strand on my head
 You made us perfect in Your eyes
 Thru you Lord I am special in your grace
 At my left and right hand You are there
 No matter the time or day
 I just call Jesus
 From You there is peace of mind
 I am made whole of the mind, flesh and soul
 In the name of Jesus
 God of Abraham
 That of Paul and Moses
 I am Your unrentless ministered child of your Love.

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I'm Still Standing

Ephesians 6:13-14 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

Through my trials and struggles
 Through rape, death, and marriage

Through my mess and my tests
 Who am I to stress?
 The last I checked I was still blessed.
 I stand for love, peace, and joy
 Strength to go on so I can win this fight

I never knew it could be so much strife.

I'm still standing

Although one thing is clear

I don't float like a butterfly
 Or do I sting like a bee.
 But let me tell you so you can truly see

I am above and not beneath
 I am the head and not the tail
 I am the fear that my enemies have while their asleep
 Thinking will she rise, will she?

Then they wake up! To see ...

I'm still standing

No need for them to fear anymore

In the air, on sea or land
 One thing is for sure
 I am here, you can stop the fear
 I don't want to harm or hurt you
 But you need to know...

I'm still standing

I am anointed and appointed

Through the storm and rain
 Heartache and pain
 I am standing, and there is so much I have gained.
 Did you know, could you have imagined
 You forgot the saying "you can't keep a good woman down"

Maybe you were just thinking about you.

I see that you really didn't have a clue.

I'm still standing

Lord, you told me to trust in you

When I could not understand
 You said you would always be there to give a hand.
 And because of that I can take my stand.
 I am still standing, come and see
 Although I am not by myself
 Because when I stand now!

I am with CHRIST and HE is with me!

Thank you JESUS for your stand

I'm still standing

Bridgette Whitney © 2008

DESIGNED AND DESTINED



I chose you
You were born with the destiny to reach souls
and dreams over seas
To prophesy life over death and bring forth
victory
To enlighten souls and encourage inner change
Speak love into hearts with the strength to break
chains

I chose you
You were created with the divine purpose to heal
and deliver souls
Strong enough to overcome spiritual war and be
bold
Designed for such a time as this to promote
peace
Create outreach programs for the youth on the
streets

I chose you
You were hand picked to intervene self esteem to
discourage teen pregnancy
Give testimony of how a drug addict can be free
and have a new destiny
Provide Community development programs for
children at risk
Before you were formed in the womb your
purpose was in this

I chose you
Notes of music and poetry was woven within
your genetics
Creativity and intervention was a gift within your
inheritance
Dance was a brief expression of the glory in
heaven above
Your gift to sing and sow conviction into hearts
was given by your true love

But where are you?
I needed you
But you were no where to be found
I looked for someone to go
and you were no where around

See you didn't know it

But that was me sitting at the coffee table
waiting for an encouraging word from your lips

That was me in the middle of the crowd waiting
to hear your song of victory to strengthen my
weakness

That was me behind prison bars with a broken
heart and contrite spirit just needed a little light
That was me in the grocery store with my head
hung low you passed by last night

That was me

That was me who lost a close family member
and needed just a comforting word

That was me you were rude to my first time
entering the church doors to know the Lord

That was me who lost everything I had just
needed a little money to get through the next
day

That was me in the pew who needed a little push
in finding the way

That was me

But where are you?

I needed you

But you were no where to be found

I looked for someone to go

and you were no where around

You did not obey my voice

You did not obey the call

You were so worried about others

You forgot about your brother

You were so caught up in the snicker

You forgot about your sister

You were more concerned about you

Others perished that needed the truth

You

Yes you

Who was hand picked

You who were specially designed

You of a royal priesthood

Created lovely and divine

I chose you

Specifically

No mistakes mathematically

Fractionally or division wise

Add it up and it still lies in you

Now go!

(To read more poetry online visit
www.myspace.com/stephs_corner to schedule a
poetry reading email: twolivenotdie@yahoo.com,
please include type of event date, time, location
and topic)

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Loneliness

So lonely for long now, that I had to cry
and sought for a shoulder to shed my
tears, the one I thought I had found,
pushed me aside and looked away.

