**“How to Get Engaged ”**

**Getting to ‘Know’ God: The Holy Spirit**

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**Rhonda Scott**

**How to Get Engaged**

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**Introduction**

Welcome to ‘How to Get Engaged’ getting to know God through Holy Spirit led Scripture engagement. This book is birthed out of a desire to see people embrace the Holy Spirit. To see people saved, delivered and living your God destiny as you partner with the Holy Spirit. It is an extension of my enrollment, by God, some years ago into the School of the Spirit. My enrollment in the School of the Spirit was an eye-opening experience. One of the first classes was my personal Holy Spirit led Deliverance which resulted in the engagement process. There are different meanings to the word Engagement.

Engagement, engaged, and engage represent an action word. Engage is to interlock with, to join and connect with, to bring together, to deal with especially at length, to begin and carry on an activity with, to give attention to, committed to or supportive of a cause (Merriam-Webster.com). Engaged is to occupy the attention or efforts of a person or persons; to secure for aid; to attract and hold fast, to attract to please (dictionary.com).

Here are some synonyms or words that have same or similar meaning for engage: absorb, engross, enwrap, fascinate, grip, immerse, interest, intrigue, involve, occupy, enlist, contract, commission, secure, take on, put on, sign on, sign up, and enroll. Antonyms or opposites of engage are words like discharge, dismiss, reject, let go and release.

Think of this book as a conversation, as sharing among friends. As you read I pray that you grow in your active, intentional engagement with Scripture as the Holy Spirit, the Teacher directs you. I pray that you allow the Holy Spirit to engage you from a Kingdom of God perspective. Getting engaged and getting to know God through Scripture engagement will allow us to portray the Kingdom. Our lives should be a portrait of the reality of our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

First things first, are you Saved? Meaning have you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life? If yes, this is great. Let’s dive deeper and grow together. If no, I want you to hold onto this thought as we journey deeper into the realm of the Spirit-----God loves you dearly. He created you and you belong to Him. My prayer for you: Father, I pray that You reveal yourself to any precious person reading this book who has not accepted Jesus as Lord. I pray that their understanding is opened and they become aware of Your great love for them. I pray they have an undeniable personal Encounter with Jesus. In Jesus name Amen.

Why should you get engaged with Scripture (the Bible)? Why not just focus only on the Holy Spirit? Why not only focus on the realm of the spirit? You should engage in Scripture because the Bible is our foundation. It is the truth on which our faith in God is built. Getting engaged is about relationship building, courtship, fellowship, friendship and a deepening intimacy. Engaging in biblical truth is the process involved in our getting to know God life journey. We are not studying the Bible here---we are falling in love. We are becoming united, in unity and agreement with the heart of the Father toward us. It’s personal! God is love and the Bible is his love letter to us.

Why not just focus on the Holy Spirit---Because the Word and the Spirit are inseparable. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus said,Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35). And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth (John1:14). Jesus said, *“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you (John 14:26).*

*When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father--He will testify about me (John15:26).* And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard me discuss (Acts 1:4). ‘How to Get Engaged’ is the marrying of the Word and the Spirit in our individual lives. Anyone can gain practical knowledge from the Bible, but we are going deeper. Pass the surface pass the natural into the spiritual. The Holy Spirit reveals truths of the Word that the natural mind cannot.

We can’t focus solely on the realm of the spirit; without considering the owner, the Creator of it all. Jesus said, *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture (John 10:9).* We must keep Jesus as our entry way to the spirit realm.Jesus gives us our legal access as members of His Kingdom. Entering the spirit realm by any other means is aligning with the Thief. A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter and destroy. Jesus said, But I have come to *give you everything in abundance,**more than you expect*—life in its fullness until you overflow!(*John 10:10).* The spirit realm consists of both Kingdom of God and kingdom of darkness. Jesus came to destroy the works of darkness and redeemed us from the curse. When I refer to engaging in the spirit realm here I am referring to the realm of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God gave Believers the authority and the power to cast out devils. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being my priest. (Hosea 4:6a). Some have been lulled to sleep concerning the spirit realm and the reality of spiritual wickedness in high places as described in the Word of God. It’s time for the sleepers to awake to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Awake to the truth of the living Word. Awake to the reality that God has more for you.

**How to Get Engaged: Foundation**

Through sin (Adam) humankind were separated from God. God would not violate His own Word. The wages or penalty for sin is death. Only a pure undefiled blood sacrifice was required to redeem, buy back and purchase our redemption. God is God and he has rules, laws, and ways of doing things. So God prepared Himself a Body to come and redeem us back to Himself. Jesus’ mother Mary carried the seed of the Spirit of God and birthed it out—the Messiah, Immanuel, Jesus Christ. There are mysteries of God we cannot understand with the natural man; your natural mind cannot receive the things of the Spirit. Scripture tells us that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.

Jesus Christ proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God and eyewitness testimony of the reality of God. Jesus Christ was both fully God and became fully man to pay the cost for our redemption. Jesus is God incarnate, Immanuel-God with us. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has always existed and has always been the Son of God (John 8:58 and 10:30). God pronounced that the penalty of sin is spiritual death and separation from God in a place of judgment called hell. For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:23). In the old covenant Leviticus chapter 20 lists the death penalties but look at the mercy and love of God. He gave us a new and better covenant of love through grace.

We now live under the new covenant of Jesus Christ. God graced us with Himself. He redeemed us back to Him. God is my King and Shining rescuer. He rescued our souls from eternal damnation and separation. Because of Love Jesus paid the death penalty through his death, burial and resurrection. We are now saved by grace through faith and have the indwelling Holy Spirit to empower us to live a victorious life. Thank you Jesus…..Get excited as you think about the love of God.

We must shift our minds to the Spiritual realm to understand the revelation of God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus endured the death of the cross as our substitute, was buried in the grave and rose to life again; Jesus from spiritual to natural to spiritual reality. Jesus lives, He’s alive, and lives within us in the person of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Christ. We are made in his image in the image and likeness of God. We existed in the spirit realm in the mind of God before he placed us in our mother’s womb.

We were birthed out as the Spirit breathed life into us. We will live our lives and then return back to God. Where we spend eternity depends on the choice that we make. When we choose Jesus we choose eternity with God. When we choose God we choose eternal life with Christ Jesus. We come from God, we are created by God, God calls us His own, we are to live our lives in continual connection to God. How? Through the inner working of the Holy Spirit.

You must be Born Again. Nicodemus had a coaching call so to speak with Jesus. “Now there was a prominent religious leader among the Jews named Nicodemus,who was part of the sect called the Pharisees. One night he discreetly came to Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one performs the miracle signs that you do, unless God’s *power* is with him.” Jesus answered, “Nicodemus, listen to this eternal truth: Before a person can even perceive God’s Kingdom, they must first experience a rebirth.” Nicodemus said, “Rebirth? How can a gray-headed man be reborn? It’s impossible for anyone to go back into the womb a second time and be reborn!” Jesus answered, “I speak an eternal truth: Unless you are born of waterand the Spirit, you will never enter God’s kingdom.

For the natural realm only gives birth to things that are natural, but the spiritual realm gives birth to supernatural life!“You shouldn’t be amazed by my statement, ‘You all must be born from above!’For the Spirit-Wind blows as it chooses. You can hear its sound,but you don’t know where it came from or where it’s going. So it is the same with those who are Spirit-born!”Nicodemus replied, “I don’t understand; what do you mean? How does this happen?”Jesus answered, “Nicodemus, aren’t you the respected teacher in Israel, and yet you don’t understand this revelation? I speak eternal truths about things I know, things I’ve seen and experienced—and still you don’t accept what I reveal. If you’re unable to believe what I’ve told you about the natural realm, what will you do when I begin to unveil the heavenly realm? No one has risen into the heavenly realm except the Son of Man who also exists in heaven. (John chapter 3:1-13 TPT).

Are you ‘Born Again’? If you openly declare (say) that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:9-10, 13). God saves you by his grace when you believe, it is a gift from God. ***If you want to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior say this and mean it will your heart: “Jesus come into my heart. I repent of my sin. I believe you died on the cross was buried and rose from the dead. I make you Lord of my life. Thank you for forgiving me thank you for Saving me.***

About those gifts: “Father I ask you now to baptize me with your Holy Spirit. In Jesus name I receive it by faith. Amen”. So now you can rejoice in your wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God (Romans 5:11). We ask in faith, believing that we receive it. Father, thank you that I am Spirit filled. The promise of receiving the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) with the evidence of speaking in tongues is for the entire Body of Christ.

God desires for you to have this gift and has made it available to you. The Holy Spirit will empower you to Go Walk the Talk of the Kingdom and live a life of intimate engagement. The Holy Spirit within you is the solution, the answer to your daily living, needs, wants, desires, direction, guidance, fulfillment, satisfaction, encouragement, comfort, healing, victory, deliverance, abundance and eternity.

The Holy Spirit is your answer to How to Get Engaged. Now as you open your mouth and speak, begin to praise God, worship Him; start speaking, don’t focus on how you sound, it’s a conversation, an exchange between you and the Spirit of Christ/Holy Spirit. Continue to remind yourself that you have the Holy Spirit in you. Say “I have the Holy Spirit in me and I have power” Acts 1:8. When you are saved you receive the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will convict you of sin, convince you that you are righteous and the Holy Spirit will dwell in you (John 6:44, John 14:17, Romans 8:9 and 1 Cor. 12:13). You can’t get saved without the work of the Holy Spirit. So now, it’s your time to embrace.

This is an exhortation to live your life in the Spirit. To develop a deeper more personal and intimate relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Being born again means that you will spend eternity with God, you have been forgiven for sin, and that you have been given access to the same power that created the universe. The Holy Spirit wants to lead you and guide you into God’s perfect plan and assignment for your life. Let Him do his supernatural work in you. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He will not kick the door in and force himself on you. You must invite Him into every area of your life.

Will you pause and make a determined decision to welcome the Holy Spirit into your life? He’s waiting, will you let him in? The Holy Spirit is your intercessor, your teacher, your comforter. There is power inside of you; but you need to unlock and unleash it. How can you unleash the Spirit? The Holy Spirit is a person. You unleash and unlock him in your life through invitation; welcome him to fellowship and commune with you. You welcome Him in to help you understand the Bible and life. Develop a deep friendship and strong relationship by connecting with God and living in the reality of the Spirit. Come into agreement with the Word.

Surrender your life to the Holy Spirit and give God complete and total control. Yield your will to the Father’s will. Allow the Holy Spirit to operate in every area of your life. The Holy Spirit has a way of doing things, just like we have a way we like to do things and have a personality. The Holy Spirit is a Person with a personality. Jesus told us that the Father would send the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us that we would do greater works. Jesus told us that there was more he had to tell us. How? Through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. Scripture says greater is He that is within me than he that is within the world. You overcome the devil and evil forces by the Greater One, the Holy Spirit’s power. Dedicate Yourself: Do You ‘Really’ Want to Get Engaged? Give God Your Total Yes.

Ask! How much more your Heavenly Father will give the Spirit to those who ask Him. Say Father, I ask you now to baptize me with your Holy Spirit and to speak with other tongues. I receive it by faith. Amen. We ask in faith believing that we receive it. In matters of great importance—Repetition is necessary when you care deeply about the outcome. We live by faith in God not by what we see and not by what we feel. We walk, live, move, plan, and decide by faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Take God at his word with a simple child like faith. The Scripture, Bible says that whatever is not of faith is sin.

Concerning Tongues: He that speaks in another tongue edifies himself or builds himself up. Jude 1:20 says But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8. The promise of receiving the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is for the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit in you is the solution, the answer to getting to know God.

How to Get Engaged: Get to know God in your daily living. Get to know God in your needs, wants, and desires. It’s not about doing everything right. I used to think that I had to strive for perfection to work really hard to get it right. This is not true. The best thing that happened to me is receiving grace. Grace is a powerful tool in the hands of God’s people. We have all these spiritual gifts, blessings and promises from God but we have to receive them. The Holy Spirit is the solution that you need. Do not allow the enemy, false teaching, lack of knowledge to steal this precious gift from you; it belongs to you. Do not allow well meaning believers to persuade you against the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Let me encourage you, as you get to know God allow yourself to feel. It’s okay to be free to express yourself in the presence of God. There’s a place in engagement where you can be your vulnerable self. Invite the Holy Spirit in to your emotions, your frustration, irritation, anger, resentment, whatever the emotion is----open yourself up. Cry. Don’t suppress you. Love is everything. When you lose people that you loved it’s okay to feel sadness, sorrow, hurt. Love again, hope again, allow the Word to wash you.

As you spend time with Jesus—share your heart. Allow Him to love on you and build you up. Then get up and walk away renewed. You can go to Jesus. Allow yourself to love people. Love in spite of everything. Love everyone. Engaging in the Word is like establishing the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Forever friends who share everything. The Holy Spirit wants to lead you into ‘More’ but you must honor God’s Word. You know God. He is with you, has always been with you, when you take your last breath on this side of eternity—God will be with you. Become more aware of His presence.

**The Presence of God**

We live in the presence of God, but are you aware of His constant presence in your life. The Samaritan woman at the well had no idea that she would have a personal encounter with Jesus that day. Jesus said to her, “Believe Me woman that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You *Samaritans* worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks *to be* His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:21-24). God is omnipresent-everywhere and his presence is already with you.

Getting to know God is an open invitation to the entire world. God actually desires to reveal more of Himself to us. Maintain a hunger mixed with an awareness of His love and availability. As we engage in the Word and spend time meditating on it, we enter into God’s manifest presence. It is in this space that we rest. We choose to rest at the feet of Jesus and to be filled with the comfort and revelation of the Word that the Holy Spirit brings. You can have a blessed assurance when you remain aware of and honor the presence of the Lord.

You no longer have to strive when you are in the Presence of God. God enjoys our praises unto Him and He will dwell there with us. Seeking the Kingdom of God first comes by maintaining our awareness of His presence. “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you” (Psalm 139:1-18). This is a beautiful psalm about the presence of the Lord with us.

We were created to worship God. In his presence there is a fullness, complete satisfaction, total surrender, calm, and knowing. Getting to know God is a process that is unveiled in His presence.

Yield yourself and minister unto the Lord. Live your life to please God. Not by your righteous deeds, or works, or stuff but by spending your time in the Holy Spirit, worshiping God. We can only minister unto the Lord in Spirit. Minister, to the Lord, this is where instruction, purpose, direction and fulfillment comes. It’s like taking a vacation in the Spirit. Do this often. Spend your life in constant and close commune with God.

Practice being in His Presence until it becomes automatic, where you enter as you desire. Jesus wants intimacy, time alone with all of us. We minister to the Lord as we give Him first place in our lives. He comes first-no matter what. He is worthy of our adoration and devotion. It’s about our heart toward God. We don’t want to just do things, ask the Holy Spirit: what’s on the agenda for today. Lord, I’m ready when you are.

There is a place in God that develops when you are aware and connect spiritually to God. Your desire is for Him, not things. You will know when you get there because you may find yourself crying but not sad, just a bit overwhelmed in a good way with His presence. Have you ever been in love and cried, not because you were sad, but cried because you love the person so much. This is what I’m describing. There’s intensity to God’s love. You feel it in the Spirit. There’s more.

God wants our heart He wants us to love Him, to wait for His command, and to receive Holy Spirit revelation. To honor and appreciate His input. Come back to Him. How can you tell when you are far from God? When you can sin, repeatedly and don’t care that God is present. Have no repentance (a mind to change and stop); you are far from God. When you are close to Him, you will feel it when you get off track. The Holy Spirit will let you know---all you want to do is be a lover of God and please Him.

