



*The
Shulamite
Bride*

LAVERN POISSON

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*+27 72 931 6810
info@drtech.com
www.drtech.com*

*Proofreading & Copyediting: Ronnet Perumal
Cover Design: Rylen Daniel De Esclana*

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THE SHULAMITE BRIDE

Lavern Poisson

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I thank My God for grafting me into His eternal plan and giving me the gift of grace, so that I can walk in this lifetime as an example of Christ to those that are still to enter the Kingdom and be present for such a time as this.

Thank you to my Family, especially my children (6 in total and 1 grandchild) for allowing me the time away from them and the quiet space I needed to fill the pages of this book as I was being led by the Spirit of God.

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Finally, I would like to thank God for me. I should, as it took discipline to achieve the task that was set before me. One day when I stand before Christ, I am going to give an account for the time that God had given me. I want my Heavenly Father to say: *"my good and faithful servant, I am pleased with you."*



FOREWORD

I have read the book, *The Shulamite Bride*, and it gives me great pleasure to recommend it as a worthy investment of your time and attention. The author, Lavern Poisson has been serving in our ministry team for as long as I can remember, and we have watched her grow. Her character most certainly shines through this book. Her insights are thought provoking, Scripture filled and well presented.

I believe this book will impact this generation tremendously on the importance of biblical covenant and intimacy with Jesus. If you are reading this book, I have no doubt you will finish it richer in spirit and you will certainly be more blessed.

Pastor Shane Pretorius



PREFACE

The title of this book "Shulamite" means peaceable and perfect. The Holy Spirit impressed upon me to share His goodness; and to bring His people to a place of understanding His perfect will which produces peace. The book can be used as study material and to gain insight into Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

I pray you be blessed with every chapter of the book and that your eyes be opened to truth.

I am laying on my bed twelve months earlier and suddenly I feel a heavy burden come over me. I begin to feel all sorts of feelings of loss, despair, frustration and jealousy. I know that I was not feeling this earlier, so I began to search my heart and cry out to God asking, where these feelings were coming from all of a sudden, as I was extremely happy earlier. I cried out, "Lord, search my heart to see if there is anything that I could have done to have allowed these feelings to enter." We are called to watch and pray. It was, however, for me to have prayed and interceded. Many times, we feel a certain way because we are Spirit beings, and we pick up on stuff before it happens. We should learn to pick up in the atmosphere the different temperaments to pray effectively. God was training me in those moments, and I was unaware.

Immediately I was taken into a place. It felt like my spirit left my body. I see myself in this absolutely beautiful wedding gown. I am standing before the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. God's appearance in that moment filled the entire room -literally. God really does fill every incomplete space within us. What I was experiencing was an outer body experience. God allows us to see through visions. Our sight enables us to feel and learn His presence. Wow!!! No words could really describe everything. The room that I was in was extremely large. God was showing me through this vision that no one can enter His presence that has not done a heart check. The only thing we take to Him is our heart and that is why we are to guard our hearts with everything. God is holy therefore when we enter His presence, we are made holy. God is pure and when we are in His presence purification and holiness is inputted within us. I believe it was three months afterwards when God started impressing on my Spirit to write this book. The book is based partly on this vision that I encountered in Christ.

I have come to realise that every encounter in God's presence refines us. We must learn how to access this dimension as it is in this process of refinement and purification that we learn our purpose. We begin to desire the things that God has prepared for us, and a deep awakening of the Love of God is poured in us.

Our lives are renewed and transformed by His Holiness. God is an all-consuming fire so when we are caught up in His presence change must come. A "new thing" is birthed with every moment and every encounter in His presence.

I pray the Spirit of the Living God be released over you right now in Jesus Name. May you experience His all-consuming fire. May there be a refinement as you step into His Holy place and may a release of the purpose and plan for your life be revealed.

A special prayer from Paul and now from me to you.
My readers - be blessed by the Spirit of God.

I'm asking God to give you a gift from the wealth of his glory. I pray that he will give you inner strength and power through his Spirit. Then Christ will live in you through faith. I also pray that love may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation. This way, with all of God's people you will be able to understand how wide, long, high, and deep his love is. You will know Christ's love, which goes far beyond any knowledge. I am praying that you may be completely filled with God. Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory belongs to God in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity! Amen. Ephesians 3:16-21 GW



PROLOGUE

The name of this book came from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The reading of the Song of Solomon which is a beautiful display of love between the Shulamite bride and King Solomon inspired me. The story is an allegory of the relationship between God and Israel and is also viewed as symbolic to the nature of God and His Love for His people.

The Shulamite meaning "Peaceable, Perfect" God is the God of Peace "Shalom" and when God is in the midst of our lives there is perfection that takes place within and amongst His people.

The Intimacy that we know between a man and woman can be described or used as an example of the intimacy that God so desires to have with us. We are made in His image and likeness the emotion that we feel toward a relationship with a spouse is what God Himself placed within us therefore God feels as we feel and desires to have fellowship and relationship with us on a personal level and in a deep intimate way.