I sought for a pat on my back,
but got backstabbed,
not even a handshake,
when things are done right.

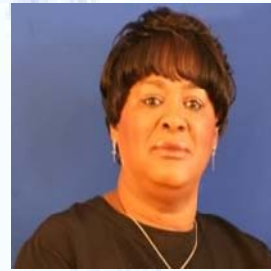
I tried to get praises, but got woes.
when I thought love was close
I got hatred instead.

I gazed at sweetness and laughter,
it turns out to be bitterness and cries,
when I smelled plenty and fulfillment
I got emptiness and starvation.
I stared at the face of encouragement
then was I slapped with disgrace.
I opened my arms to welcome hope,
I was greeted with rejection and
resentment.

Then do I realized that Jesus wasn't far,
but waiting for me to call on him,
I turned to him and he embraced me
as he warmly took away my loneliness.

I now have a companion,
in the person of the Holy Spirit,
my loneliness is gone,
my companion took away my loneliness

© MaryAngel Onu



FLESH BE STILL

*Flesh be still; I ain't committin' that sin!
Sin's the way to let that old demon win.
God's grace done saved me and I ain't turnin'
back.*

*To live in that mansion; gotta stay on the
right track.*

*Flesh be still; you always wantin' somethin'.
Gotta keep it together; Jesus is comin'.
I listened to you before; what did I get?
Some of that trouble ain't over wid over yet.*

*Flesh be still: me and Jesus runnin' this
show.*

*It's time that I learned how to just say no.
Your are so weak; can't trust you a minute.
If trouble is close by, you'll find a way in it.*

*My Savoir has kept me; no thanks to you.
You never want to do what's good for us two.
Jesus gave me a mind to do what's right.
I'm too strong to lose; you're too weak to
fight.*

*I must deny you; go on, pout all you please.
Your weakness is tiring; keeps me on my
knees.*

*Well, prayer is my weapon against your
treason.*

I repent a lot; your weakness is the reason.

I've said all I will; it's my way or none.

*You lost this battle; the victory is won.
Why do you tempt me; you know it ain't
right>*

**FLESH BE STILL; I'M STAYIN' IN THIS
LIGHT.**

Sharon Reid-Robinson © 2008



Mindful Deliverance

I seek deliverance from what ails my mind
I'm sick and tired of tryin'
And whinin'
Flyin'
To the pain spot
I used to wait in line
To get what the devil had for me

"What you got today devil?" I used to ask in a
yard slave tone
"I'll take a pound of depression,
Disillusionment with no passion
And by the way I need 6 cases of regression"

"Thank you sir, now go die," he'd say to me
"And when you think of your God don't try
To use what He gave you 'cause it doesn't work

"Oh My!" I thought to myself.
God must've been right
Why go through sickness of my mind
I'll fight
The good fight of faith and with God I'll agree
I begin to cast down what I feel and what I see
Because 2000 years ago Jesus gave me liberty

So out of my mind depression
Angry spirit of regression
Demon assigned to my deterioration
I cast you out
You weakening spirit of degeneration
You no longer will hold me
Under your finger of oppression

I praise God it's done and it is so
I grow
The more I speak the more I know

And I thank God as I receive my deliverance
I praise God as I believe for my inheritance
I'm the Kings kid and through Jesus I am set free
And from the devil I collect my severance

Pay
And give it to God' kingdom everyday

Because of Jesus I won the battle
And I thank God for sending His son Jesus
And I look forward to the day
When all of hell will rattle
The day Jesus comes back with sword in hand
And sitting in the saddle.