When you are engaged it troubles your heart to displease God. Get back to your first love. Your first true love. The love you once knew when you were with God. Do you know how well the Father knows you, has always known you, knows all about us. Please find your way back to the Spiritual through the right path, the right door, the right gate—Jesus is the way, the path, the light, the door.

Be in the moment with God, God is present—are you. Give yourself fully to loving God. Falling in love and longing for Him. When you are engaged in the presence of God—everything is dull in comparison to the love that you feel emanating from the Father’s heart to you. He cares about you. You matter to God.

**Atmosphere of Worship**

# You may think of the atmosphere as the outer surroundings. Here’s one definition of atmosphere “the air that you breathe in a place” (dictionary.cambridge.org). The atmosphere is the surrounding environment or influence or the feeling of a place (vocabulary.com). Create an atmosphere of worship as we minister unto God. Worship is described as an act of reverence. Reverence is a feeling of deep respect, love, awe and esteem (Strong’s Concordance). Esteem is to hold in high regard; to admire and respect; to cherish, value, appreciate and consider (Oxford language online). I am referring to Worship in the Spirit.

# Jesus comes to the well, and starts talking to the Samaritan woman. The Samaritan woman comes to the well not knowing that she was spiritually dehydrated and thirsty. Worship is coming to the spiritual well that never runs dry and drinking of the living waters (John 4). A lot comes to mind when I think about atmosphere. It’s more than the sounds, the lighting, and the décor. The worship music sets the inviting tone. But it’s more to Worship than that.

# It’s an ‘all-in’ combination but the inner realization of ‘Jesus’, the Spirit of Christ in us, ushers us into true worship, where we worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth. I like to think of Worship as our heart posture toward God as we minister to Him. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them (Acts 13:2 KJV). While they were worshiping as priests before the Lord in prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “I have called Barnabas and Saul to do an important work for me. Now, release themto go and fulfill it.”(Acts 13:2TPT)

# As you prepare to engage create an atmosphere of worship unto God. Put on soft instrumental worship music or soaking worship of your choice. You could create a library of Worship songs that minister to you. If this is new to you, dive in and do your research. Research Worship music and Journal your findings. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit into your time of worship. Sing unto the Lord a new song, a song from your heart, a sound, or your heartfelt adoration, or silence in His presence.

# Praise and Worship are forms of prayer. God inhabits the praises of his people; it’s where He dwells and where we linger. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name (Psalm 100:4 KJV). Creating an atmosphere of worship is about you reflecting on who God is. It is about you ministering, loving on, Him. It’s your turn to minister unto the Lord, it’s your turn to give to Him the glory that he deserves. God always gives to us, we need to create spaces where we are giving to him, singing to him, bragging about him, lifting him up in worship and giving him all of us. It’s about honoring God.

# Atmosphere of worship is our heart position toward God. You can pass through his open gates with the password of praise. Come right into his presence with thanksgiving. Come bring your thank offering to him and affectionately bless his beautiful name! (Psalm 100:4 TPT). Worship is the inner reality or recognition of the love of Jesus Christ. Worship will lead you to engagement.

# It takes faith to get engaged. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your understanding but acknowledge him in all your ways and he, God, the Holy Spirit, will direct you (Prov.3:5,6 paraphrased).

# Your life mission with the Word is to have personal encounters with Jesus. Engage yourself; invite and ask the Holy Spirit to give you what to read. Read the Scripture slowly; looking closer at each word. Look at it in different Translations or Paraphrase. Take time to pause and really think about what you are reading in context. Try to picture it in your mind. Spend time in praise, worship, and adoration to God with thanksgiving. You are in the presence of God with a childlike faith that as you talk to God-He will listen-and talk back to you.

# He loves you! Jesus loves you! Take a couple deep breaths, breathe in and slowly breathe out. You are relaxing and calming your thoughts. Your heart is open to receive from the Holy Spirit. As you proceed shift the focus off of you and onto Jesus. Remember, you are accepted and approved you are not condemned. You were created to have an intimate relationship with God. You can do this with a short period of time like 10 or 20 minutes or for some hours, as long as you like and as often as you like. Disclaimer: you will experience such delight, pure joy, inner healing and peace that you will want to stay ‘in this atmosphere’. Our life can be an atmosphere of worship to the Lord.

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As we journey into engagement make a habit of meditating on the Word. Always pause and invite the Holy Spirit to give you a guided tour. Ask, what scripture should I read? You should have your ‘How to Get Engaged Journal’ and pen ready. Read and meditate on what the Holy Spirit gives you. After pondering the Word, now ask the Lord, “Is there anything You want to say to me about this verse or passage of Scripture?” Or is there anything you want to show me? Note the scripture/verse and write it down in your Journal.

Make a note of any thoughts or impressions that you have. I have found that at times the Holy Spirit will give pieces of information and not necessarily the entire picture. When this happens, I consider it as an invitation for more engagement. If you think you receive something that’s for another person, it’s important that you ask God what you should do with it. It may be for you to pray and intercede for the person. If it is for you personally, “Receive it, decree it and release it over your life in the name of Jesus”. As we progress keep your focus pure and centered on what God wants to reveal to you personally. Keep in mind that God desires to engage with you.

Note: If you ever receive a word, dream, vision, or encounter and you know that it violates God’s Word, or does not represent the heart of God, nor the nature of God, nor the character of God----Reject it immediately in the name of Jesus. God is not the father or author of confusion so He would never speak or act contrary to His word, nature or character.

As we look into how to get engaged, my only request is that you pay close attention to our tour guide and remain constantly aware of his presence and guidance”. Our tour guide throughout the scripture engagement process is the Holy Spirit. We will follow his lead as he guides us. This is an adventure, the journey of a lifetime, a process, have fun, relax and enjoy. The key is you. You are the key, you must increase your awareness of His presence. The Holy Spirit is present but it is our responsibility to honor and acknowledge him. It is okay for you to talk to the Holy Spirit. Actually, it is what friends do. Friends enjoy spending time together and talking with one another.

God speaks to us through his Word but there is also an inner dialogue that develops among friends. Make it a practice of spending time with God. We have learned to pray and confess the word over our lives, needs, wants and this is a blessing. But there is also a great blessing in silence in his wonderful presence. Silence in the presence of God, thinking on him, his great love for us, just sitting quietly admiring and appreciating. There are precious times where you brag on him, and remember his goodness, all the times he came through and who He is.

There have been challenging and difficult seasons in my life where I would ask, God where were you doing that time. And he replies, “when you were sitting in the hospital room crying over your mother, feeling hopeless, helpless and all alone……..I was there hugging you”. And you remember although it was many many years ago, you remember. It is this sweet inner voice, this knowing---it is God, it is the still small voice of reassurance. It’s the voice within the voice of God speaking in its many forms. Our worship is an expression of the inner reality of knowing Jesus in a personal way. The voice of God seems louder during worship. All other voices are drowned out and nothing in comparison to the voice of love.

Do not allow well-meaning people to persuade you against the works and ministry of the Holy Spirit or Baptism of the Holy Spirit or the gifts of the Spirit. Well meaning people may be limited to the knowledge they have received thus far or by their limited experience. This is why it is critical, vitally important that you study God’s Word for yourself. The Holy Spirit is your teacher and leader. He may lead you to other teachers whom he has equipped to train you. Also do not allow denominational limitations hinder your spiritual growth and development.

I remember a time when I was hungry and searching for something that I did not have the vocabulary to describe adequately. There was a deep longing and yearning, but I didn’t know what it was. The Holy Spirit would lead me or allow me to come across whatever information I needed. I would be going about my day and the Holy Spirit would say, look at such and such right now. I would look and voila! There would be the answer to the thing I was searching for, needing, and didn’t even understand how to articulate or where to begin to search. The Holy Spirit is dear to my heart; He is my closest friend and constant companion.

Allow God to pour out his Spirit on you and flood you with his overwhelming love. You have to want to know God and desire His presence in your life. Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life—every area or your house, living/dining/den/family room, the basement, attic, all the closets, bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen, nook, crawl space, every space. When I say your house, I mean you, your mind/thoughts, your life as well as your physical temple and dwelling. Invite Him into your most intimate or secret areas. Do you barely crack the door open just enough for you to peep out. Or, do you really Want Him.

Long for his presence, for time with Him to just sit and talk, and cry, and laugh, and plan and immerse yourself in His amazing peace. To be in the midst of a raging battle, where fiery darts are shooting at you from the most personal directions. But you sit there smiling and think, hey “I’m good” as you smile and reflect on the presence of the Holy Spirit. You know God is with you and will forewarn you, cover you, prepare you, give you courage even when you are afraid and your knees are trembling, hold your hand if you’re feeling wobbly. Stand Up in you and give you Holy Ghost boldness. A type of boldness where you are not timid and shy but strong-bold-and courageous-unrelenting.

### Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me,is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10). Know your true identity in God. Do you feel your hope arising.

### There is a disconnect when we are not engaged and aware on a spiritual level. When we become aware of His continual presence then we can fully embrace Him. Sometimes there may be things that block, hinder, or limit our awareness such as previous misleading teachings. Refuse to allow limited mindset teaching to cause you to lose out on the BEST thing there is both now and throughout eternity. This includes the operations of the five fold ministry graces and the gifts of the Spirit.

### John 14: I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life-. Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4And you know the way to where I am going.” 5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

### 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

### 11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. 12“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask meanything in my name, I will do it. Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit-15“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

### 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever 17even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will bein you (John 14). We must maintain this as a Kingdom of God focus and awareness. We are welcomed to come to the place Jesus has prepared for us. We can go there—by way of the Spirit. Do you know that Jesus is closer to you than the air you inhale and exhale. Let the Spirit of truth reveal the Father’s heart to you.

Here’s the thing about awareness, you can have a multi-million dollar idea inside of you but you are unaware of it. It’s right there in you. But you don’t think so because you don’t feel like there’s a multi-million dollar idea inside of you. No one has ever told you that there is a multi-million dollar idea in you. Oh yes, you know God is able. You can see what God did for Daniel in the Lion’s den, the Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace, Saul on the road to Damascus, Sister Suzy Q and Brother Bob----but you see yourself in the category of a spectator on the outside of the Kingdom.

The person holding the book and reading about other people’s victory story. You know there’s more-that something’s missing. It’s this feeling you just can’t shake. There is something more inside of me, you think. But what is it? The multi-million dollar idea is in you, but you only see lack. Lack of faith, lack of courage, lack of finance, lack of joy, lack of satisfaction, lack of peace, lack of healing, lack of ability, lack of strength. Here you are living in lack, while having a multi-million dollar idea inside of you, but you lack awareness. And since you lack awareness you also lack the benefits and the comforts.

You know God has more for you, you feel it. You are no longer content to remain a complacent spectator. Could this be the Holy Spirit nudging, stirring you, convicting and prompting you---saying to you---there is more. Could it be the Holy Spirit is calling you? Come out! Come out of hiding. Could the Holy Spirit be leading you into a new level in God? Is it possible that you need only be aware. Imagine---- if you were aware of the multi-million dollar idea within you. Just imagine all the people you could help.

Can you imagine the result of you becoming aware of and cashing in on the multi-million dollar idea. Well imagine the limitless power of God’s Spirit at work in your life; imagine how you could bring God glory with your life by being aware of and embracing the Holy Spirit in you. If only you were more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of wisdom, power, and might in you. The Spirit of Christ within you. Awareness is powerful our Awareness is necessary.

Think about this, imagine you are tired, hungry and thirsty but have no money to buy food. Then suddenly, you become aware that your favorite restaurant -only one minute away—they are giving out free food. Any and everything on the menu is free! Your hunger and your thirst will propel you to Go! Now that you are aware it’s Free! Go receive it. This is the Awareness I want you to have of the Holy Spirit in you.

I pray that you remain constantly aware of the presence of God- you are not alone- you have a guest- a most welcomed guest. This Guest has everything you will ever need. This Guest can offer you things that money cannot buy. He wants to share it all with you. He wants to lavish His love on you. He wants to spend time with you, quality time and quantity time. You are now Aware. Your awareness is a revelation that there is more. The price has been paid at the Cross of Christ---it’s free to you. Are you hungry? Receive, eat and drink. Your hunger and thirst will be marvelously satisfied. There is always More!

Prayer: Father, I believe that your word is true. Fill me to overflow, Holy Spirit rise up in me and come into every area. I invite you into every room and closet of my life in Jesus name. Thank you God.

In the Kingdom of God things are progressive, not stagnant. It is the baptism in the Holy Spirit that helps us live a holy life unto God and brings the revelation of Jesus Christ to us in a very real way. The Bible says we are to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). This is an invitation to a deep, rich personal encounter with God-to engagement. This is what gives different dimensions of spiritual understanding and what allows the spiritual gifts to flow (1 Cor. 12:9-13). We become most effective in advancing the Kingdom of God when we allow the Holy Spirit to operate in us. Our focus is on the inner working of the Spirit of God, our focus is eternity, our focus is Kingdom and our focus is now.

Our assignment is to obey God, to seek Jesus, focus our attention on Jesus. Yes, desire the gifts of the Spirit as we desire Jesus first. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift, as with gifts we should have a grateful heart full of thanksgiving. A grateful, thankful attitude that is willing to yield fully. Confess any sins in your life and live a righteous life with help from the Spirit. Get to know God.

It’s not about doing stuff it’s about a desire to know God so desperately that you are willing to invest your everything, your whole heart. We get to know God through engaging in His Word with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Getting to know God through engagement is more than learning the Bible, it is learning God’s nature, character, likes and dislikes. Learning his promises and plans.

Engagement will allow you to fall deeper in love with God. Fall deeper in love with the Bible. By ‘fall’ I mean a humble submission and total surrender. Get the Bible App on your children’s phone. Teach your children and grandchildren to read God’s love letter. Teach them Bible stories and to talk to God. Teach them how much Jesus loves them.

“Hear O’Israel: The LORD God our God is one LORD: And you shall love the LORD thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shalt talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lay down and when you rise up” (Deut 6:4-7).

When the religious leaders questioned Jesus about the greatest commandment here is how Jesus answered their question. **29**Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31**The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31). No area of our lives is off limits. We yield totally, in our conversation, thinking, speaking, doing, decision making….yield completely to Jesus.

#### Why is it important to get engaged in the Bible, to get rooted and grounded in the truth of the Word? All Scripture is inspired by God-breathed out by God. There are many different writers of the Bible as we see in the 66 Books of the Bible. However, there is One Author-The Holy Spirit. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim 3:16-17).

#### Here’s what The Passion Translation says, 16God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, for it is God-breathed.It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. 17Then you will be God’s servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you. (Note: TPT Footnotes [3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%203%3A16-17&version=TPT#en-TPT-11161)  The Word of God is inspired. Scripture is not simply a book that tells about God, it actually contains God. His breath is embedded in his Word.) Hebrews 4:12 KJV says For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Ruach-Elohim**

Last year 2020, I kept hearing ‘pneuma’. I thought I understood that ‘pneuma’ involved the respiratory system, pertaining to the lungs and breathing or gas exchange; I thought it involved Covid 19. For example, infection in the lungs might be called pneumonia. I asked Holy Spirit was this related to Covid and He said, “No, it’s related to me—pneuma”. I looked up pneuma and discovered ‘ruach’-which I also heard but did not understand. The Hebrew ruach means ‘wind’, ‘breath’, or Spirit. The Greek word is pneuma. Ruach and Pneuma are commonly used in Scriptures referring to the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:2 “The Spirit of God-Ruach Elohim was hovering over the waters. Genesis 6:17 Ruach is breath of life. Genesis 8:1 ruach described “the wind” that God sent over the earth to recede the flood waters. Ruach aka pneuma is found approximately 400 times in the Old Testament. When ruach is used and not linked with God it can refer to our human spirit. Ruach can refer to breath or wind and is the source of life.