Chapter 1



THE ORDER OF HEAVEN AND GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

The first covenant to be recorded was God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before the foundations of this earth, an agreement between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - (The Trinity) as we know it, our all supreme, all mighty, creator of heaven and earth expressed truly the way a family should function. The Trinity decided to be the model and forerunner to demonstrate what a kingdom family should be. How precious are we to God that He is so mindful of us? Can you imagine God's mind being filled with us in it? Each part of the Trinity co-equal, co-eternal, co-dependant on each other yet having precisely the same nature. Each of them distinct in each attribute yet perfect in unity and is one. God's very essence and His true nature revealed in this kingdom Family unit. Let us look at Scripture:

Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth." Genesis 1:26 AMP

God spoke, saying, "Let us make man in our very own image."

God is God all by Himself, yet He chose to demonstrate and show us through His word that the creation of you and I was made by the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God knew through this demonstration that man would finally see that no one is an island on their own, and that it takes more than one to create a complete perfect being.

After Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John) saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him (Jesus), and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased and delighted!" Matthew 3:16-17 AMP

Jesus the Son takes His position under the submission of His Father; the Holy Spirit overshadowing and protecting Him, as gentle as a dove, just like a mother would; God in Heaven affirms His Son because He is delighted and proud that Jesus is walking according to purpose set for him. Each one functioning according to the perfect will of God. God is cheering Jesus on like any Father on earth would do.

The Trinity is one and will never function without the other but let us separate the personal traits to bring understanding.

Personal Traits of God The Father

- Security-Banner (Jehovah Nissi)

- Our provider (Jehovah Jireh)
- Obtains justice (Micah 6:8)
- Father to the Fatherless, Judge (Psalm 68:5)
- Creates and Creator (El Elohim)
- Different Streams of income (Genesis 2:10)
- Commands, Powerful, Wise, Holy (Jehovah M'kaddesh)
- Protector (Psalms 91)

Personal Traits God The Son

- The First Born (Romans 8:29)
- Perfect example of Leadership (Acts 4:13)
- Motivated by Love (John 3:16)
- An Exact Example of The Father (John 17:3-4)
- Obedience (John 14:23)
- Humility (Ephesians 4:2)

Personal Traits God The Holy Spirit

- Motherly Example (Isaiah 66:13)
- Comforter (John 14:16 ESV)
- Watches over and overshadows (Genesis 28:15)
- Always remembering things of the Kingdom (John 14:26)
- Gentle never forceful (Ephesians 4:2)
- Nurtures (Ephesians 6:4 KJV)
- Guidance (Psalms 32:8)
- Teacher (1st John 2:27)

Let us look at another example of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit working together as one in a family unit. In following Scripture, we see the full deity of the Trinity working in one accord.

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father by the

*sanctifying work of the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ
and to be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace
[that special sense of spiritual well-being] be yours in
increasing abundance [as you walk closely with God].
1 Peter 1:2 AMP*

God sanctifies the work of the Spirit and Jesus walks in obedience to the Holy Spirit. As our Heavenly family functions in one accord grace and peace becomes our portion. As we walk closer with God, we receive the abundance of this unity, we yield to His leadership and follow in His footsteps.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14 AMP*

We are reminded of the gift of grace that we have received as we stay connected in fellowship with each other through love. As His extended family we experience the love that is shared in the Trinity.

*But when the Father sends the Spirit of Holiness, the
One like me who sets you free, he will teach you all
things in my name. And he will inspire you to remember
every word that I've told you. John 14:26 TPT*

God's Leadership is so excellent that there is nothing on this earth that we are expected to do that has not first been done by God Himself. Everything has been confirmed in the Word of God and everything that has been recorded in the Holy Bible has been left to guide us in our walk with Christ. We learn through reading God's Word. We see that God wants us to experience His Love, fellowship, grace,

peace, and abundance. We get to experience everything through the covenant of the first union that took place before the foundations of the earth - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Marriage has been designed by our creator to demonstrate the order of Heaven. This is a covenant that takes place to confirm the union of love, where two individuals unite and become one. When a man and a woman come into agreement and join as one, they demonstrate heaven on earth and their union represents the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth. The abilities, gifts, and purposes of God that are placed within an individual multiply now because two is always better than one. But God is in the centre of it all and the family unit is strengthened in oneness by this chord of three.

Matthew 6:33 says we should seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and His Righteousness and all things will be added unto us.

The Kingdom of Heaven is designed to be a place of increase and multiplication. When God's people intentionally seek out His Kingdom by waiting on Him, spiritual gifts such as having discernment, bearing fruit such as patience and self-control becomes evident in one's life. We see the original blueprint of one's life begin to unfold and take shape. We see the gifting in a person increases and the advancement of the Kingdom of God also increases and expands, as the two walk as a model in the community God has placed them in. This is exactly the way God the Father, God the Son and Holy Spirit operate in one accord. There is so much power in unity. Two has always been better than one. We read historical truths that are in the Word of God for us to learn and apply.