© Robert T. Sells - The Anointed Poet

Incomprehensible

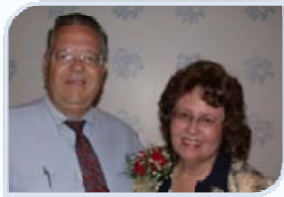
I can't stop glorifying?
You can take my tongue
I will praise him
From the essence of my being

My savior
I offended others
Through my worship
I make no excuse for my behavior
I praise in advance
The knowledge
Of my Lord

No matter the circumstance
I have deliverance
You have proven
That you shall
Supply all my needs

You never rescind
Your loves' amazing, it keeps improving
As I enter
Your gates
With praising
And your court
With thanksgiving
I celebrate
Overcoming the enemy
We prevail
I know the outcome, why wait?

© Rasheed Williams



HE BECAME SIN FOR ME

II Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

It was not nails that held my Lord upon
that cross of shame.
It was my sins that held Him there to
die to clear my name.
Christ was the spotless Lamb of God,
becoming sin for me.
He took my sins upon Himself and died
to set me free.

No sin had ever touched His heart from
all eternity.
And yet the filth of all the world, He
bore on Calvary.
The nails, the whip, the crown of
thorns, these all caused Him pain.
But worst of all my sin and shame upon
His back were lain.

What agony must have tortured Him
while on the rugged tree?
To cry out to His Father, "Why hast
Thou forsaken me?"
The Father could not look on sin and
so as though on cue,
The sky was filled with thick dark
clouds to hide His Son from view.

He who knew no sin Himself became
sin willingly,
And shed His blood for all mankind that
day on Calvary.

Oh, what mercy, love and grace to me
that day was given,
So that I could be made free to live
with Him in heaven

© Reverend Dean Beaty



THE LORD IS COME

The Lord is come, on a great white horse, his army
rides, the sky their course.
The Lord is come, to set things right, the evil run,
from His bright light.
The Lord is come, as was foretold, too late for
those, whose love grew cold.

The Lord is come, and the lightning flashes, The
Lord is come, and the thunder
crashes.

The Lord is come, watch the wicked perish, The
Lord is come, for the loved ones
cherished. Loved ones cherished.

The Lord is come, he has returned, his glory
shines, his Kingdom earned.
The Lord is come, our master's here, have you
served well, then have no fear.
The Lord is come; to end our pain, dry all our tears,
forgive our blame.

The Lord is come, are your clothes clean, The Lord
is come, with a sword that
gleams.

The Lord is come, watch the wicked fall, the Lord is
come, he is the King of
all. King of all.

The Lord is come, the trumpet sounds, the dead
are raised, the lost are found.
The Lord, The Lord, The Lord is coming some day.

The Lord is come, with his reward, eternal life, for
some the sword.
The Lord, The Lord, The Lord is coming some day.

The Lord is come, to claim his bride, for those he
redeemed, for whom he died.
The Lord, The Lord, The Lord is coming some day...

© Ken Rich

THROW YOUR BURDENS AWAY

Throw your burdens away
for the rest of time;
please do it today
for he will bring peace
and comfort to your minds.

Throw your burdens away,
and just cast them into the wind,
for you have holy words to say,
and don't take them up again.

Throw your burdens away,
and don't add to them anymore,
for there are more important things
today,
for you have heard this before.

Throw your burdens away,
and come and follow me,
and we will walk the narrow way,
for God's glory we will see.

© The Wandering Poet: Lee Desper

where are the people of god?

where are the people of god? is
what I want to know
for there is not alot of god's
people speaking up and saying so
How can we continually dress up and
go in a clean building/
when we know the streets are full
of dying souls that need healing

where are the people of god? they
are sure not on the highways
and some are even afraid of walking
along the byways

what happen to the faithful
servants telling the world that
Jesus saves

why are there so many saints going
their own way?

where were the people of god, when
gay marriages were permitted

why didn't the world hear your
shouts for it to be prohibited?
where were the people of god, when
prayer in schools was eliminated?
why didn't you shout and tell the
world it's removal would not be
tolerated?

where are the people of god, what
happen to promoting the holiness of
his will?

why does the world even refer to
you as just standing still?

the scriptures say that you can
only take it by force if you are
violent

but whatstand can you possibly
make if you are always silent?

where are the people of god? cause
the world cannot see you
sitting in a building all dolled up
in your finest Sunday shoes
where are the people of god? why
aren't you being a living witness?
Don't you think it's time you get
busy about your father's business?