It is the ruach, the breath or wind of God in our bodies that keeps the oxygenated blood flowing. The oxygenated blood circulating/moving keeps us alive. When there is no ruach, no pneuma moving in our blood stream---we die. It takes breath, oxygen circulating in us to live. When the ruach, pneuma stops in our physical body—we die. Not only we humans but every living thing exists only because of the ruach- the pneuma of God.

God used the phrase Ruach Yahweh in His promise that the Messiah would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:2 and Isa 42:1). This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan River, John saw “the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him Matt. 3:16. (<https://www.gotquestions.org>).

This same concept relates to our spiritual lives. We need the Holy Spirit to keep us alive spiritually. God began to deal with me on a deeper level about the realm of the spirit. Jesus was drawing me closer to Him. I had visions, dreams, and spiritual encounters that were not the same as what I had all of my life. There was a depth to them where it was ‘Jesus and me’; the encounters were undeniable, proof there was ‘more’.

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**School of the Spirit**

While teaching a Wednesday night bible study class on the topic: ‘the Kingdom of God’ I experienced a new encounter with the Holy Spirit. That night I came home and wanted to get into bed and spend time with God reflecting on what I experienced while teaching. It was like it happened out of the blue. I felt the Holy Spirit rise up in me as if ‘stand-up-announcing I’m here’. During the class I began to move in the prophetic. I noticed how people were looking at me. (Funny thing is I didn’t realize it at the time-it wasn’t until I got home). This was a new experience for me.

The class became excited-the Holy Spirit was on the move. People were eager and excited to participate. The atmosphere was charged. As people began to raise their hands to comment and ask questions-I knew their questions before they asked. It was as if the Holy Spirit was excited to engage and answer their questions and comments. The Holy Spirit was giving me revelation into things I did not know; words of wisdom and words of knowledge. It was a powerful and exciting experience. I also began to discern which spirits were challenging or resisting me (notice I said which spirits—not which of God’s precious people). The spirit of prophecy was in operation.

When I got home that night, apparently God wanted to continue the process. I felt his presence as if Jesus was sitting there in the bed with me. I began to talk to the Lord about it and the tongues flowed. The Holy Spirit led me to lay flat on my back on the floor at the foot of my bed. I did. Then Jesus poured water over me-clear water poured from above me. The water was like a steady stream pouring down on me. The stream of water ran all over me from my head and flowed over my entire body from head to toe. It flowed like there was no end to it. Then Jesus said open your mouth. I opened my mouth and the water gushed down my throat and I swallowed it with ease; as if it was perfectly natural to lay flat and swallow streams of water. After the water came the oil. Jesus poured the oil and it also went down my throat, flowed over my body down to my feet. Jesus gave me a name and put it on my forehead then down my body. I began to cry or pray out loud in the spirit. I thought I was describing what had just happened to me, when my adult son came running into my room and saw me laying at the foot of my bed. I thought I was telling him in English but I was speaking in tongues, when I started saying ‘Jesus’, he realized I was okay. I told him I’m fine—it’s Jesus! He left the room and I was there in an encounter with Jesus-trembling and feeling the love of God flowing in and out of me like I have never ever felt before. I do not know how long I was laying there. I do recall that I trembled all that night under the fire of God. I recall my family looking in on me and I guess they thought I was asleep but I was with Jesus. I was in the Spirit.

Another purpose of this Bible Engagement is “How to Get Set Free”. We all have a struggle within. No one has ‘arrived’ to the point of not needing God. We need God; not only to get set free but to remain free. About the struggle within, its life, it’s our humanity; it’s our natural man; it’s the fact that our willpower alone is simply not enough. My goal is to share a glimpse into the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit. To share with you my Jesus encounters that grew out of desperation- and my deep desire to know God, as a friend, as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

God wants to reveal more of Himself to you. He wants you to spend time—lingering in His presence. Not for stuff but just for the joy of spending time with love. God wants us to experience His supernatural power through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is to all of us but there are layers of revelation that we can only get through Holy Spirit engagement. God’s Word is living, alive, and God wants to speak directly to you. How does God take His Word, turn it into ‘rhema’ and speak specifically, individually to each of us as an individual in a moment, time, season, era? It is done through the Spirit—the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the Way. Jesus Christ is the revelation of who God is. God has expressed himself through Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of God (Genesis 1:1-2). In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Allow the Holy Spirit to move upon you. I feel the weight of glory on the word “moved”. When the Spirit of God moves, living things, things that are alive—move. Things that are dormant and dead begin to move. Living streams began to move through dry places.

The same Spirit-Ruach Elohim- wants to move with you and in you and through you and on you, and on your behalf. Your responsibility is to ‘agree’. Get in alignment with the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to move in your life. Just as God’s Spirit was active in creation; God’s Spirit wants to be active in your life—in every area, nook, crook and crevice of your life. I like to imagine moving with the Holy Spirit as a dance partner in perfect unison or riding a tandem bike (two person bike) where the riders peddle in unison---The Holy Spirit is the leader. Ready…set…Flow.

**“Flow”**

We Keep Our Focus on Jesus

As we gaze upon Him we eliminate the Distractions

Clarity & Calm. We are Intentional

To KNOW God-flow

Here comes our God Purpose

Our Assignment

Partnership, partner

Agree to agreement

How will we get there? In tandem

Bike it.....Team Up

In TANDEM- 2 person Bike

I'll ride back seat, Holy Spirit front

FLOW

**Teams and Community**

As you engage in Scripture, look at different translations and find one that really speaks to you, to your learning style. Some people feel as if the King James Version is the only version for them. I grew up on the King James Version so to speak so it is the translation that I am familiar with. However, I enjoy learning from the various translations. KJV allows to me see how the Word fits in with the cultural aspects of that day while TPT for example allows me to see the heart of the Father. The Message paraphrase is like talking with my neighbors and friends.

The Father likes the ‘Team Approach’. Throughout Scripture it appears that two are better than one. This actually speaks to the heart of this book ‘How to Get Engaged’. The statement: ‘No Man is an Island’ means No one is self-sufficient; everyone relies on others. This saying comes from a sermon by the seventeenth-century English author John [Donne](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/donne--john) (Dictionary.com).

Here’s what The Passion Translation says **14**And so the Living Expression became a manand lived among us! We gazed upon his glory, the glory of the One and Onlywho came from the Father overflowing with tender mercyand truth! **15**John announced the truth about him when he taught the people, “He’s the One! He’s the One I’ve been telling you would come after me, even though he ranks far above me, because he existed before I was even born.”**16**And from the overflow of his fullness we receivedgrace heaped upon more grace! (John 1 TPT). I enjoy The Passion Translation so much, for me it’s sort of like a love story, a biblical research paper, and a study Bible on steroids (all wrapped up into one) yet precise and straight to the point. I include this translation often because it’s just so good. Consider it a treat to those who never experienced TPT.

Why does the enemy work hard to destroy and stop healthy relationships? I believe it’s because God created a multiplied effect when you are united. For the Lone Rangers, who prefer to fly solo, I encourage you to pray and seek Jesus’ example of Community and Teams. A part of engagement in the realm of the Spirit from a Kingdom perspective involves getting to Know God through Scripture and following His example. Jesus was all about community. Have some honest conversations with yourself. Think about it and examine your heart, what is it about being a lone ranger and flying solo that appeals to you? You may need to dig deeper than the surface. (Get ready to Journal)-Is it fear, past hurts, lack of trust, lack of confidence, feeling inadequate, insecurity? Ask God to reveal to you, what is the root.

Or is it the Big Ugly Elephant in the room---Pride? Reject the enemy’s lies and receive God’s perfect plan for your life through ‘Engagement’. Whatever your case may be, let’s take a moment of pure honesty and invite the Holy Spirit into this introspection reflection. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His plan for you and to help you to submit and say Yes! Pride is dangerous and pride goes before a fall, so trust God’s plan for your life and trust the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. Trust the process and enjoy the ride. You’re going to be okay. God has His angels on assignment behind the scenes of your life. God has assigned you to a team and has a community prepared just for you. Can you imagine, the Father thinking about you—and smiling.

Journal your thoughts and feelings. It’s okay! It’s all good. Allow yourself to ‘feel’, put a name to the emotions you feel. God loves you so much and he cares about your feelings and emotions. Speaking of partnership, let’s just give it all to Jesus. Everything! Let’s agree to agree to the example and instruction Jesus has given in His Word. We all need community; we need to be connected to others—it’s how our Creator wired us. Jesus not only loves you, He knows you. You are connected!

As we journey into getting to know God and getting to know what it is that He has placed in us to give to the team. What is your God contribution to the world, to the Team. What is the unique things that only you can add to the world. What is it that God has planted in you before you were formed in your mother? Our entire lives are purposed for and surrounded by community. Back to community, back to Team Jesus. God has a community group hug, waiting especially for you. Your destiny helpers will collide with you and you all will worship the Father together in Spirit and in truth.

Exodus 17 is an excellent example. **9**And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek (enemy): to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. **10**So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11**And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. ***12But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.***

**13**And Joshua discomfited (defeated) Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. **14**And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. **15**And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah Nissi. When you are an introvert, like me, it may be challenging to open yourself up and be a part of community but challenging or not it is necessary. It is not personal, it is necessary, for you to trust God with the plans for your life. Not only is it necessary for your assignment it is fulfilling and very rewarding. You will wave your banner high. You will wave your banner with joy. You will wave your personal banner of victory. In spite of the fierce attack, wave it high. Wave your bright glowing flowing light banner.

You need collaboration and team member mentality. This is a part of developing a Kingdom mindset. Look at life and experience life through a Kingdom of God perspective. The Holy Spirit has poured into others so they can pour into you and you can begin pouring as we advance the Kingdom of God here on earth, together.

**Community**

Yes, it does take a village. The Kingdom team approach is most effective as we advance as a community and maintain our culture. Our culture as a family, a worldwide community, the family of God here on the earth. The Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ in community, engaged in our culture—Jesus culture. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to the Community where He wants you to be. You have a Leader, a Helper, and a Comforter. He will Move! And when the Holy Spirit Moves, you will grow.

As you grow the community is strengthened, helped, armed, equipped, and grows. You can trust Him. And he (Jesus) called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits Mark 6:7. Luke 10:1 says, The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 32:30, “one man will chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight”.

Jesus used the prayer of agreement and maintained close connectedness to his team. There is a multiplied effect in being together before God, in unified agreement. Let’s take this one for the team: Psalm133 How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! **2**For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. **3**Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing even life everlasting.

Harmony doesn’t just happen, there needs to be agreement to harmonize. It’s all about unity. Have you ever experienced the shift that takes place during corporate worship where there is agreement and unity. “It was the corporate prayer of Acts 1:14 that produced the corporate power of Acts 2:42-47. Corporate prayer brings corporate power (Acts 4:14-31).

” Wherever two or more persons come together to pray in the name of Jesus, God is there in their midst. Mathew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Thus, God’s presence is provoked through prayer of agreement.

The prayer of agreement is a form of prayer frequently used by Jesus. Before Jesus was arrested, He invited Peter, James, and John to pray with Him. He was sorrowful and troubled about facing death on the cross. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”’ – (Matt. 26:36-38) (The Guadian-guardian.ng). I think the Holy Spirit likes it when we agree to engage with him.

God is all about Community and Teams. Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing. In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning (TPT). As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17 NIV).

On the journey to deeper engagement, remain teachable. Position yourself to honor what God is doing in others as he produces good fruit in you. Can you imagine how tedious it would be to build a house all alone; no one but you building. You procure all of the materials. You lay the foundation, you are the architect, carpenter, bricklayer, roofer, electrician, plumber, heating and cooling, you lay the drywall, you paint, you lay the carpet, decorate, clean, maintain……you Control. Invite the Holy Spirit in to your engagement thinking and relinquish control.

Join the team and do your part. You do not have to agree on every minute detail of the project as long as you agree on the essentials. God is in Control. Become a true team player, cheer for every member. If your thinking and conversation involves fault finding, accusation, intentionally focusing on the negative as a way to persuade through manipulation; and focusing exclusively on the outer man---it’s time to shift that thinking and come into alignment with the Father’s heart toward others. If your gripe or concern is coming from a genuine place---turn it into a prayer point and pray.

I want to encourage caution when speaking against God’s people and ministries. Set a watch over our mouths as we reflect on our heart and be completely honest, with ourselves. Could it be that there are some areas where you need inner healing? Could it be that you are rebelling against what God is doing in others? Could it be some areas where you need deliverance? Is it possible that you are not dealing with the jealousy, resentment, manipulation, unforgiveness and bitterness that you feel? Is it possible that you are the team member in need of correction?

Proverbs 18:21 tells us, Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life, and the talkative person will reap the consequences (TPT). We can use the power of our words to heal, to encourage, to build up, to bless, and to strength one another. To speak life and life more abundant. Let’s invite the Holy Spirit in to the tender and sensitive areas as well so that we can remain teachable while bearing good fruit. Come on, the Team needs you.

**You Must Know Your God!**

Getting to know God is a life process, it’s a Jesus journey into the ‘more’. Preparation for the journey requires your desire. The Kingdom process for getting to know God is engaging with the Holy Spirit throughout the journey ‘to more’. Getting to know God through Scripture engagement is not about doing stuff. It’s not a things to do list. It is not a task. It is not a onetime decision. It’s not the theme of the month or the goal for the year.

It is personal but you do want others to come along on the journey. Just understand that the process—is intimate. I’m having a challenge putting into words this journey into the process of getting to know God through supernatural experiences with Jesus. The foundation of this process in the infallible Word of God. Scripture is the authority. I can say this, getting to know God is a journey into freedom. The kind of freedom the Holy Spirit brings. Heaven on earth where all the limits are removed. It’s not a complicated or mysterious process. It’s as simple and reliable as the air you breathe. There is no separation. It’s about the Greater One and awareness that God has more for you.

Jesus said, **12**“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. **13**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. **14**He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. **15**All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’ (John 16: NLT). The name of the Lord is a strong tower, we must run to it. We know his name and we have the Helper to execute…..what’s in the name. We grow closer to God and get to know him as he reveals aspects of Himself through His names. Behind each name is a testimony and revelation. In Biblical times a person’s name was a reflection into their character, their nature.

**Names of God**

Elohim - God of Creation (Genesis 1)

Jehovah – God of redemption and revelation (Exodus 3:14)

Adonai – Master (Exodus 4:10, 13)

El Elyon – “the most high God” (Genesis 14:18)

El Olam – “the Everlasting God” (Genesis 21:33)

El Shaddai – “the Almighty God” (Genesis 17:1)

Jehovah Jireh – “the LORD will provide” (Genesis 22:14)

Jehovah Nissi – “the LORD our banner” (Exodus 17:8-15)

Jehovah Shalom – “the LORD our peace” (Judges 6:23-24)

Jehovah Sabbaoth – “the LORD of hosts” (I Samuel 1:3)

Jehovah Maccaddeshcem – “the LORD your sanctifier” (Exodus 31:13)

Jehovah Roi – “the LORD is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1)

Jehovah Tsidkenu – “the LORD our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6)

Jehovah Shamma – “the LORD is there” (Ezekiel 48:35)

Jehovah Elohim Israel – “the LORD God of Israel” (Judges 5:3)

Jehovah Rapha – “the LORD that heals you” (Exodus 15:26)

Qadash Israel – “the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 1:14)

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ embodies each of these names. Jehovah of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ of the New Testament (John 10:30; John 14:9). We can know the different names of God but engagement involves receiving the revelation that is in the name and then taking that and applying it to our lives, to our community, to all that is connected to us. The Holy Spirit is the revealer. For example, Jehovah Shamma- the LORD is there: This is from a prophetic vision the prophet Ezekiel had and describes what God told him in a vision about the coming restoration of the land, the city, and the temple. It included detailed plans and measurements for the restored city.