For example:

1. We see in Scripture about the Tower of Babel that when people

came together and decided to work in agreement, the potential to build a tower that reached Heaven became manifested a possibility. (Genesis 11:1-9)

2. We also see when the disciples were in prayer in one accord in the upper room, The Holy Spirit came and they spoke in cloven tongues. (Acts 1:12)

We begin to see the expression of Heaven made manifest on the face of the earth in marriage. As the couple unite and become one and walk according to the precepts of the Father, God's perfect will is made manifest. They are fully surrendered, yielded to the Holy Spirit, sold out to Christ, their voices amplify, they begin to operate in miracles, signs and wonders and they reap the benefits of all God's promises. When you really ponder on the biological composition of the human species, you realise we are made to be a sign and a wonder. "We are a sign and a wonder." Lives are changed and transformed when the call of God is answered. Through this covenant union people begin to understand the order of heaven through revelation by the Holy Spirit.

Insight Into the Heart of God & Purpose of Marriages On Earth

For wives, this means being devoted to your husbands like you are tenderly devoted to our Lord, for the husband provides leadership for the wife, just as Christ provides leadership for his church, as the Saviour and Reviver of the body. In the same way the church is devoted to Christ, let the wives be devoted to their husbands in everything. And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, his bride. For he died for us, sacrificing himself to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of

the pure water of the Word of God. All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw. Husbands have the obligation of loving and caring for their wives the same way they love and care for their own bodies, for to love your wife is to love your own self. No one abuses his own body but pampers it—serving and satisfying its needs. That's exactly what Christ does for his church! He serves and satisfies us as members of his body. For this reason, a man is to leave his father and his mother and lovingly hold to his wife, since the two have become joined as one flesh. Marriage is the beautiful design of the Almighty, a great and sacred mystery—meant to be a vivid example of Christ and his church. So, every married man should be gracious to his wife just as he is gracious to himself. And every wife should be tenderly devoted to her husband. Ephesians 5:22-33 TPT

From the beginning God sat and planned strategically for marriage and family. He designed this first in Heaven and for us to become divine partakers of it here on earth. This was to empower and enable marriage covenant partners to function together cohesively. Now that we have unpacked the divine Heavenly blueprint, we know that family and marriage has always been God's desire. In Heaven there is an order, in the Church there is an order and in family there is an order. Each institution cofunctions and reveals the strength of the others. Through the Word of God, we see the Church function as a replicate of the Trinity. The Body of Christ functions and replicates the Church. God is showing us in so many ways that His heart has always been family and relationship and that is why each intuition displays similar traits. Now we can also see the importance of a God

ordained and God-fearing marriage. The enemy has always tried to destroy the family blueprint because he knows that families are close to the heart of God. Some have corrupted the family order of God by working independently in their relationships and choosing for themselves. The mystery of marriage is at the heart of God. This is the mystery; marriage has been designed to demonstrate God and His love for His people. We should desire and run to Christ and engage in a marital affair with Him. In doing this He is sure to show us the mystery through revelation. By working independent of His plan, we can deny ourselves from the perfect will of God. Yes, we are given freedom of choice. I tell you that it is so much better when we allow God the Honour to make the choices in our lives. Who is best? After all He is our creator and He does know what we need. The more you read on, I believe the Holy Spirit will enlighten you, lead you and give you insight.

At this moment I would like to pray to our Heavenly Father.

Father, I thank you for revealing the essence of who you are and showing us, your Family, your heart and the core of your heart for creation. Thank you, Lord, for always finding ways of communicating with your people and giving us Revelation and insight into the mystery of our lives. Teach us how to live a life according to your purposes and plan, so that we live fulfilled lives - nothing missing, nothing broken but complete and made whole with your love. We know that our ways are not your ways but as you reveal your heart let our heartbeat truly become one with yours. As we go deeper into your word, may the scales from our eyes be removed and may we learn the truth. You desire that we know your truth.

I bless your Holy Name, in Jesus Mighty Name Amen.

If you are reading this book and you are married, please continue reading. We cannot go back and change our past, however, we can guide our future generation in the way they should walk. God is also not an author of confusion and does not encourage divorce. He does honour covenant, so I urge you to read through the lens of Christ. Be captivated by the lesson and impart to our future loved ones.

Chapter 2



FAMILY & KINGDOM MARRIAGE

Adam & Eve

The first marriage was recorded in Heaven between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The second marriage was recorded in the beginning in Genesis - the story of Adam and Eve. When the story of Adam and Eve is spoken of, what's usually remembered is that Eve ate from the Tree of Life disobeying the order from God for them not to eat of the tree. Through disobedience they ate from the Tree of Life and they had to leave the Garden of Eden.

I am going to share the making of Adam and Eve. This will enable us to understand the role of ***"A Kingdom Marriage."***

Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth."

Genesis 1:26 AMP

In this portion of Scripture, we see that God says, *"Let us make man in the image of God."* There is an agreement amongst the mem-

bers of our Heavenly Family unit about the creation of man. Can you see the “*as it is in Heaven?*” Can you wrap your mind around the fact that Jesus is God and that He was there right from the beginning of time? We clearly see that since the beginning everything was carefully orchestrated.