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Second Generation Single Mom

I try daily to make the right decisions though it's hard
Being a young, Christian,
second generation single mom

The temptation is strong - I get so furious
sometimes since I'm the one
Raising my babies by myself that's why my
health is sometimes secondary
To bills, and practices, and hustling and
bustling
I pray, "God give me faith so that I can give
my tithes and offerings!"
Struggling day to day to keep my head up
and be the one
To press on towards my goal and be more
and more like his son
My Savior my Christ will suffice as the man
in my life
Until the day that I pray I become a
righteous man's wife

I want to take off the old me and put on the
new me
And then I turn the corner and the devil is
right there to pursue me
And then I say uh-uh man no you can't even
do me
Cause the only way my kids and my friends
are going to make it - is through me
And then I shake it - and pull out my sword
my deadly weapon
And I'm packing more heat than a 357
Magnum:
My God is able to do exceedingly
abundantly above
All that I can ask with my bills, my career
and matters of love
Do not worry what you will eat or drink or
wear
I am more than a conqueror, my present
sufferings are nothing compared
To the glory to be revealed in me in my
predestination purposefully
If I cast my cares upon my Lord he
promises to sustain me

I want to be tight and right and I am
speaking of spiritually

Becoming the woman that Jehovah God
created only me to be
He loved me so much - that's why he sent
his Son down for me
He laid down his life - his strife - his stripes
should have been on me
His unselfish sacrifice paid the price entitling
me to a full life
If I could just get out of the way and pick up
my cross every day
Seeing life with Christ as a gain not a loss
because
As I lose my life, abundance and prosperity
I gain
The pain the shame gone away as I abstain
From the things that used to enslave me
and chain me and break me
Every day I remember the cross so it can
take me
To a higher level of maturity reading the
Word of God faithfully
So that as I testify, I can show myself
approved to be
A second generation single mom
With hopes and dreams to become
The blessing the strength for women
Just Like Me.

© 2005 - Imani Rhema

He's All

He's all I got in this world alone
He's all I got when I need to call home
And he's all I need in this life so scared
Abundance of faith to guide through fear

And all I know is how to pray
And that's just enough to get through each day

No one can take that away from me
Tomorrow is never promised
Hold on tight loved ones so dear
You'll be so grateful that you did
Though when it's over is it really the end

© Shawanna Clay 2008



-Untitled-

I'm just so excited about God's work, God's will and my salvation.
There is so much I want to do and so much to do for him.

I just pray to be properly equipped his work, able to be a blessing for all those I meet.
Souls rushing to the altar from the street.

I pray that God blesses all nations lifting up Jerusalem, and Israel.
Father there are people dying in the street – an unexpected end they will meet.

Some don't even know your love. How might are your talents to arrange the stars and heaven above.

Peace, riches by the wings of a dove.

Give us life o'kind divine Lord of mine.
Cradle me in your arms, lift me high, away from worldly harms.

We are the children of a mighty Father King, high on His throne.
I'm asking that you dwell in our souls.

Give us rest when our flesh is cold.
And, God for our babies, you've already given the legacy of a king.

Salvation through Jesus each one is dedicated to ye and in faith they all will walking prosperity.

And of his fullness have all we received and grace for grace.

© Lydia D. Williams 2008



Homeless
Looking for a
home
One a bit
closer to
home

**Need to find one for me
But also one for a family
of three**

**God's word is God's word
But I need comfort in my
Skin**

**Am I asking for too much
Am I committing a sin
I visit and visit but just
want a place for me**

**Is that selfish I feel I'm
depriving not just me but
my family of three**

**I'm thirsty and hungry
I see things I believe are
Signs**

**But each opportunity my
response is now is not the
time**

**Help me guide me direct my
path**

**Understanding is what I
need**

**All these things in Jesus
name I ask**

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