The final words of Ezekiel’s book are these: “And the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE [Jehovah Shammah]” (Ezekiel 48:35). Jehovah Shammah would have held special meaning for the Jewish exiles who felt forsaken in Babylon and abandoned. But in Ezekiel’s prophetic vision it represented hope for the people-THE LORD IS THERE! In the vision God takes Ezekiel to a high mountain to show him the restored city (Ezekiel 40:2; restoration). In the New Testament, John had a similar prophetic vision and said that an angel “carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:10). John says of the New Jerusalem, God is with men, and He will dwell with them. . . God Himself will be with them” (Revelation 21:3).

So there is much more revelation we can receive from the vision into the faithfulness of God from Old to New. There is hope, restoration, a future, the promise of the presence of God. Jehovah Shammah the Lord is There-Jesus the Spirit of Christ is here, he is a restorer, he gives us hope, we are not forsaken; he will give us prophetic vision, etc. Jehovah-Jireh-the LORD will provide is a testimony to God’s faithful provision. When Abraham was about to offer his son, Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God---God provided a ram in the bush for the sacrifice. The revelation from this testimony is too great for this book. However, when we invite the Holy Spirit in to this the truths and layers of revelation will continue to unfold to individuals as God pleases.

There is One true God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is Our God.

Jesus said “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

“I tell you the truth; Jesus answered before Abraham was born, I Am! (John 8:58).

Jesus IS God come in the flesh ‘My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Titus 2:13 Paul describes Jesus as “Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”.

Apostle Peter called Jesus, Our God and Savior (2 Peter 1:1).

Old Testament prophecies announce the deity of Christ.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6).

God is the only Savior.

Jesus-the God man came so that He could become the perfect mediator between heaven and earth.

No one comes to the Father except through me (John. 14:6)

Jesus Christ aka Jesus of Nazareth; the Christ, the Anointed One, or the Messiah of Israel

Immanuel-God within us

The Son of God

The Son of Man

Savior of the World

Yeshua meaning Yahweh (the Lord) is salvation

Get engaged-get to know God intimately as revealed in His Word.

**Confrontation**

No one wants to be confronted, well let’s say most people don’t enjoy confrontation. So Ahab (Jezebel’s husband) sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. **21**Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. **22**Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. **23**Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. **24**Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.” (1Kings18).

Elijah’s question was a confrontation. It is a question that must be answered individually. Are you deceived? Are you deceiving? The thing about answering questions is you want to consider the consequences to your answer. I want to ask the question this way: Are you going to follow God? Yes or No. You cannot bob and weave, you cannot waver between two opinions and get God results.

Allow me to clarify to some in love, Do you think you can sit in the house of God and pray for the destruction of His leaders and avoid confrontation? There is a way (rebellion) that seems right but the end are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12) or destruction. Your actions are not hidden from God. Please, think carefully about your hearts answer. Carefully reflect on your heart. If you choose to keep serving the enemy, dabbling in wickedness, demanding control, and wavering away from God-what will be your end result. You cannot waver between two Kingdoms. God will never be mocked! For what you plant will always be the very thing you harvest (Galatians 6:7 TPT). Do an honest assessment of yourself. Love will confront you when you are heading in a bad direction. Come on soldier, join the Lord’s team.

Jesus loves you and God has a purpose and a plan for your life, don’t discharge yourself from being a soldier in the army of the Lord. You are wanted, you are needed and you are accepted by God. Please don’t allow anyone or anything to hinder your destiny in Christ. God has an expected end for you and that is eternity with Him-don’t reject it. Let go of all of your preconceived thoughts, religious traditions of man, release and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

Have you ever heard the saying, ‘Let Go and Let God’! It’s real, let go and let Jesus fulfill your life, give you satisfaction, and the joy of His presence in your life. God loves you so much that he has given us all free will to choose. I pray that you Choose the God who answers by fire. Choose Jesus. Repent and give God your complete yes. Let go of unforgiveness, hurt, deep hurt, bitterness, betrayal, let go of it all. Let God wash you and anoint you with fresh oil. Let the Holy Spirit lead you to your true identity, who you really are in God. You are great in God.

It’s best that you deal with confrontation now rather than later. In Matthew Chapter Seven Jesus deals with true and false Prophets and true and false disciples. **15**“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **16**By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17**Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. **19**Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**20**Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. True and False Disciples: **21**“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22**Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23**Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ You cannot afford to waver between two opinions. Choose with your mouth and with your heart.

Close your eyes. Picture/Imagine that you are standing in front of God-the Creator. God tells you to look up. You look up and see Jesus on the cross looking directly in your eyes. Jesus looks at you through his big beautiful eyes of love and says, Father-forgive them. One drop of His precious Blood falls on you as you lock eyes with Jesus. You must know your God, join Team Jesus.

**Close the Door**

I believe that Deliverance is an area that needs to be highlighted in this hour. When the Holy Spirit led me to study spiritual warfare and deliverance, I had a very limited mindset of what this looks like. In seeking God, I believe this is where the Lord is raising up home centers where deliverance will be ministered. I believe that the churches will train up people in this area. Earlier when I talked about Jesus is our door to the realm of the spirit. Sometimes people open up evil doors that subject them to demonic influence and oppression. We must close every ungodly door and shut it tight.

Close doors that open up a Believer to demonic influence and oppression. Spiritual warfare and deliverance are parts of God’s Kingdom agenda of heaven on earth. Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom when he cast out devils. Jesus showed how to establish the Kingdom of God on earth: through the ministry of deliverance.

Ephesians 6 tells us that we wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places (demons, devils, evil forces, satan and his fallen kingdom). We have victory and power over the satanic kingdom but we have to use our power to cast them out just like Jesus taught us. Romans 8:19 says, The entire universe is standing on tiptoe,yearning to see the unveiling of God’s *glorious*sons and daughters! (Standing on tip toe, waiting, for the unveiling………..). Remaining silent about wickedness and demonic powers operating in the lives of true Believers and followers of Christ in not an option. Jesus is our door.

But there are ungodly doors that have been opened, knowing or unknowing intentional or not intentional that must be repented of and renounced, this is how we close the door. God is raising up His troops who have been trained for spiritual battle. God is raising up spiritual house keepers who understand that the house must be cleaned and furnished properly. The kingdom of darkness does not hide it’s evil schemes, oppressions and intentions. Jesus cast out demons and delivered those who were bound, openly. I believe this process of deeper engagement through the Holy Spirit begins with teaching. The Holy Spirit is the greatest Teacher of all times.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.God gave us this authority because he knew that we would need it.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (Romans 8:31, Proverbs 30:5, Luke 10:19, Ephesians 6:11, Psalm 3:3, Psalm 118:8, Proverbs 18:10). I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you don’t allow. Matthew 16:19 CEV ([Contemporary English Version](https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Contemporary-English-Version-CEV-Bible/)**(CEV).** Copyright © 1995 by [American Bible Society](http://www.americanbible.org/) For more information about CEV, visit [www.bibles.com](https://bibles.com/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=BGWYCEV11232021&utm_id=biblegateway) and [www.cev.bible.](https://cev.bible/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=BGWYCEV11232021&utm_id=biblegateway))

**Engaging the Kingdom**

“The **Kingdom of God** is the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king and the fulfillment on Earth of God’s will. The phrase occurs frequently in the New Testament, primarily used by Jesus Christ in the first three Gospels.” (Brittanica.com). Our priority is to put God first and seek the things of the Kingdom of God. In Luke 17:20-21 The Coming of the Kingdom-20Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” (NKJV).

Jesus was informing and giving revelation into the Kingdom of God. He was literally letting them know that the Kingdom of God was among them; and right within reach if we choose. The Kingdom of God is in our midst in the person and presence of Jesus. You may have thought about the Kingdom of God in relation to eternity. This is good and true but in addition to eternity God is concerned about you here on earth.

Prayer is an important component in our daily living. Jesus instructed us to pray. We are not to pray as a robot, mindlessly rambling memorized words. But instead to pray the deeper heartfelt truths of what we call the Lord’s Prayer or the Model Prayer; to invite the Holy Spirit in to lead us in prayer. The Holy Spirit will bring us into remembrance of the Word.

We pray the Word and have faith in God. Model Prayer: **5**“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **6**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. **7**And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do.* For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

**8**“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. **9**In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. **11**Give us this day our daily bread. **12**And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. **13**And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew Ch. 6).

When we receive Jesus Christ in our hearts and lives, we are translated into the Kingdom of God; Jesus Christ is the head of the church and we are citizens of his Kingdom. I would like to add that as we pray, and cultivate our prayer life let’s remain mindful of God’s Kingdom agenda. For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **17**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of rules about food and drink, but is in the realm of the Holy Spirit,filled with righteousness,peace, and joy.

**18**Serving the Anointed One by walking in these kingdom realities is what pleases God. We pray the Word of God in the secret place of the Spirit. Agenda-a list, plan, outline, or the like, of things to be done, matters to be acted or voted upon (Dictionary.com). As followers of Christ we must maintain our focus on Kingdom Agenda. Do not become distracted by the world’s agenda. Do not become distracted by the hidden agendas occurring in secret meetings, by ungodly alliances and plans.

As we seek the Kingdom, the Holy Spirit will give us strategy as He leads and guides us. I’m reminded of a game called Three Card Monte (or Molly) where the leader shifts 3 cards around while the players focus desperately on keeping track of one particular card. The player bends over and watches the game (of trickery and deceit) so closely that they are not aware that a person in the crowd is pick-pocketing them and another thief is breaking into their car. After a period of playing the game, and fearing loosing even more money, they finally realize that they have been tricked, robbed and defeated.

I believe that we are in a time of great deception. We need intense focus on the Holy Spirit so that we can navigate the deceitfulness of these hidden agendas. The Holy Spirit will allow us to look beyond the one particular card and have a deeper panoramic view. As we maintain Kingdom focus and agenda we appropriate the Blood of Jesus over our lives, family, churches, health, ministries, businesses, communities and the people and things connected to us.

It is a time of great prayer and intercession and pressing beyond the natural, beyond our natural eyes and ears and pressing into the spiritual realm as the Holy Spirit trains us for what is to come. How to get engaged involves walking in Kingdom realities. Many people are so focused on media and ‘the news’ that they have become oblivious to the reality of the Kingdom of God. We must stay rooted and grounded in our book of realities—the Bible. Three years ago, I kept hearing ‘Deceived and Deceiving’. At times it would be loud as if telling me to wake up.

During this time the Holy Spirit revealed some important hidden things in my personal life; there was an unfolding happening. As the storms settled I thought ‘Deceived and Deceiving’ was related to my personal deliverance. (Clapping hands and praising God for his faithfulness). However, after my personal situations settled I continued to hear ‘Deceived and Deceiving, Deceiving and being Deceived’. I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to help me understand this. I sensed an urgency to pray against plots, corruption and deception. Then I heard, ‘plagues are coming’. Plagues are coming was connected with deception.

I want to encourage you to hear and stay tuned in to the loudest voice of them all, through the clarity of the Word of God. Many voices will be saying many things but we must hear and tune in to the loudest voice of them all, God’s Word. The Holy Spirit wants to unveil and reveal things to the Body of Christ as advance preparation so that we are equipped to prevail. So that we won’t operate from a place of fear, doubt, hopelessness, discouragement. We will maintain a Kingdom focus and operate from a seek first the Kingdom of God agenda where the Holy Spirit will help us navigate in Kingdom realities.

How to get engaged is about inviting the Holy Spirit to take center stage of our lives. Get engaged, get to know God through your personal Holy Spirit led Scripture engagement. It’s about preparation to take cover, to go into safety mode, to come out of the gate-moving, prevailing, persevering, enduring, overcoming and advancing. Psalm 16:8-9 “I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure.”

Second Timothy 4: 17-18 “But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death. Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.” Holy Spirit led engagement will help us to discern and make appropriate decisions as we continue to advance the Kingdom of God, individually and collectively. We will need greater spiritual discernment. Pray for spiritual discernment. We have natural discernment but today (now and future years) we will have to rely more on spiritual discernment.

We cannot maintain a Kingdom mindset without the Word of God. In case you were wondering (with humor), here is my opinion: I think everyone should have a physical Bible. We have become accustomed to all the wonderful advantages of wireless connections, online, apps. Of course we should enjoy these things but I want to challenge myself and you all as well to think outside the box of predictability. I may be biased in this desire to see Bibles, hard copies, back in the hands of people. To see people carrying their id badges to Bible engagement training. To see people lifting up their swords declaring: this is my Bible, I can have what it says I can have, I can do what it says I can do, I am who it says that I am. We can leave a memory behind for future generations, an imprint engrained in the minds of the generations to come.

To leave behind, the greatest Book of all times. I remember a time when my childhood home was broken into. My mother cried and cried. I thought nothing in the house was really that valuable so what’s with all the tears? My mother sat me down and explained that the thief had taken her deceased father’s white Bible which was handed down to him from his father. My great grandfather was a preacher and that Bible represented something much more; it was a testimony. It had a different sort of value that money cannot purchase. Then I had a flashback of my grandfather reading that Bible to me, as a little girl.

Now I understand even more. Another reason that I may be biased in this is because of my personal encounters, over the years, where I would be desperately seeking God for guidance. Or in times where I literally felt like I needed and wanted to hold/hug the Bible. During times of need, the Holy Spirit would tell me to “turn to page # and read the last sentence “. There would be direct confirmation, revelation, preparation, solution, comfort and strategy. These are some of my cherished Bible times in the Spirit and I could joyfully go on endlessly.

**Missing Link**

Some Believers may be in a fog, state of sleep/sluggish, dull, disconnected, lacking spiritual awareness and insight. I encourage you to ‘get all in’ with Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants to lead and strengthen your confidence in Hearing the Father. When the Holy Spirit moves in your life it is a time of birthing, an acceptance, an embracing, and saying Yes. Yes to God’s plan. Yes No Matter What! The missing link to being engaged is your awareness of Scripture through the eyes of the Holy Spirit”. I assumed that followers of Christ knew the Holy Spirit. Then I was reminded of a time when I thought I knew but my knowledge was limited to serving God in a formal way void of the unleashed Holy Spirit. I was taken on a trip back down the memory lane of my life.

I was reminded of the time more than ten years ago when I was led to leave my church home, my comfort zone, my family in God, my community and go to a place where I did not know where to go but I knew it was God telling me. It was an inner voice, an inward knowing. I went through a process of being led by the Spirit that brought about confirmation that, this is the voice of God. I say with utmost respect that through religious teaching and practices I learned to rely on written Scripture and to leave room for the Holy Spirit.

I agree completely to rely on Scripture but more so to rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word of God, the plans and purposes of God, the gifts, and the things of the Spirit. If you rely on your own intellect of Scripture, you limit yourself to you or to man’s understanding and ability. I am extremely grateful for my learning. In fact words cannot describe how grateful I am. Also I want us to remain mindful that we are all on a learning curve in the Kingdom of God and to always remain teachable. Trust the leading of the Spirit. God has more for us. I have discovered that there are levels, and layers that the Holy Spirit unfolds in our lives as He desires. Our awareness and desire are the key.