So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27 AMP

God created them both in His image, meaning that, they were made in spirit first. We are made in spirit first that is why we ought to sow our time and everything first to the spirit. That is why it is so important to walk according to the spirit of God and stay in step with His leading. We are spirit and then flesh. The flesh will fail you. It produces after its own kind. When we come to this eternal truth that we are conceived in the Father's thought and then born in the spirit first, we can now learn how to sow into our spirit first.

Then the Lord God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body and spirit].

Genesis 2:7 AMP

Powerful!!! Only when the Spirit of God is breathed within then can your body function. You become a living being. What is more astounding is that God is Spirit. His Spirit is breathed within us. His spirit is alive within us. Wow! The same God that created all of heaven and earth, and all of eternity is living on the inside of us.

That same spirit is the creator inside of you therefore we have the same creativity within us.

*So the Lord God took the man [He had made] and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it.
Genesis 2:15 AMP*

A whole chapter later after much had taken place the whole of Heaven and Earth was created. God rested on the seventh day and called this day Holy. The earth had no plants, rain had not fallen because man was not yet made to cultivate the land. It was only when God made a body for Adam's spirit, then only was the field cultivated. "That after its own kind produces after its own kind." Adam's Spirit could not cultivate the land. The spirit knows how to create. Everything was created by the Spirit of God. Adam's body was made to "cultivate" the land refer "Chapter 2:5. KJV says for there was no man to till the land"

*Now the Lord God said, "It is not good (beneficial) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him." So the Lord God formed out of the ground every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. And the man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for Adam there was not found a helper [that was] suitable (a companion) for him.
Genesis 2:18-20 AMP*

God Himself in His supremacy sees that it's not good for Man to live alone and decides to make a helper for Adam. I want us to take note a helper is someone that assists his partner in everything. She is not left in the shadows or at home to take care of kids while the Man is out doing ministry. God raised her come alongside Him and to be His support in all things.

I would also like to point out that Adam was already in the plan of God, functioning in His purpose and exercising His authority and dominion. We see that he is naming the animals of the air and of the field. Dominion is evident. Genesis 2:20 further explains that there was no suitable helper or companion for Adam. Adam discerned that none of the Living creatures that he named would have been a suitable choice or a helper for companionship and relationship and neither would there have been any creature that was like minded. I would also like to say that a man should pray and ask God for discernment. When a man is functioning in his role as a God ordained individual, marriage should be part of the next step in His journey (unless called to singleness/ or singleness in a specific season) however, the man will be challenged with other options and he must discern correctly who his helpmeet would be. The Scripture does state this fact, God Himself formed the animals out of the earth. The Man should be able to discern and to test the spirits.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. And the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He made (fashioned, formed) into a woman, and He brought her and presented her to the man. Genesis 2:21-22 AMP

God is sovereign because He has given us freedom of choice. He allows us to choose. We see that He gave Adam a choice before causing Him to sleep. I call this the "plot twist." When a man is hidden in Christ and seeks the will of the Father, there are treasures that are waiting to be discovered including that of your significant other. God Himself says in His word that He knew you before you were born before the foundations of the earth. With that being said, I can safely say that God knows who He has predestined for your life. Everything took place before the foundations of this world. Read Genesis 1:27 again. It reads "*male and female He created, He created them both.*" Adam needed to sleep so that God could perform a surgery, (taking the rib out of his side) separating that which was already born with Him, Adam's wife Eve. In the time of Adam being asleep, Eve was being formed and prepared for Her kingdom marriage. Eve needed to come to the place that Adam was already functioning in so that the two can work together in one accord when Adam awoke. This is the ideal way and the Blueprint of Heaven. You see the woman can also be in her field of ministry whilst her significant other has not found His identity in Christ or vice versa.

What we can learn from this example is that through your relationship with Christ, find out if you are called to marriage so that you can begin to pray for your spouse whether or not you have met him/her yet. We delay the process of the kingdom assignment and alignment in coming together because we fail to pray and inquire from God. He says He withholds no gift from us, and He wants to bless us in Heaven and on Earth.

Song of Solomons 2:7, 3:5 and 8:4 reads, "*Do not disturb my Love until she is ready to arise.*"

When a point is being made, you will always find Scripture repeated. I believe it's for the reader to pay close attention to what is being said. In this instance, I believe Adam should not be awakened to this truth that Eve has been with Him the whole time. She firstly needs to develop in ministry and then work on how to be the wife that God can glorify himself through.