When I refer to my learning, I am referring to when I became serious about God. I became serious about God as I sat under the anointed preaching and teaching of a great man of God. My former, previous Pastor for many years is truly a man after God’s heart that Pastored in word and in deed. I’m talking about a kind of leader, who was coming after the one. I remember when I was the one. He ‘produced’ leaders. Now, I understand that he definitely carries an apostolic grace.

During the most difficult season of my life when I lost my mother in 2002, I was sure I couldn’t survive it. I curled up in a ball and begged God, to take me. The pain was too much; I thought I couldn’t bear it. At that time my life’s goal was to get the kids to school so that I could scream and cry and yell at God to take me, until it was time to pick them up from school. All of a sudden I would hear heavy knocking on the door. I ignored the knocking, then I would hear Pastor’s voice, I had already ignored the phone calls. I thought who just shows up at your house and continues to knock on the door? (like Jesus). He continued to knock and I ignored. Then I would hear a loud father’s type of voice: “Sister Rhonda get out here and shovel this snow and put some salt out and do not use the cheap salt, get such and such and such. I’ll be back”. (It was that father’s stern but loving voice---coming after the one).

I would think, who does he think he is- bossing me around like this. (I knew it was done out of love and concern; because of his track record of support, always being there lifting up the Word as the standard; feeding, serving and watching over the flock). I would pull myself up out of the bed, go to the hardware, buy the correct salt he recommended I get, and go shovel the snow. As I shoveled, I was blinded by my tears but I kept going. Glory to God, I kept going! And I am still going. This is only one of numerous examples of how he poured into my life through the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for Pastors.

And allow me to brag on my one and only Sunshine. She has transitioned to be with the Lord but she was truly a woman of God. Our First Lady, mother and founder was a gush of love. You could not remain the same around her. She carried an infectious love that touched everyone she came in contact with. I can think about her smile today, and start smiling. They were an awesome team for Jesus. Sometimes during service she would give me a wink and I knew that meant let’s meet up in the bathroom. It is hilarious because that is where she would lay hands on me and pray. I would not have to say a word she knew everything that was heavy on my heart. She prayed in the Spirit and in power. She was so prophetic, God’s secret agent on assignment. She spoke life over me.

I was once a dried up dead wilted flower, she washed and watered me in the love of Jesus. She operated in a deliverance grace and anointing. She was a sniper in the Spirit, God’s sharp shooter she called the enemy out and took him down, up and out in the name of Jesus. She prayed precise prophetic prayers. At this stage of my life I wonder was she operating in the office of a prophet. I do not know, I only know and can testify that she was a Jesus girl and my spiritual parent and friend. She liked that I called her my Sunshine. It was true; she carried a radiance, a brightness, a quiet strength, a force of love. I am grateful so thankful. “I am too blessed to be stressed”. “What comes from the heart, reaches the heart”. All the things my Sunshine told me I was all those years ago, today, I am. I greatly appreciate that foundation. But God wanted to reveal more to me and the potter strategically placed me.

When God chooses to train you Himself: Genesis 12:1. The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. Now my Pastor always said, “Just let the Lord lead you, He’s a mighty good leader” but I was not prepared for this. Let me talk a little bit about the adult toddler stage, temper tantrums and ‘But Why’ God? It’s easy to be brave when you are surrounded by people who love and accept you, family, comfort, routine, that group hug sort of feeling. But what do you do when you are called out of your comfort zone and you feel like God has pulled the rug from under your feet? Snatched your security blanky, ripped your confidence right off of you: “**Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding**. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:5,6.

When the Holy Spirit leads you----it will require your total dependence and reliance on God. He may not give you the big picture all at once. He may however, extend an invitation to you to get engaged with Him for the journey ahead. Holy Spirit may give you baby steps to train and develop your obedience to His voice. I have found that the voice of God may also be a knowing, an inner witness, an urging, a deep impression, a directing to a particular Bible verse.

The place God led me (I should say us) to, through a dream, was a beautiful union, a merging of the Word and The Spirit. Picture going from an orderly comfortable routine sound doctrinal service to what I can only describe as, another level. A level where it’s all about ‘Jesus’ and let’s see what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today, no formal or routine structure so to speak. No person left behind, even the children preached or taught the Word. Where church business meetings are called Family Meetings and issues are dealt with openly and in love and resolved in prayer. Where the Holy Spirit is invited to the meeting as the solution, the problem solver.

How God led me there is a whole other book in itself. How can I describe the process: ‘A Jesus Journey into the Realm of the Holy Spirit’. My Pastor here had a unique teaching style where she brought the Word of God to life, in you. I am amazed at how God uses His chosen vessels. (I sense another book here: Vessels of Honor). Let me say, I experienced Teaching in the Spirit. Well I’ll just say everything in the Spirit, teaching, preaching, living, testifying, singing, witnessing, eating, drinking…….Really—life in the Spirit. Her key ingredient was L.O.V.E. everything flowed from there. If I were forced to describe this great woman of God in one word it would be love. She’s currently living with the family of God—on the other side.

When she prayed, the atmosphere shifted like Jesus manifested Himself; not just at the church but within me. She prayed and it led me into new dimensions. She both held my hands and shoved me deeper. She was apostolic prophetic in nature but did not use titles. She just did the ‘work’. She considered it an honor and a privilege to be called a ‘Sister in the Kingdom of God’. What can I say, a true deep lover of God. “Let’s have sermonettes today” she would often say. No preparation or advance notice---just rely on the Holy Spirit within you and we did just that; there was demonstration and there was power and miraculous testimonies including personal miracles and testimonies for years. To God be all the Glory. She was a hidden gem, a royal jewel, a close friend of God. Through her teaching in the Spirit, I gained a deeper understanding---the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I do not have the words at this time to adequately describe this woman of faith and the impact she had on my life. I will forever cherish our long conversations. We could go on and on talking about Jesus. When I would miss church because I became lost in the work work work world of nursing. She would call me and fill me in on worship service and we never hung up until we prayed; she kept me and my family covered in prayer. She would call a few times a week or more and I knew that it could only be God because the things she would say to me, at just the right moment (rhema).

When the voice of the enemy was loud in my ear and the accuser was constantly in my face, trying to oppose and oppress me. The Holy Spirit used her voice in my ears. Oh believe me, she was led by the Spirit and she recognized something in me that I was too afraid to acknowledge. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. (Proverbs 4:7) Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgment. Wisdom is the most valuable commodity—so buy it! Revelation-knowledge is what you need—so invest in it! (TPT).

Why are some people and some churches sluggish, sort of sleeping or being lulled to sleep, stagnant not experiencing spiritual growth and divine revelation from God. While other people and churches are alive, vibrant, spiritually alert and producing good fruit in abundance? So what is missing, what is the missing link? We need wisdom from God and spiritual discernment. We know that God loves His family dearly, the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. We know that every person and local assembly is very precious and significant to God. We understand that individual people and individual churches have their own God purpose and assignment.

That just as different people have varying contributions it is the same with churches. There is a genuine uniqueness with the Body of Christ, individuals and ministries. We are all members of one body and each a valued member of the Kingdom of God. God is alive, living, and life-giving. This is in no way a judgment but rather a concerning personal observation and reflection. When God allows us to observe or when He peaks our attention I believe it’s for us to take action. Sometimes an observation is actually a call to action; a call to intercede in prayer.

As we glance back while moving forward let’s get the Team together (“Let every experience be a learning experience”). Every good and effective team has qualified leaders. God has qualified the fivefold ministry team to equip the Body, the team members. This call to action is to everyone. There are people sitting in pews and church seats who have gifts that are lying dormant, untapped, unused, and not acknowledged, not nurtured, not stirred. This is very sad because these gifts are to be used. I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit led me to a church that operates in the gifts, acknowledges, trains, encourages and nurtures them. Concerning the world wide warfare over the past two years, for me one of the most surprising aspects was the response of the Church over time.

In the beginning of the chaos—nothing and no one could stop many believers from assembling. I am amazed at the creativity the creative ways that churches of all sizes continued to gather for worship. Online, parking lots with bull horns, drive in movie theatres, and some endured persecution for meeting in person ‘social distancing’. People who would never call on the name of the Lord, called on Jesus. I see it is as one huge spark that ignited the flame of revival a Romans 8:28 deal. That was in the beginning.

As time went on many people became mesmerized by the “news”; minute by minute. I mean people could tell you word for word what this news station said, that media outlet said, Dr. F said this, Dr. A, B, C, D, E, f, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P said that. If you replied kindly but what did Dr. Jesus say, what does the Bible say? It was as if you had violently cursed them with profanity in different languages; spirit of offense. Some of the same people who were determined to let nothing stop them from public worship became disconnected and fearful. Some called spirit of fear-wisdom. There was truly a pandemic going on; a deadly ***spiritual*** virus.

Some months ago I received a revelation about these two different dynamics that were going on simultaneously. I am more concerned about what is happening right now and what is the plan for the future regarding God’s people and God’s churches/ministries. Wisdom would say look back over the response and let that be a learning experience toward moving forward and for today. As Believers our understanding and awareness of what’s going on behind the scene is critical; discernment. God bless all the Pastors, ministry leaders, and teams around the world who had to plan and navigate through it all. This is for the true church, the true Body, the true Bride, the true believers.

What is the missing link between the two dynamics. Concerning us as individuals---God’s Word is our answer. Concerning churches and ministries---God’s Word is our answer. We must engage with the Holy Spirit. You know how you start up a conversation with someone you are really interested in. You want to talk to them nonstop and spend time with them. This is how we must engage the Holy Ghost. **7**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Draw near to God and He will draw near to us (James 4).

I believe the Holy Spirit wants to turn our attention to the Five Fold ministry graces. God’s revealed word is the answer. **11**And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **13**Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: **14**That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Ephesians 4).

In an era of great deception (deceived and deceiving) I know that the Holy Spirit is the remedy, the answer. The missing link is God---the fullness of the Godhead. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is the missing link. There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given to believers by the same Spirit. **5**There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. **6**There are different ways the Spirit works. But the same God is working in all these ways and in all people.

**7**The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. **8**To some people the Spirit gives a message of wisdom. To others the same Spirit gives a message of knowledge. **9**To others the same Spirit gives faith. To others that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. **10**To others he gives the power to do miracles. To others he gives the ability to prophesy. To others he gives the ability to tell the spirits apart. To others he gives the ability to speak in different kinds of languages they had not known before. And to still others he gives the ability to explain what was said in those languages.

**11**All the gifts are produced by one and the same Spirit. He gives gifts to each person, just as he decides.**12**There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. **13**We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn’t matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. **14**So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts (First Corinthians chapter 12).

We are all personally accountable to the giver of the Gifts. It is our responsibility seek and to pursue what God has entrusted us with. We are the one who is responsible to steward, and nurture God’s precious gifts. The ministry of the Holy Spirit and all it encompasses is our Answer---moving forward. During times of distress, crises, suffering, ungodly agendas, and great deceptions—we need to rely on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give us the revelation that we need in the Word of God to know how to respond, how to plan, how to prepare. The Holy Spirit will give us creative insight, strategy and a battle plan.

As we engage in the Word through the Help of the Spirit, our discernment will be sharpened and we will be able to see clearly. God’s Word is a discerner. The Holy Spirit will aid us in prayer and make intercession for us. Our job is to engage Him. To honor Him. To make room for Him. To invite Him and give Him freedom. To give the Holy Spirit time, attention, and respect as we welcome Him. We want to train ourselves, our souls, train our minds to become sensitive to the Holy Spirit. The truth of the matter is we need the Holy Spirit to help us do this. It starts with our acceptance and awareness that we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us.

If you have a guest living in your home but you never speak to them, you don’t acknowledge their presence in your life, you go in your room and shut the door making it clear that the guest is not welcomed in. In refusing to accept them or acknowledge their presence, you limit fellowship, friendship with the guest. However, if you welcome the guest, greet them, spend time with them, get to know them, enjoy their presence, maintain awareness of them, honor and respect them as you invite them into every room. Then you will develop an intimate connection with them and a reliance on their presence. This is how we want to embrace the person of the Holy Spirit.

I believe there are areas of our lives where we have not experienced freedom because we have not invited the Holy Spirit into those areas. He is our Helper. Invite love in, then the Holy Spirit will show up. How do you get engaged with God? Getting engaged and engaging on a deeper level is intentional. It starts with your hunger and thirst for more. God is looking for your desire. God is always giving us these invitations to come spend time with Him so that he can give us more revelation of who he is. When you are so completely loved by a person, they want to share everything with you. They want you to know just how very special you are to them.

God wants us to know that we are his. His beloved. God’s special ones. The apple of his eye. God’s very own. We all desire, seek and long for something. Are you seeking, desiring, and longing for God? Longing for an intimate closeness with Him. Longing: Lord, I need more of you. Seeking the King. Seeking the King involves and includes seeking His Kingdom, Kingdom of God mindset, Kingdom of God agenda. Agreeing with the principles of the Kingdom. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says,

**33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (NIV). **33**But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides (AMPC). But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (KJV). In order to get engaged we must seek the King, the Sovereign Lord and his fullness.

First things first, throughout Matthew chapter six Jesus gives important instructions concerning matters of the heart in His Sermon on the Mount, like: Giving with pure motives, Prayer, Fasting, Treasures in Heaven-Kingdom treasures, and avoiding Worry. Holy Spirit directed engagement from a Kingdom of God approach is like imagining a Coach who blows the whistle and calls for a team huddle (I’m not a sportsy person so this may be a little off). During the huddle the Coach gives specific instructions. Refers the team to the plan book and the necessary moves.

Reminds players of the plan and focal points. Encourages the players individually and as a Team. Now the team players don’t just show up on the day of the big game. They prepared for practice and team meetings, they participated, they followed the Coaches directives, they came into agreement with the teams strategy plan and agenda.

The Kingdom principle of love is sort of like the usher when we start seeing people through God’s eyes of love. Seeing people who have hurt you, lied on you, tried to tarnish your name—through God’s big beautiful eyes of love will change your whole view of life. When you love and link yourself to the love of God, it’s easier to forgive. When you look at a person who has betrayed you and all you can think about is how God loved you so much and forgave you. And how His love lifted you and covered you helped you. It causes you to have a supernatural love for others. The love of God. Love is necessary. Love is the greatest deliverer. It will usher, direct, and lead you into Holy Spirit engagement. Love does not withhold the truth.

When we say we have love but will not share the truth of the Word. You can love and yet not co-sign dysfunction or disobedience to God. Do not laugh at sin. Love holds us accountable to the Word. Don’t love people to death, love them to life. Let’s hold one another up to the truth of Scripture. If your friend or family member is bragging about a lifestyle of sin- we have a responsibility to share the Word of God with them. Caution them, we can share how much Jesus loves and we can share the need to obey God and follow his instructions. Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments. The Holy Spirit will usher us into the truth and will empower us to follow God—with all our heart.

**The 5 Fold**

Let’s use our holy imagination. Imagine the fivefold (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) lined up and ready. Imagine God’s Kingdom army positioned and equipped when the spirit of fear invaded the land. Can you imagine the Kingdom of God on earth-already positioned when ‘fear’ came rushing in. God’s team on earth trained and ready. Team Jesus all geared up in alignment and prepared with strategy from Holy Spirit.

A battle plan already in place because of the operation of the five fold ministry graces. The troops have been identified, trained, equipped and training. Close your eyes and Imagine Believers being equipped and equipping. I thank God for His Kingdom Team who stood on the Word of God with their glistening swords drawn and lifted high---“We Will Not Back Down”, go into the abyss, shut down, draw back, retreat, or give up. Second Timothy 1: **5**I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. **6**This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. **7**For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (NLT).

What a beautiful picture. Imagine yourself on the team operating in your gifting and calling. Picture yourself in training, being equipped, and equipping. Imagine all the gifts fully operational in the world wide Church (When I say church here I am referring to the Followers and Believers of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior). Everyone in the Body operating in their gift. I love to see Pastors encourage people to pursue their spiritual gift from God. There is such a rich depth to the local church when this happens. The church is alive and vibrant. The Holy Spirit is invited and welcomed. This is so exciting.

Unfortunately, this is not happening in some of God’s churches. It takes the whole body. When you enter a church and it feels dead/dry/routine---no joy. This is a cause for alarm. It’s like God has a big flashing red light and loud alarms sounding but everyone is sitting there being entertained; doesn’t anyone see or hear the sirens? Some Pastors and congregations desperately need help. The solution is in God’s Word. God has already provided an answer for this---the fivefold. Jesus calls the five-fold. “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers” (Eph 4:11).

Jesus gave these gifts to bring unity and maturity. Jesus knew what we would need and he meets all of our needs. This is hard for me to see and to think about it. It’s like standing far off and watching on a screen while your favorite cousin’s house is being broken into, ravished, and destroyed. While this is going on the family is sound asleep. This is what is happening in many people’s lives and in local churches. This is alarming. When an alarm is going off---we need to respond. God is sounding the alarm! How will you respond? Let’s respond in a way that will bring glory to God and produce good fruit. Criticizing and blame will not produce good fruit. The necessary fruit is the fruit of the Spirit and the fruits the Holy Spirit gives.

Some months ago I had a vision of Code Blue’s (life threatening medical emergency) breaking out everywhere—it shook me. The Code Blue’s were not in hospitals—but in churches. The people who were responding were not apart of the Code Team and therefore completely not equiped. Rejecting the five fold ministry graces and the gifts of the Spirit is like watching Code Blue’s go off all over the place. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are the emergency response team.

Can you imagine the devastating result of refusing to let the life saving emergency response team in the room to conduct the Code. The result would be death. This is what some members of the Body are experiencing, a type of spiritual death or spiritual starvation. The ugly virus of religion—the kind that Jesus dealt with with the Pharisees and other religious sects. What causes God people and God churches and ministries to cease, to stop? The lack of adequate spiritual trauma care. It is one thing to not be aligned with apostles and prophets, it is much worse to reject or deny their existence. To reject or deny the existence of apostles and prophets today, one must be under a strong delusion.

Ephesians 4:**11**So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12**to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. I would like to challenge you today, to receive the Word of the Lord. To get engaged with Scripture for yourself. To become active and intentional about engaging in the Bible.

Invite the Holy Spirit in to help you. You may need to go through a reprogramming where you ask God to renew your mind with His Word. Maybe you have been taught things that simply are not true. You need to get to know God for yourself. And watch the breakthroughs and victory you experience as a result of agreeing with the Word of God and partnering with the Holy Spirit. Think about the words that you are speaking. Is it true to the Word? Speak the Word only.

Here’s what I mean: Let your speech reflect your faith, reflect what the Bible says. Stop saying things like: My arthritis, my bad heart, my pain….instead speak what God’s Word says about it. God has not given you sickness therefore it is not yours, it does not belong to you. Reject it and agree with the Word and Say what the Word says. This is why getting to know God through Holy Spirit led scripture engagement is so important. This is a beautiful process, a journey. Start today! You may not understand but you can still agree. Say, “I agree with what God says about me”. And keep Jesus as your foundation. The Father wants to reveal Himself to you, He wants to be your Lord, Savior, your friend and confidant. When you hunger and thirst for more of God. He will feed you and quench your thirst.

1 Corinthians 12: **4-11**God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. **27-31**You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your “part” mean anything. You’re familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his “body”: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues.

God has given these gifts to the Body so that we can advance the Kingdom of God. The gifts are not to be tabled, but exercised. The gifts are to be used to help the world. The gifts must be sharpened, refined, and taken outside of the 4 walls….we can demonstrate Christ with the gifts. We must each leave behind a spiritual legacy for the future generations to build upon. It’s personal. We must cultivate ourselves. Think of all the untapped power in the gifts—people have gifts that are dormant; they need to be awakened, stirred, activated and ignited---how? Through the 5 fold releasing the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. This brings activation and impartation.

We need more teaching and training on spiritual warfare and deliverance. Training is needed to equip us, training in the Spirit. There are layers the Holy Spirit will unveil to us when we yield. Layers of unfolding or putting off anything that does not reflect Jesus by Word, nature or character. Layers of building the things of the spirit; building spiritual dimensions; building your life upon the solid foundation of the Word. Building joy and freedom in the realm of the spirit of your mind. Building on the foundation of Jesus’ apostles and prophets through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Don’t Be Afraid: Engage**

While enrolled in the School of the Spirit, Jesus began to do a transformation in me. I would cling to the Word of God as my ‘source’ of information and strength. Until I went through a season where I could not recall Scripture that I had previously known and memorized Bible book, chapter, and verse. I knew it but Jesus was teaching me to rely on the Holy Spirit and not on my intellect or knowledge of Bible. It was a sort of deprogramming in order to train me to depend on and trust the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus began to teach me about ‘more’ through giving me revelation in Scripture that I had never heard or had never been taught. There is so much more and it is contained within the Word of God. God has more for you. You get access to it when you honor the Father’s will.

You know what you know but what if God wanted to reveal more to you about what you already know. There is so much more. Jesus began to teach me about the supernatural through Worship. Over a period of years he introduced me to worship music which was different for me because I was more accustomed to praise, clapping, shouting, dancing, all the outward stuff, etc. All of this is beautiful but God was showing me another layer of true worship, how prophetic worship music is needed in this time.

My life became worship to God. Things and people that hindered my connectedness to God were removed or distanced from my life. I didn’t plan it and at times it was challenging to watch how your life is rearranged, for the good. I said watch because I did not have to fight the many battles I only had to yield. The Lord came into my life and set up healthy boundaries. It was as if God had me hidden in a secret place abiding in His presence.

I learned to trust God (in the Spirit) when the natural made absolutely no sense. I had no frame of reference for these Holy Spirit journeys I experienced. The moment by moment daily Spirit dialogue is what I enjoy the most. The Holy Spirit allowed me to see and hear in rooms where people were plotting against me. I mean it was as if I was right there. Each time the revelation was confirmed by God. These experiences became prayer points to direct my intercession.

I have prayed and worked in the Spirit for people I have never seen or may never meet until eternity on the other side. It is a process of surrendering to the supernatural love of God for his people and to accepting that I do hear his voice and I know his voice. This is the more that the Father wants for everyone to have. A close and intimate connection with Him. It’s in this place that inner healing, deliverance, and building occurs.

These Holy Spirit experiences ignited a hunger for Jesus that is not easy to describe. Do you know that God wants to be your friend. The intensity of his love for us is so wonderful. In the past I always said, I know God loves me. But as he exposed me to another level in the realm of the Spirit, I know that his love is so engulfing that it is an overwhelming love. You can live in worship, clean your house in worship, sew in worship, cook in the Spirit, study the word in the Spirit and the best part of all—pray in the Spirit. I have created businesses in the Spirit all while worshipping God. I’m writing this book now but believe me it was a process for me to open up and share this. God placed me in a community where I didn’t feel like an odd ball in the faith.

I’m laughing thinking: “I’m actually sharing this –in a book”. It is marvelously hilarious. This is the freedom the Holy Ghost brings. God wants you to experience the Word, to experience heaven while on earth, to experience the glory. God wants you to sing with the angels as they worship and minister in the church and in you, sitting in your home. The Word of God, the Bible is the foundation, the desire to know Jesus is the requirement to get into the more of God. Invite the Holy Spirit in to all of you-every area of your life. Allow the Spirit to give you a tour of the revealed Word. As you encounter, I encourage you to cling to the living Word. You will know it’s God because of the fruit in your life. You will know-it is God-because all things will lead you to glorify Jesus. Believe me.

When you feel His love, when you encounter Jesus, when you go, you will know---It’s God. The joy of the Lord will be your proof. You will have a ridiculous Joy. You may be listening to a sad story and all of a sudden have to contain the laughter. Why? Because God has given you a behind the scenes glimpse into the outcome, the end, the victory, and the glory in the story. Another thing about the School of the Spirit, you will know your true identity. You will know about the Kingdom of God. If you have no frame of reference for Jesus encounters-----there are many witnesses around the world. When you pray and invite the Holy Spirit into your time in the Bible—you will see it in Scripture. It has always been there but you lacked awareness.

Do not be afraid to embrace all that God has for you—He has more for you. God will lead you to your community. Do not be afraid if God has you in a place of solitude. If the Holy Spirit leads you to a place of wilderness—this is your time to press in to the Word of God. The thing about the wilderness for me was it made me hungry, really desperate for Jesus. In the wilderness, in the quietness the sound is amplified and you can hear Him so clearly. One time Jesus had me go in my imagination to the Isle of Patmos and see John (the apostle) and just watch. While watching I heard “Press”. During this experience, it was as if I could feel John’s love for Jesus and willingness to endure anything.

I felt like John was so engaged in the realm of the spirit that he considered being exiled to Patmos as a tremendous blessing, a precious reward. This is the ‘More’ of God that engagement will bring in our lives. Is there a way to prove any of this to the skeptics? No. I wouldn’t try to. You will not have all the answers, you don’t need them. You need only to trust God. The Holy Spirit will help you. You may not receive instruction at the time of the encounter—just enjoy spending time with Jesus. It’s just that simple. Simple but powerful and exhilarating. With all your smartness and knowledge you cannot get there with your natural mind. You will get there by yielding to Holy Spirit engagement.

This encounter caused me to think on the powerful impact Jesus had on John. Years prior to this, when reading about John’s exile to the Isle of Patmos I thought (with my natural mind) that he must have been very sad, devastated and lonely. I needed to go back and read the Bible to look at this event again, this led to me looking at all the apostles. This led me to looking at the church today. This led me to how is this relevant today. This led me to how is this relevant to my life. This led me to, I need to be connected to an apostle I need to know more. This led me to Community. This led me to my identity in Christ, to accepting God’s plan and assignment for my life.

Another benefit of this encounter was preparation for another level of warfare that was coming to me. I was so thoroughly prepared and equipped that the warfare was not able to distract me this time. Thank you Jesus, Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah! This led me to James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds (NIV). I can’t begin to describe the day to day dialogue that stemmed from this experience---like supernatural peace, supernatural provision from God. Bottom line: Holy Spirit engagement.

As I inquired of the Lord about “Press”, a ministry was birthed out of it. Initially I thought, okay, what do I know about press—you can press your clothes, you can bench press, and I brain stormed. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil.3:14 KJV). But the Holy Spirit led me in Scripture to the revelation of the olive Press. My God!

This led me to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, which led to me the location. Gethsemane located on the slope of the Mount of Olives and meaning of the name Gethsemane-‘oil press’. Oil Press led to me how the olives were pressed, squeezed to produce the oil. The Oil led me to the anointing. The anointing led me to Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the anointing with oil represented the Holy Spirit coming upon a person. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (Acts 10:38). And the Holy Spirit continues to unfold revelation.

**Testimony: The Holy Spirit and Me**

I could write volumes, literally volumes about me and my dear friend; the Holy Spirit. It’s Testimony Time. The thing about Testifying in public, for me, is that you have to give the watered down version for the sake of time and ‘other stuff’. Can you imagine if you took the mic and really testified. I mean full transparency. Eyes would stretch, mouths would drop, and people would get healed, delivered and set free. There are layers of testimony coming like the peeling of an onion. Moving forward, let’s create a space, build a space for Testimony and God will reveal Himself and the glory will fall. The funny thing about Jesus that is just so sweet—you really ‘can’t tell it all’. We can share the part that we know but I mean really all of the miraculous, the angels, the behind the scenes spiritual activity that leads up to one testimony is totally amazing.

**9**Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” **10**And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do* not *do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19: KJV). Then the angel said to me, “Write these words: Wonderfully blessed are those who are invited to feast at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!” And then he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” **10**At this I fell facedown at the angel’s feet to worship him, but he stopped me and said, “Don’t do this! For I am only a fellow servant with you and one of your brothers who clings to what Jesus testifies. Worship God. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev. 19 (TPT).

Grab your Journal: Invite the Holy Spirit in to your time of reflection. Ask him to remind you of times when Jesus gave you a testimony and then prophesy that over your life and the lives of people you are connected to. Matthew 10:32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. [Psalm 40:9-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+40%3A9-10&version=ESV) I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. [Psalm107:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+107%3A1-2&version=ESV) Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble. [Revelation 12:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+12%3A11&version=ESV) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

[Romans 10:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10%3A17&version=ESV) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. [2 Timothy 1:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A8&version=ESV) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, [Psalm 40:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+40%3A3&version=ESV) He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A8-9&version=ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [Malachi 3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi+3%3A16&version=ESV) Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. [John 3:16-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A16-17&version=ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Psalm 71: 15-18 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Luke 8:39 “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. Close friends like to share everything. But there are things that occur between intimate friends, intimate partners, like the intimacy that occurs between a husband and his bride. We, are the Bride of Christ. God loves you and he has more for you.

**“Pray for Cindy”**

Some years ago while praying in the spirit I heard, “Pray for Cindy”. I thought okay God, Pray for Cindy—I tried to think Cindy who, pray what. I knew a Cindy who was a fellow nurse but it was not her. The Holy Spirit led me to pray for an unknown Cindy and no specific prayer. There was an urgency to it. When my then husband came home I kept asking him (accusingly of course-wives don’t do this), so who is Cindy. He had no idea. I remember walking around my house praying that God would show me the details to this Cindy character. Instead, all I got was PRAY FOR CINDY. And I did just that from a pure heart, for three months I prayed daily for Cindy. I felt as if I knew her and had even seen her during times of prayer.

I knew that she was a special person to God and that God was using her in a very big way and that she was precious to the Father. I would find myself praying for Cindy frequently; while driving, while working, while sitting at home, before going to bed, when waking up. Praying for Cindy had become a vital part of my life for three months. One day in the middle of my shift I began to have a stomach ache. It was minor abdominal discomfort no big deal I thought. As the 12 hour shift progressed it continued, which caused me to do a quick GI assessment where there was nothing concerning except I had not had a bowel movement that morning, which was a little odd (Excuse me but nurses talk about ‘everything’ openly---it’s life).

I prayed God please just let me make it through the end of my 12 hour shift which turned into 16 hours but this is normal, no problem. I still don’t remember the long drive home. Thank God I made it through enduring pain, the pain was becoming more severe with each passing hour. I refused my families suggestions to go to ER. I thought I’ll go if not feeling better in the morning. I took two Tylenol pm and tossed and turned through excruciating pain until early morning (no wise at all). They took me to ER, was examined and asked well as a nurse, what are your thoughts? I said, trying to hold back the tears, “a bowel obstruction”. I knew this was serious, life threatening and required immediate surgery. I was admitted and told surgery had been consulted.