An abortion of the plan and purposes of God through prematurely awakening Adam could occur if his love is awakened before time. While He sleeps, he is also learning how to be a husband fully surrendered to the will of Christ and how he would display the love of God through this union. He comes out of a deep sleep also, so His eyes need to see Her spirit and not just the outward parts of her and as he is awakened his spirit is being enlightened. It is now for Him to come into agreement with what He sees because nothing is forced on Him. This is so powerful as we see that everything that we covered here is to do with the inner man - with our spirit first. It is Eve's duty as a woman and the wife of the sleeper to pray Him through in this process. This is part of her training, always lifting her husband up in prayer. This is how she grows and develops into maturity as a woman. Through this process she learns submission, patience, longsuffering walking in Faith, waiting on God to show her that which is next. The Word of God says, "*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*"

The following Scripture is heard at weddings, when couples are faced with trouble and so forth "What God has put together, let no man put asunder" I ask myself this question? Who exactly put you together? Was this God? God is Spirit first so if the answer is yes, did you wait on God and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you? The Word of God says, "The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truths"

Did you speak to Him concerning your significant other? God wants to be in relationship with us, so He wants us to come to Him with everything. He desires that we share those broken dark secrets with Him. Yes, even those things we think we can't talk about. *"He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we could think, ask or imagine"* that is enough right there for me to go running into His arms and sharing my burdens with Him. You know He knows how to hear you and He is a great listener and no one will ever know the things you share unless it's to benefit you.

God is a covenant keeping God. He also works all things together for our good so even if you have made a mistake, you are not alone. We have all made mistakes and God is perfect over everything in Heaven and on Earth. If you are reading this book and are married already, I ask you to please have an open mind concerning what you are reading. I am not saying that you should divorce your partner or that you should now go and live in condemnation once you have come to this truth. *(Romans 8:1 Now therefore there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.)* God in all His sovereignty always makes a way of escape. He loves us so much and that is why there are many teachings on marriage, love and life. There is the permissible will of God and because He honors His word and the coming together of two becoming one through consummation, He will still bless your union. We need to learn and share this insight with the next generation so that we can begin to set a standard in our homes by bringing the order of heaven back to its original plan. Marriage is designed to demonstrate the order of Heaven on Earth.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. As the heavens for

*height and the earth for depth, So the hearts and minds
of kings are unsearchable. Proverbs 25:2-3 AMP*

"It is the glory of God to hide a matter." This portion of Scripture should encourage us to go and search through the Bible the hidden manna, the mysteries that God wants to reveal to us. We are His kings that are searching out matters. We are no longer ignorant to the schemes of the enemy, so that we can teach our Children in the ways of the Lord. You know it's never too late. Even if it didn't start with you, it doesn't mean that it should stay the same, it can change according to the Will of God by us wanting to learn His truth. God is a generational God, so what we do in this lifetime has a great impact on generations to come. Therefore, let us not fall asleep and miss an opportunity to speak God's truth.

Let us explore other stories in the Bible, so that we can explore through each story, what God has to say in each marriage. I always say that through the word we always find something to relate to whether young or old, wise, or not.

It is also important to find out the calling of God in your Life as not everyone is called to marriage. It is a gift from God to marry. It is also a gift that is graced for singleness. Many times, we are caught in difficult relationships not understanding that we have entered something that was never intended for us, or we were called to singleness in that time, so it frustrates and interferes with the will of God for us. The Word of God says we should pray according to the will of God. We also need to stop assuming that our personal endeavours are separate to what we do in the Kingdom. Everything works together. It is all to Glorify the name of God, our Father

who has created all things. We are called into a heavenly family. We should follow the example of Christ our first-born brother. He laid down his life.

THE LIFE OF HOSEA AND GOMER

The story of Hosea and Gomer is found in the book of Hosea in the Bible, I will be paraphrasing and making points of reference where I feel it necessary, however I do encourage you to read the book in the Bible and receive more insight. There is so much more Revelation there that one can receive.

Hosea is a Prophet chosen by God to speak to God's people in Israel. In this place was God's chosen people whom He loved dearly, yet Israel turned from God and started following other gods and worshipped Baal. They started idol worship, following feasts and new moons. The city of Israel turned its back on God, fell into a trap of serving foreign gods. People were falling prey to the silver and gold that was in the land, like prostitutes. The meaning of prostitution is to sell yourself by having sex with people for money, commercial exchange for sex or goods or money is exchanged.

Israel the City with God's chosen people that He loved so dearly stepped out of relationship with our most High, most supreme, sovereign God. The intimacy that they once had was exchanged for the riches of this world. They exchanged the very presence of our God for things that are seen and tangible, to satisfy their flesh. We see that it doesn't matter where you are in your walk with God, once you begin to neglect His presence and spending time in His word and in prayer, you can so easily fall victim to the lies of the

enemy. We find ourselves easily turning away from what is eternal and exchanging that for a quick fix and worldly riches and we lose our identity in Christ. I pray we keep our eyes fixed on Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

God is so faithful, always looking for ways to redeem man; always finding a way to get back into the lives of His people. Throughout history of the Bible we find endless real stories where we see God's Love, where we see Him sacrificing for others and that of Himself. He knows we make many mistakes through our wrong choices; therefore He makes a way of escape for us.

God raises up Hosea, a well-known prophet and places in His spirit Gomer. Gomer lived a life of prostitution. The City of Israel became like a prostitute when they left the presence of God and engaged in idol worship, sorcery and every other diabolic act. Gomer was a well-known prostitute in her land at that time. I can't imagine what it must've been like for Hosea. I believe that God changed His heart and poured into His Spirit His heart for Israel. Hosea could have walked out the will of God had He not known the heart of God, understood the mandate and answered the call of God on His life.