Bright and early that morning the surgical team of doctors came in. The leader of the pack explained what was going on. I thought oh she’s really a sweetheart until she told me the plan. “We’re taking you to surgery, Now”. I tried to protest, I said excuse me I’m not going to surgery (heavily medicated) I have some things to take care of first. She looked me square in the eyes: “You are going to surgery Now, this will not wait”. I looked at her adamant, not budging, sweet face. I said, please excuse me ma’am who are you, what is your name please? She said, “I am your surgeon, My name is Dr. Cynthia Sandona but you can call me Cindy”.

I just starred at her (they probably thought I was high as a kite from the pain medication). I thought, my Cindy. As they transported me to surgery—all I could think about is ‘Pray for Cindy’. Praise God the surgery was a miraculous success. A few days after the surgery, one of the team doctors came to check up on me. I thought he watched me oddly. My family was there and he told us that only 1 in 14 million (I am not certain of the number but it was miraculously ridiculous) survived that type of surgery. It was a miracle, I was a miracle case. He later asked my permission to do a scholarly medical article on my case and of course I agreed. I believe his name was Dr. St. Nick (abbreviated).

When I looked up, Dr. St. Nick and my family were standing there looking at me, in what I can describe as awe and amazement. (The hand of God behind the scenes-one week prior I was given a prescription of antibiotics for possible UTI from nurses bladder, kind of a not funny inside joke. Oddly, I decided to take them anyway even though the urinary tract infection was ruled out. We are trained to focus on the rationale for doing things. I had none but I felt led to take them and so I did. What I didn’t know at the time was that part of my small intestine was not only obstructed but necrotic/dead tissue. I was walking around septic and those antibiotics literally kept me alive until surgery. The hand of God behind the scenes).

During my stay in the hospital, I came under strong demonic attack. I felt the spirit of death come into my room one night; a dark cloud sat on my chest. The nurse was alarmed because she had just checked my vitals out and they were fine, when she returned to the room some seconds later and I was in crisis/distress. There was a heavy weight on my chest it was like something was trying to squeeze the life out of me. I started calling on Jesus out loud. The rapid response team arrived they thought I was having a heart attack (but thank God all of my blood gas levels were normal). As they talked to me I felt Jesus give me a hug, a firm hug, as if holding me like I were a baby. They witnessed me hugging myself so the rapid response team inquired if I was having chest pains. I told them no, Jesus is hugging me and I am hugging him back. I knew the evil spirit could not touch me. I went to sleep in the presence of God. I knew angels were around my bed.

**“My Mary”**

My Mary testimony is an event that occurred in my early 30s. Against the advice of common sense, my mother, and grandmother I decided to drive to work in a winter blizzard when most of the city and surrounding cities were shut down. It was pay day and a few faithful’s opened the office, Detroit Title Insurance Agency in Southfield, Michigan; so the checks could be distributed. It took my car an unusually long time to heat up that morning so I decided to drive with the windows barely cleaned still slightly frozen over. I barely made it to my freeway exit when the car started stalling. I prayed Oh God please let me make it off this freeway. There was practically zero traffic out. It was freezing, deadly temperatures snowing freezing ice slithers. I was able to exit but the car shut off and would not restart- on the service drive near the freeway exit.

The heat had stopped working during the route. It was far too cold to try to walk, but I had to try because the only other option was freeze to death-literally. I was wearing my mother’s full length faux (fake) suede coat, heavy fur lining with a huge fur collar— at her insistence. The coat was toasty on an ordinary cold winter day. But this was not an ordinary day. My situation was dangerous and desperate. I got out the car and attempted to walk to a corner or to see if I could flag down other traffic. The roads were not plowed, I had been driving without heat for a while. My eyes were watering it was so frigid. As I tried to walk my eyes were freezing, zero visibility, the snow was almost up to my knees, I couldn’t tell if I was in the street or curb, the blowing wind was so strong.

I made it back to my car. I started crying because the reality hit me. I could freeze to death out here. (No cell phone). My eyes were closed and I prayed. Dear God, I know you are real. Please help me. I had difficulty swallowing because of the cold. Out of nowhere I heard a horn blowing, it was next to my car. I pushed my door open and heard a voice saying get in, get in, get in my car, hurry get in my car. I got into the ladies car. She was a African American woman around 50 plus years, she said “My name is Mary. Rhonda you are going to be ok. I’m taking you to work” and she drove me right to my job. She never asked my name, she didn’t ask where do you work, She pulled up to the door I usually enter. As I was thanking her and getting out she said, Rhonda call your mother and grandmother right away.

I was supposed to call my mother and let her know the minute I arrived to work. My- mother became very alarmed before the time I should have even gotten there. She tried to reason, that maybe the weather delay but she said she felt death. While my mother was panicking, my grandmother called her and said, “Rhonda didn’t go to work today did she?”. My grandmother felt the same thing my mother did, when my grandmother found out that I had left for work—she got off the phone with my mother and began to intercede in prayer. My grandmother (BigMa) said, she prayed and asked God to send an angel to rescue me and save my life. BigMa told my mother trust God, don’t worry. God was sending an angel to help me.

When I walked in the office, there was an uproar and they were taking my coat off, getting me hot coffee, taking my boots off, wrapping me up, placing a heater near my feet, ‘call your mother and grandmother immediately’. I sat there and dialed my mother, she started thanking and praising God when she heard my voice. It was as if God had showed her what was happening to me, I didn’t have to tell her the story. My mother connected BigMa in and they both wanted to know again, exactly how I had gotten to work from the stalled car. I told them a lady named Mary….I did not realize until hours later that Mary had known my name, where I worked, told me to call home. I felt like she really loved me although she was a complete stranger. I still remember her face. She did not have a coat on or hat.

**“Rev. B”**

The Flea Market---Many years ago I had a small booth I rented on Friday and Saturday at a nearby flea market. I made clothes, hats, etc. and sold them there. It was a family friendly environment and all the vendors were neighborly. Reverend B and his wife owned and managed the place. One day I was sitting there arranging products and I felt the need to look forward toward the front of the building. My booth was in the middle of the building to the side. I got up and went to look out the front door and noticed a spade shovel just inside the door. I shook the feeling off and returned to my small cozy booth.

A short while later I found myself looking toward the front of the building again. This time I could see through a large clear window that Rev. B was being violently attacked and his body was pressed up against the window. I could see the expression on Rev. B’s face. The attacker was directly behind Rev. B stabbing him multiple times with both hands. I stood up and walked to the front of the building again to look outside; this time it was happening.

I picked up the shovel instinctively as I was stepping out of the front door. I began hitting the attacker with all my strength. I was turning the shovel around in my hand so that the sharp part would make contact because the attacker was still stabbing viciously, unphased by all the shovel blows. I had to get closer so I began hitting the attacker on the back of his head with the shovel. He lunged for me and that’s when Rev. B. fell to the ground. I stumbled backward but held on to the shovel. The attacker got on top of Rev. B and started stabbing him over and over with both hands, this time on the front of his body. I was still hitting him with the shovel to no effect.

Rev. B’s eyes made contact with mine, I knew he was dying. I was so afraid. I got much closer and started ramming the sharp tip of the spade shovel on the attackers left hand and he hollered out “I’m going to kill you….”. As he stood up to come after me I stumbled backward and the fence caught me. My mother showed up at the door and saw me stumbling and the attacker coming after me, she grabbed the shovel and became a ferocious Mama bear protecting her little cub. I mean really it was ugly. The attacker limped away from the scene. Other vendors heard Mama screaming and came out, called police and ambulance.

There were police cars everywhere, they put me in one of the police cars and got description. I told them what the attacker was wearing and description. The officers did not see him, I said he had to be very close by it was impossible for him to get away that quickly. One of the officers said I only saw one man, wearing bright clothes and gloves; he realized. It was summer! So they went back and arrested the attacker. I was asked a million and one times the same questions over and over by different officers.

They were all looking at me, oddly. They wanted to look directly in my eyes as they asked me, “Tell me again—how did you know the victim- older man (Rev. B) was being attacked. I kept telling them over and over “I saw it through the window”. And where was the window they asked over and over? “The large window on the front of the building—that window right there”. I turned and pointed I could still see it. An older, mature looking detective got in the police car to talk to me. He asked me all the same questions. He was very kind and patient. I told him I was minding my own business and looked up and saw Rev. B being attacked through the window.

He asked me to get out of the car and come with him. We walked over to the bloody scene; it was all taped off so we couldn’t get any closer. He said young lady point to the window. I pointed, thinking what is wrong with these people. We went back to the car. He said, young lady are you a Christian? I said, Yes I am. No further questions were asked. That night at home my mother asked me again to tell her the whole story. My grandmother was on the phone listening.

My mother said, “Rhonda you know there are no windows on the front of that building; it’s a solid cement wall”. That’s when it hit me---I saw through a window that was never there. For weeks and even years, when I drive by that place I would have to stop and look and realize there was never a large clear window there, except in the spirit. Rev. B miraculously survived and eventually returned to managing the Flea Market. Two years after the incident he said, “I saw God in your eyes that day”.

**“Run”**

I drove a 90 minute drive to Maumee Ohio to attend nursing school. It was a typical day except this day I found myself praying in the spirit the entire ride. I nearly passed up my exit. Shortly after exiting the freeway the car slightly stalled when the light turned green. Ordinarily I would have given it some gas, but not that day. I put my emergency flashers on and was about to get out of the car to look under the hood. For some reason I grabbed my keys, wallet and phone. I was in the far left lane.

As soon as I got out of the car, I saw a large semi truck approaching in the far right lane and he was blowing his horn like a mad man, pointing and signaling to me some sort of danger. He laid on his loud horn. I intended to raise the hood but suddenly the Holy Spirit said Run. I looked around and there was no where to run except for a narrow lane divider. My Dodge Durango had stalled right off the freeway and in a heavy high speed traffic area during morning rush hour. I thought O God if I try to run down that narrow strip and fall I will be ran over by speeding cars. Traffic was coming from many directions, I started to run and got to the end of the narrow divider. If I continued to run it would be suicide running into speeding traffic.

I looked up and God had stopped all the traffic. I ran across the highway and up a small grass slope in front of a McDonald’s. I turned to see my car and it was engulfed in flames, in seconds. I could see orange flames from the front to the back. I saw a young lady nearby crying yelling and screaming into her phone. “The lady, the lady is in the car, she’s burning alive, I’m sure she’s in there. I looked up and saw her and then saw the car blazing orange flames. Please please please she’s burning.” The young lady was totally hysterical. I walked over and told her I’m okay, I was the lady in the car. She looked like she had seen a ghost and fell down crying how, how did you get over here.

I stood there looking at my vehicle, my only means of transportation, thousands of dollars of nursing books up in flames. It hit me like a ton of bricks: “My Bible, my bible is in the front seat”. I started saying Oh God, my bible is in the front seat. A crowd gathered. The fire marshal came over eventually and confirmed that it was my car and asked if any valuables were inside, I said yes, my Bible. My Bible is on the front seat. He apologized and said oh sweet heart it’s destroyed. You see the vehicle is engulfed in flames all the way through. It is totally destroyed everything in it. He asked did you have valuables in the Bible or valuable documents. I said yes the Bible. After a while the flames were extinguished and he came and asked me if I wanted to come over and take a closer look before the tow truck arrived. We did.

All the doors were opened and the car was completely charred. I looked toward the front passenger seat and said that’s where my Bible was. Fire fighter and police officers were all around. The marshall said oh you can look in the fire is all out it’s just wet from the retardant. I stepped closer and reached in, I said My Bible. I picked it up, it was wet and smelled like smoke but not a single page was singed. My Bible was intact. As I lifted it out, looking at it in amazement. The crowd of officers and fire fighters were taking pictures and we all looked in awe. I thanked God and the tears started flowing.

God saw fit to keep my Bible in a raging fire. I saw the fire with my own eyes. I know the vehicle was engulfed, it was God. People were coming to help me from all directions, offering to drive me home from Ohio to Detroit. It was like an army of helpers surrounded me. My eyes were glued to my Bible. The fire marshal insisted on driving me nearby to my school and that I call him if I needed anything. He said he would personally make sure I got back home whenever I was ready. What a mighty God. Father, I thank you for your faithfulness. I thank you that you spared my life that day, I thank you for showing me the undeniable power of your Word. Thank you for your great love. Father you are so worthy of praise. I thank you in the name of Jesus.

**“The Tall Cross”**

The ‘Tall Cross’ is a testimony about how God will reveal Himself and His plan to you in a dream. Remember earlier when I said, “When God Chooses to Train You Himself”? Here’s the testimony. When God directed me to leave my church home, he gave me instruction to pray for a certain length of time and not to share it with anyone. Not even my husband. The last day of prayer arrived and I was sweating bullets. Late on that final day, my husband said we needed to talk. He explained how he felt God was leading us to leave our church home. He thought this would be as difficult for me as it was for him. He said he was sure he heard from God. Neither of us wanted to leave.

To his surprise, I had also heard from God. I had been praying and seeking God desperately for where he wanted me to go. This testimony was like a prerequisite to my enrollment in the School of the Spirit. I had a dream about where the Lord wanted to place us. My husband told me he thinks he knows the church, it was not far from home but he didn’t know exact street. He felt God had shown him the place. We visited several and were blessed but each time knew, it wasn’t home.

God had given me a dream. I dreamed about details like location being not far from home, the pastor, and the physical sign outside the building, I knew it was a small church. It was a dream where the Lord was giving me details in the dream and showed me the sign where I would know for sure. The thing that stood out was a large sign almost like a tall billboard. I saw a tall cross with Jesus written on the cross and part of the pastors name. I prayed when I woke up from the dream and wrote all the details that I could remember.

This dream was so perplexing because the location was not far from home? I thought I knew every inch of the area that I lived in my entire life. I described it to my family, and it was not familiar to any of us. I drove around for weeks looking for this place---I knew the dream was from God and was familiar with God leading me in my dreams, all of my life. One Sunday we headed out looking for a church to attend. This was so uncomfortable for me because I was used to having a church home a church family. That Sunday we prayed before deciding which church to attend for the week. We started out for Sunday school or early morning service. I knew immediately before parking, this is not it.

After the third church I couldn’t get out of the car. My three sons were just as frustrated as me. They were so patient and supportive. I apologized to them and said I just don’t know what to do. I was near tears at this point, feeling condemned, confused, missing my former church family. I said God I just want to go back home, but God did not change his mind. My son said, Ma park the car and let’s pray. We sat there in front of a church and prayed. My other son said, Ma do you remember the lesson you taught us (I was there Sunday School teacher) about Father Abraham when God told him to leave his country and family and He would show him where to go?

I said yes, I remember. (The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1 NIV). Then the boys prayed, Terry: God lead mama like you led Abraham, Charles: give her faith to believe you will lead her, and Jerry: and make her stop crying and trust you. In Jesus name. I closed my eyes took a deep breath and received. Amen.

I started driving by faith and as I drove the Holy Spirit started directing me. “Go to ---street and turn right. Now go to -----street and turn left. Keep driving and start looking to the left right after the second red light. Immediately after the second red light we all looked to the left and looked up. My mouth was wide open. I pulled into the parking lot and sat there looking at the exact sign of the tall cross from my dream. We were a little late but all agreed that we felt the presence of God; it was like the service was just for us; we all felt like we were home. At the end of the service I met the Pastor and it was love at first sight. When she introduced herself, and I heard her name---I wanted to shout Hallelujah—just like in my dream.

I asked her what type of church was it and if she could share some of her doctrinal beliefs. I was coming from a Baptist background. She said the ministry was non-denominational and began to share her beliefs; she offered to sit down with me and give me Bible verses to support her beliefs so that I could take them home and study them. I felt the Holy Ghost rise in me, leap as she talked and I knew I was home. The details God had given me in the dream were all confirmed. The next Sunday my husband went with us and he had the same confirmation, we all joined. To God be the glory for the spiritual growth and development I received there!

**God Has More for You**

God has more. As you meditate on His Word and invite the Holy Spirit in to this, your life will change. “What delight comes to the one who follows God’s ways!He won’t walk in step with the wicked, nor share the sinner’s way, nor be found sitting in the scorner’s seat. His passion is to remain true to the Word of “I AM, meditating day and night on the true revelation of light. He will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God’s design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of life. He is never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous.” (Psalm 1).

**Think on These Things**

* Absorb the Word through meditating on it
* Enwrap and clothe yourselves in the Word and wear it as a garment
* Fascinate- allow the Word to fascinate you as you get to know God
* Grip- you must keep a tight tight grip on the Word and do not let go
* Immerse yourselves in the Word of God as the Holy Spirit takes you deeper
* Interest-keep yourselves interested in the Kingdom of God
* Intrigue remain intrigued with the revelation of the Word the Holy Ghost brings
* Involve the Holy Spirit into every aspect of your life
* Occupy- do the work God has called you to do; complete the assignment(s)
* Put on the mind of Christ
* Sign your Yes to Jesus on the dotted line
* Enroll and remain enrolled in the eternity long School of the Spirit

Psalm 23 TPT:

Yahweh is my best friend and my shepherd.  
    I always have more than enough.  
**2**He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love.  
    His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near *the quiet brook of bliss*.  
**3**That’s where he restores and revives my life.  
    He opens before me the right path  
    and leads me along in his footsteps of righteousness  
    so that I can bring honor to his name.  
**4**Even when your path takes me through  
    the valley of deepest darkness,  
    fear will never conquer me, for you already have!  
    Your authority is my strength and my peace.  
    The comfort of your love takes away my fear.  
    I’ll never be lonely, for you are near.  
**5**You become my delicious feast  
    even when my enemies dare to fight.  
    You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit;  
    you give me all I can drink of you until my cup overflows.  
**6***So why would I fear the future?*  
    Only goodness and tender love pursue me all the days of my life.  
    Then afterward, when my life is through,  
    I’ll return to your glorious presenceto be forever with you!

Notes: Shepherd also means ‘best friend’, ‘lover of the flock’-a caring father figure tending his flock out of a deep sense of love. Jesus is a fierce protector of the flock. We don’t have to lack anything. Declare that you have more than enough. God meets all of our needs: emotional, physical and spiritual needs. We have a resting place free from fear. God restores our well-being when we pursue what pleases Him and rest in Him. Each step we take following Jesus, our Shepherd will take us higher. We have been anointed with the fragrance or oil of the Holy Spirit. (From Psalm 23 TPT Footnote).

We have an assignment-‘Follow the Leader’. The Holy Spirit is the Leader as we go and make disciples. To share the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to witness to the lost effectively, in these days we must know God through Holy Spirit led Bible engagement. **23**And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. **24**Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, **25**To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude: vs.23-25 KJV).

**Until Next Time: Become Fully Engaged**

The Kingdom of God is a governmental system and as members of it we conduct ourselves accordingly. There are spiritual laws and principles that the sons of God follow. Getting engaged with Scripture means we come in agreement with the Word of God. We allow the Holy Spirit to help us apply these Kingdom principles and spiritual laws in our daily living. We live by the principles of the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit operates in us by Kingdom principles of love, faith, obedience, forgiving, prayer, giving, power…. as described throughout the Bible.

The blessing is in the process. The journey is in the process of More. The destination of the journey is More. My comfort in growing in the realm of the spirit is in the Holy Spirit. I’m just a girl who loves Jesus and my life is a testimony to the living power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Spirit of Christ is in us but we also need the Spirit of God to rest upon us. Here’s what I mean, when we receive Jesus as Lord we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. The ‘More’ of God involves layers, realms, and dimensions. God decides who has access to what and when. I believe that our Worship and hunger for God influences what we have access to as well as God’s providence. He is sovereign and distributes as he so desires.

We are saved by and live under grace, not our works. No amount of striving impresses God. God inhabits our praise and seeks for true worshippers who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Our hunger and thirst for God will be satisfied. Just as we mature in the natural there are levels of maturity in the spirit. We have Kingdom principles that instruct us how to think, how to speak, how to live. “One thing I ask (desire) of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple (Psalm 27 NIV).

God deals with our thought life extensively throughout the Bible. As a man thinks in his heart so is he. You will manifest what your mind is on. Are you mindful of His presence, are you seeking the presence of God. Jesus instructed us to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). There is a level of intimacy with God where he reveals himself like a best friend will share their deep secrets and their heart with you. In a public and corporate setting we can experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. But there is a revealing that occurs in private intimacy. We can make the presence of God our dwelling place.

I really don’t quite know how to describe what I’m trying to describe to you. I do know that God wants to reveal more of Himself to his family and that we need the Holy Spirit to experience the more of God. The Word of God is our foundation---it is like the runway. The presence of God is like the launching pad. Holy Spirit engagement is like the landing site. Our hunger, seeking, praise, and worship are like the fuel. Our intimacy with God is what propels us to journey. All of this is the engagement process where we build our lives around awareness of the presence of God. Jesus had delivered us to the presence.

What I’m saying is this, God has more for us. There is always more. We never fully arrive. The blessing is in the pressing. We press in the process of Getting to Know God. We know our God, but God has more of himself that he wants to reveal to us. The revealing occurs in the realm of the spirit designed from citizens of the Kingdom of God. The Word of God is living, it is spirit and it is life. Jesus Christ is the living Word. “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spiritand life.” John 6:63. The Holy Spirit is our tour guide to the Word.

We have been given access, the keys to the Kingdom. We have the Code. The Bible is our Code book. This is not about some new experience; it’s about yielding and allowing Holy Spirit engagement in getting to know God. I’m saying that God has more for us. The more is biblical it is scriptural and we need the power of the Holy Ghost to receive the revelation of the more. It is about accessing through the realm of the Spirit what is written and applying it to our lives. Get to know God through Holy Spirit led engagement in the Word.

Welcome the Holy Spirit in to your personal process to ‘more of God’. It is a life time journey to getting to know God. God has more for His people, there is much more for the Body of Christ.

**4**So I asked the angel who talked with me, What are these, my lord? **5**Then the angel who talked with me answered me, Do you not know what these are? And I said, No, my lord.

**6**Then he said to me, This [addition of the bowl to the candlestick, causing it to yield a ceaseless supply of oil from the olive trees] is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit [of Whom the oil is a symbol], says the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah chapter 4 AMPC).

Allow the Holy Spirit to take you on a journey to the prophetic Word of God. The blessing is in the process of revelation. The Holy Spirit, the great teacher, decides when you are ready for the next level. Mark 4:20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” (ESV). “But what is sown on good soil represents those who open their hearts to receive the message and their lives bear good fruit—some yield a harvest of thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold!” Mark 4:20 TPT. God has more layers for us, more levels.

Enjoy the progressive works of the Holy Spirit in your life. Open your heart to receive-drink the living waters of God from the well that never runs dry. Get engaged, get to know God: The River of Healing-Ezekiel **47**In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. **2**The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway. **3Measuring as he went, he took me along the stream for 1,750 feet and then led me across. The water was up to my ankles. 4He measured off another 1,750 feet and led me across again. This time the water was up to my knees. After another 1,750 feet, it was up to my waist. 5Then he measured another 1,750 feet, and the river was too deep to walk across. It was deep enough to swim in, but too deep to walk through.**

**6**He asked me, “Have you been watching, son of man?” Then he led me back along the riverbank. **7**When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. **8**Then he said to me, “This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea.The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. **9**There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows.  Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows. **10**Fishermen will stand along the shores of the Dead Sea. All the way from En-gedi to En-eglaim, the shores will be covered with nets drying in the sun. Fish of every kind will fill the Dead Sea, just as they fill the Mediterranean.**11**But the marshes and swamps will not be purified; they will still be salty.

**12**Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:1-12 NLT). The Holy Spirit moves like a river, with winds and waves. There are depths in the Spirit; from ankles to knees to the waist to too deep for swimming.

God has a constantly flowing river whose sparkling streams bring joy and delight to his people. His river flows right through the city of God Most High, into his holy dwelling places. Here he comes! The Commander! The mighty Lord of Angel Armies is on our side! The God of Jacob fights for us! Pause in his presence **8–9**Everyone look! Come and see the breathtaking wonders of our God. For he brings both ruin and revival. He’s the one who makes conflicts end throughout the earth, breaking and burning every weapon of war. **10**Surrender your anxiety. Be still and realize that I am God. I am God above all the nations, and I am exalted throughout the whole earth. **11**Here he stands! The Commander! The mighty Lord of Angel Armies is on our side! The God of Jacob fights for us! Pause in his presence (Psalm 46: 4, 7-11 TPT).

The Great Commission--17When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! 18Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28 NLT).

**Fully Engaged**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (May) Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 3:17-19, Eph 1:3, Eph 3:20-21). Until next time.

**Appendix A: What I Believe**

* The **BIBLE** is God's inspired word to us. It's the final authority on doctrinal truths, infallible and inerrant (2 Timothy 3:15-17, I Peter 1:23-25, Hebrews 4:12).
* **GOD**-There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and co-eternal (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19, I John 5:7, John 1).
* **REDEMPTION**-Man was created good and upright, for God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.” But man, by his transgression, fell. His only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 3:1-17, Romans 5:12-21).
* **SALVATION**-Our only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross, Jesus became sin and took on our disease providing both salvation and divine healing for all (Psalm 103:3 Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:8-10, Romans 3:24).
* **BAPTISM**-Water baptism, being a type of burial with Christ, should be observed as commanded in the scriptures by all who have repented and in their hearts truly believe in Christ and have accepted Him as Savior and Lord (Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:36-37, Romans 6:4).
* **THE LORD’S SUPPER**-We believe that the Lord’s Supper is an ordinance of the church established by Christ. It is a time of remembering Christ’s sacrifice for man (I Corinthians 11:23-31, Matthew 26:26-30).
* **BAPTISM OF HOLY SPIRIT**-All believers are entitled to and should expect the baptism of the Holy Spirit. With it, comes power for life and service and the ability to pray in other tongues (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, 2:38, 10:44-46, 11:14-16, 19:1-6, 1 Cor. 14:1-6).
* **CHURCH**- The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for fulfillment of the Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the church (Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 12:23).
* **MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**-We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that the term "marriage" means the uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive union (Genesis 1:26-27).
* **TOTAL PROSPERITY**-Our good Father has provided total prosperity for mankind, spirit, soul, and body through the finished work of Jesus Christ. This prosperity includes wholeness and health in all areas of human existence to include: spiritual, emotional, mental, financial, relational, and purpose (John 3:3, 11, II Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10,  II Timothy 1:7, Romans 12:2, Isaiah 26:3, Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:17, I Peter 2:24, III John 2, III John 2, Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:6-10, Deuteronomy 28:1-14).
* **BLESSED HOPE**-Jesus is coming again to gather His saints to Himself and together they will reign with Him in His everlasting Kingdom. (Dan 2:44, Dan 7:14, Rev 11:15, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, II Thessalonians 2:1, Titus 2:13).
* **HELL**-Hell is a place created by God for the devil and fallen angels. People choose Hell when they reject Jesus Christ as Lord. Separation from the love of God is the result of purposefully rejecting the finished work of Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:34-46, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9). (Retrieved from [www.gracesterling.com)](http://www.gracesterling.com))].

**More: I Believe**

**HOLY SPIRIT**- Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead and the very Spirit of God, Who provides spiritual  power for godly service and everyday living. He points us to the fullness of Jesus. When Jesus ascended the Holy Spirit was sent to earth as a Promise from Father God John 14:15-17. He equips us to fulfill our purpose on the earth John 14:26. Once we receive salvation and yield to Holy Spirit in us allowing Him to lead, we can take the victory against evil.   
**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** – Spiritual gifts are given by Holy Spirit to accomplish the Father’s will, His plans and purposes, through Believers on the earth to benefit all humanity. We are to pursue His love and earnestly desire and cultivate spiritual gifts as given in the Bible, I Corinthians 14:1; I Corinthians 12:7-11, 28; Roman 12:6-15. Jesus gave spiritual gifts to enable men and women, boys and girls regardless of race, culture, former sin, status or station in life to operate in extraordinary powers in supernatural dimensions.

**FIVEFOLD MINISTRY -**The fivefold ministry gifts consist of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers whose assignment is to train and equip the Believers for ministry work, Ephesians 4:11-12. Each office functions in spiritual gifts given by Holy Spirit as God wills, I Corinthians 12:4-11 and Romans 12:6-15.  Holy Spirit can and does move in and through any Believer with these same gifts as God wills, however, when a Believer is set in a fivefold ministry office the gifts will operate more frequently and usually as a part of their assignment. In addition, God gave a specific order and alignment for spiritual gifts to manifest as seen in I Corinthians 12:28 beginning first with apostles, second prophets, third teachers, and so forth.

**THE OFFICE OF THE APOSTLE IS FOR TODAY** - the Lord has given the apostles and prophets as the foundation of the church with Jesus Christ Himself as the Chief Cornerstone, Ephesians 2:20. The Apostles are equipped and graced by God to go first in order to advance the Kingdom of God. They go into new territory where the Kingdom has either become stagnant or is non-existent in order to pioneer; to plant; to establish a model or prototype; to breakthrough; to open the way; to raise up; to release new truth and to bring fresh revelation.    
**THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET IS FOR TODAY** - God does speak today! He speaks to His people in general, John 10:27. We strongly believe that God speaks to His Prophets today. In turn the prophet speaks the heart and mind of God through prophecy. When he or she prophesies they speak to people for their upbuilding, strengthening, constructive spiritual progress, encouragement and consolation/comfort, I Corinthians 14:3. The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 20:20 “…Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper”/succeed. “…For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit,” 2 Peter 1:20, 21 NIV.  
**THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL INFLUENCE AND HAVE DOMINION OVER THE MARKETPLACE** - God is training and equipping Believers to do the work of ministry in the marketplace. God is not confines to the four walls of a church. God has given some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers that operate from His church and are also raised up in the marketplace. Believers are to advance the Kingdom in the marketplace as well as spheres of influence in the world.  
**BELIEVE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE** – Spiritual Warfare is used to accomplish God’s purposes on earth. It will not be without opposition. As we are led by the Spirit, using the Word of God we will be strengthened and empowered to withstand spiritual attacks. We recognize that we are in a spiritual war and must be trained and equipped to stand against the enemies of God’s Kingdom. We must put on the Whole Armor of God, use spiritual warfare weapons and execute spiritual warfare strategies and tactics realizing that we fight from a position of victory. We must go into all the world making disciples of all people, tribes and nations using the authority given to us in the name of Jesus Luke 10:19; Ephesians 6:10-18; Acts 4:29; John 14:6; Ephesians 1:20-22; 2:6; Matthew 28:18-19; and Colossians 1:19-20.

**About the Author**

Rhonda Scott lives in the great City of Detroit Michigan. She began public ministry in 2006 and is committed to fulfilling her Kingdom of God assignment(s).

She is a licensed nurse and excited about marketplace ministry and serial entrepreneurship. Rhonda’s passion is the Word of God, seeing people receive Jesus Christ and living a Holy Spirit directed life. She is currently cultivating GoWalktheTalk.com- a space where faith and encouragement connect.