Hosea takes for himself Gomer the prostitute as God's will for his life and his purpose. Hosea responds to the call of God. They bore a son; God tells Hosea to name His son Jezreel meaning "*May God Give Seed*" "*The Lord sows*"

Jezreel was also a little town in the City of Issachar this is where the Kings of Israel resided. Hosea 1:4. God wanted to avenge the

blood of the city of Jezreel because there was much blood spilt by Jehu. God allowed Israel to be scattered and torn apart. Jezreel Son of Hosea and Gomer were born and was a symbol that God will give seed and rebuild the nation.

Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter Lo-Ruhamah which means "not shown mercy. God told Hosea to name His child this as a symbol that mercy would not be shown in the land toward Israel. (Hosea 1:6.)

The third baby is conceived, and God instructs Hosea to name Him Lo-Ammi meaning "not my people." This was also a prophetic statement that God used again to express His pain toward Israel.

Gomer goes back to prostitution after the birth of her kids. What we see in this story is the exact same as what God was faced with, with Israel.

In the world as we knew in 2019, there was a certain standard in society that if you do not go with the crowd, having weddings, parties, baby showers of a certain standard then you don't fit in with those that esteem themselves to be above average. Marriages were overrated, the pressure if you get to a certain age and you are not married or that everyone else in your circle is married was overwhelming. The need to fit in whilst we are called to stand out living in fully according to the Word of God. Yes, there are those that lived according to the precepts of Christ but often it's a bare minimal effort.

I see all things are working together for our good. Ever since the Covid pandemic hit from 2020 gatherings were limited to not

more than 50 people and social gatherings were restricted. With the economy that has taken such a fall, people have lost jobs, businesses have fallen, the world is slowly moving by no choice of its own away from flashy weddings and parties. I see that God is turning the heart of man back to our Father and that He is not pleased with the traditions of men. God has not called us to live boring lives. There is so much joy in the kingdom of God. I believe He wants to bless us with everything that Heaven has for us, however, He desires that we seek His Kingdom, His righteousness and that we establish the will of God for our lives.

To see the life of Hosea playing out before us, we see the sacrifice and how Hosea lived a life sold out to Christ. A kingdom marriage must be instructed by the Lord. Let God do the choosing for us. He knows what is best for us. His ways are not our ways, and neither are His thoughts ours. Many who read Hosea may see him as a foolish prophet that was bewitched by this prostitute and yet through this union a demonstration of God's love for His people was being displayed. As we continue to read Chapters 3, we see that Gomer returns to prostitution. God tells Hosea to buy her back for 15 pieces of silver, a homer and a half of barley, the price for a common slave. Hosea listens to God. He buys her back and makes her prove her faithfulness.

How powerful is this example that the 15 pieces of silver, a homer and the half of barley was equivalent to the 30 pieces of silver being the exact amount that was exchanged for Jesus when Judas betrayed Him. It was Judas' assignment to carry out and fulfil this task to ensure that Jesus went to the cross. It was part of the divine plan of God. We have been redeemed and bought back by the blood of Jesus. What a sacrifice and exchange made for the sake of

our humanity. We have limited God in our thinking. We see marriage, family and church as an accomplishment or an achievement. This is measured like that of purchasing a home or a car or even measured to that of education and yet a kingdom marriage has an eternal connotation. This has been the standard throughout and from the beginning. God has nations and generations in mind when a kingdom marriage joins together in holy matrimony.

THE STORY OF ISAAC AND REBEKAH

By now Abraham was old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. So Abraham said to the senior servant of his household who was in charge of all that he owned, "Take a solemn oath. I want you to swear by the Lord God of heaven and earth that you will not get my son a wife from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I'm living. Instead, you will go to the land of my relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." The servant asked him, "What if the woman doesn't want to come back to this land with me? Should I take your son all the way back to the land you came from?" "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said to him. "The Lord God of heaven took me from my father's home and the land of my family. He spoke to me and swore this oath: 'I will give this land to your descendants.' "God will send his angel ahead of you, and you will get my son a wife from there. If the woman doesn't want to come back with you, then you'll be free from this oath that you swear to me. But don't take my son back there." So the servant did as his master Abraham commanded and swore the oath to him concerning this.

Genesis 24:1-9 GW

Isaac was the promised child given to Abraham and Sarah when they were well past the age of childbearing. Isaac was the promised child and the heir to everything Abraham owned, that God had blessed them with. It was of utmost importance that the seed of Abraham's offspring should not be tainted with that of any other belief. The lineage was to remain in the same tribe.

It was customary for the parents to choose a wife for the Son in times past.

The servant Eliezar had to swear an oath that He would take only from the land where Abraham resided, the land of His descendants. God is very strategic in His plans. He had sent Abraham away from the land knowing that He would prosper out of His comfort. What stands out to me is that although Abraham had left, God still promised to provide for His descendants. Abraham and Sarah had settled in the land of the Canaanites. The Canaanites were polytheist, meaning they were pagans following idol worship and other gods.

Eliezer the servant had to go back to Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac.

Never marry any of them. Never let your daughters marry their sons or your sons marry their daughters. These people will turn your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the Lord will get very angry with you and will quickly destroy you. But this is what you must do to these people: Tear down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their poles dedicated to the god-

dess Asherah, and burn their idols. You are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. He chose you to be his own special possession out of all the nations on earth. The Lord set his heart on you and chose you, even though you didn't outnumber all the other people. You were the smallest of all nations. You were chosen because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors. So he used his mighty hand to bring you out. He freed you from slavery under Pharaoh (the king of Egypt).

Deuteronomy 7:3-8 GW

This Scripture is in the time of Moses because this was also in the land of Canaan. I felt it necessary to confirm that which was spoken of concerning Isaac and Rebekah is true.

Let us list below the prerequisites for this relationship based on the above Scriptures.

- An oath was sworn by Abraham to God. (Hebrews 6:13-14)
- The land had to be given back to God as it should be kept by His Chosen. (Genesis 5:12)
- Pagan worship could cause Isaac to forget his God. (Deuteronomy 18:9-14)
- They would not be equally yoked - two cannot walk together unless agreed (Amos 3:6.)
- Spiritual Maturity is very important if the land were to be inherited by the descendants for safe keeping and displaying the order of the Kingdom (Ephesians 4:13)
- The Children would come from the same lineage - from the incorruptible seed. (1st Peter 2:9)

- God had generations in mind when He gave such an instruction. (Genesis 17:7)
- Proper Alignment needed to be fulfilled (Psalms 143:10)

Abraham made the mistake of rushing the promise by listening to Sarah when making the concubine pregnant. A whole other nation came forth from not waiting on God and His promises. (Genesis 16) God must have also ensured that this would not happen again, that no more Ishmael spirits will be birthed through impatience and not carrying the will of God out.

Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all of his master's best things. He traveled to Aram Naharaim, Nahor's city.

Genesis 24:10 GW

There are 10 camels in the Scripture above, the number 10 symbolizes a complete course of time: a divine order of God's authority and divine perfection.

So, the time had come for Isaac and Rebekah. The servant made His way on this journey bringing destiny together.

The servant had the camels kneel down outside the city by the well. It was evening, when the women would go out to draw water. Then he prayed, "Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today. Show your kindness to Abraham. Here I am standing by the spring, and the girls of the city are coming out to draw water. I will ask a girl, 'May I please have a drink from your jar?'

If she answers, 'Have a drink, and I'll also water your camels,' let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. This way I'll know that you've shown your kindness to my master." Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. The girl was a very attractive virgin. No man had ever had sexual intercourse with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came back. The servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a drink of water." "Drink, sir," she said. She quickly lowered her jar to her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I'll also keep drawing water for your camels until they've had enough to drink." So she quickly emptied her jar into the water trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. The man was silently watching her to see whether the Lord had made his trip successful.

Genesis 24:11-21 GW

The servant first prays. It's so important that we pray and seek the counsel of God when seeking out that which belongs to us.

How beautiful that immediately the servant's prayer is answered, and Rebekah appears as He lifts his head.

I love the fact that they met at the well. I'm reminded of the woman at the well. Jesus goes out of His way to connect with her. (John 4)

The well and the waters being symbolic of the fresh waters flowing, the move of the Holy Spirit.

Rebekah is already functioning in her role. She clearly was a woman in spirit. She knew the exact time to be at the well and she also knew what needed to be done. When serving in the Kingdom from your Heart this act of service is natural.

The verse says she came with her jar on her shoulder. This is an indication that she was prepared. (How many times have we missed opportunities because we have been unprepared.)

Not only does she draw water for the servant; she also draws water for all 10 camels. We see that she was hardworking, considerate, gentle, and she was going about Her Father's Kingdom business.

- Kingdom Mandate fulfilled through the covenant between Abraham and God.
- Rebekah was Isaac's rib, created with him from the beginning of time.
- A spirit of discernment due to the joining of two before the foundations. No wonder she came out at the exact moment.
- Take note that Isaac is not in the picture. He is still asleep just like Adam.
- The woman usually is awake, discerning her significant other, that is if she is walking according to the will of God and is under His submission and authority.
- It is her role to serve and through this process she learns submission, patience, long-suffering and trust. Rebekah served from before the servant showed up.

- It is also her function to intercede for Her spouse, who knows what He may be faced with. In this case Isaac is mourning the death of his mother. (Genesis 23:2)
- It is also her function to pray for spiritual discernment and that Her spouse may know that she is the partner. Remember as he awakens the process of his spiritual sight needs to be aligned. Remember Adam was also given freedom of choice and had the option to choose the cattle of the field to become a friend to him to replace that of a help meet.
- She praying everything through, trains her in the area to be the prayer warrior of the family.
- While he is asleep, she is still in training
- Most important disturbing his sleep will disturb the process of how God would bring those pieces of the puzzle together for him once he is awakened.
- There is a process and refinement for both parties here.

The man knelt, bowing to the Lord with his face touching the ground. He said, "Praise the Lord, the God of my master Abraham. The Lord hasn't failed to be kind and faithful to my master. The Lord has led me on this trip to the home of my master's relatives." The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.

Genesis 24:26-28 GW

Here we see the servant is praising and worshipping God for a successful trip. We also see that Rebekah had already discerned and accepted the proposal immediately and then went to her family for their approval.

And he said to me, The Lord, in Whose presence I walk [habitually], will send His Angel with you and prosper your way, and you will take a wife for my son from my kindred and from my father's house. Then you shall be clear from my oath, when you come to my kindred; and if they do not give her to you, you shall be free and innocent of my oath.

Genesis 24:40-41 AMPC

Eliezer, the servant goes to the house of Abraham's descendants and tells them of his journey. He tells them that he had sworn an oath to Abraham and that if the female would not accept then he would return and be free.

What caught my attention in the above passage is that Abraham had an assurance that God had sent an Angel ahead of the servant. This confidence that he displayed was because He habitually walked in the ways of God. He believed in the promises of God and did not waiver at the promise.

I would also like to remind you that Rebekah had freedom of choice in the process.

God has given us this gift of freedom to choose. We are not slaves that are bound and God does not sit with a gun to one's head to make the choices that we choose today.

I say this from everything that is within me. Give God the freedom to do the choosing for you. I believe that He is the Creator of our lives so who better to trust with the decisions we are faced with daily.

It's the same as if your water pipes burst, would you call an Electrician or a Plumber? Would the plumber know better? This is the area that he specializes in, so the very same name we call when there are elements of our lives that need to be fixed is the same name, we must call on for our decision to choose a partner. After all, we are calling on the very name that created us. Rebekah rightfully discerned and she chose right.

And the servant brought out jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and garments and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and her mother.

Genesis 24:53 AMPC

There is a blessing that is attached when God ordains the two to become one. The blessing of the Lord will not only rest on the immediate family but is also available to the extended family. Glory! Hallelujah! Praise God! His blessings will stretch forth and enlarge the surroundings. We see that he gave to her brother and her mother.

So they called Rebekah and said to her, Will you go with this man? And she said, I will go. So they sent away Rebekah, their sister and her nurse [Deborah] and Abraham's servant and his men. Genesis 24:58-59 AMPC

We see that the transition was quick with no delay. There is no reason to delay. Rebekah is a woman of the Spirit. She chose right.

The only time one will wait is when God is preparing your significant other. Rebekah's preparation was complete when she

served the 10 camels and the servant. That was all part of her final preparation. She was a woman that was ready and prepared, understanding the season and time she was in and knowing the exact moment when she needed to be at the well.

Now Isaac had returned from going to Beer-lahai-roi (Well of the Living One Who Sees Me), for he was living in the Negev. Isaac went out to bow down [in prayer] in the field in the [early] evening; he raised his eyes and looked, and camels were coming. Rebekah also raised her eyes and looked, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from her camel. She said to the servant, "Who is that man there walking across the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master [Isaac]." So she took a veil and covered herself [as was customary]. The servant told Isaac everything that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah [in marriage], and she became his wife, and he loved her; therefore Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 24:62-67 AMP

It is amazing to see that Isaac returns from the well of Beer Lahai Roi meaning "the Living one who sees." This is a clear indication that Isaac is awakened, and He is no longer sleeping. He is ready to meet his bride. Again, I say don't awaken Love until it's ready. Understand there is a process and it's in this process where training takes place.

"El Roi" is what our God sees. Earlier I mentioned that we should call upon the name of the Lord. It is also interesting to know in the previous chapter that Isaac had lost his mom, Sarah. Through the

process of Him mourning his mom, God saw his pain and sent Rebekah to be his help to comfort him.

Isaac is fully awakened. God awakened Him. He is well able to take on his kingdom assignment.

Verse 63 shows us that Isaac is in a relationship with God. Early in the evening, exactly like in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve walked with God "*in the cool of the day,*" he felt her spirit and the connection then raised his eyes. Rebekah raised her eyes as well. Their spirits knew each other.

Rebekah dismounting herself off the horse displays the character of submission "getting off her high horse." Immediately when the servant confirmed Isaac, she covered herself with a veil. Now I know that it was customary in that time. I would like to believe that this was a symbol of him falling in love and remembering her spirit first as they were joined together from before the foundations of the earth. A Kingdom Marriage is that of the spirit joining.

Verse 66, Isaac took Rebekah into his mother's tent. The promise that was given to Abraham and Sarah was now handed down to Isaac and Rebekah. The significance of Rebekah going straight into Sarah's tent was that she now carried Sarah's mantle. The mantle was now handed over from one to another to continue the journey. The mantle had to be passed to someone of the same spirit, from the same seed and from the genealogy of Christ.

This is why Abraham asked the servant to take an oath. That is the very reason God instructed Abraham.

They became husband and wife, loved each other and continued in the ways of God functioning and reaping the promises of God.

LET US RECAP

Adam and Eve

First earth was created and second marriage. God created man in His image. God created male and female both in spirit before putting Adam into a deep sleep and performed a surgery. We are taught that Eve's rib was removed from Adam however, we see through Scripture that it was a surgery of Adam's wife that was taken out. It was not good for man to live alone. Eve was created to fill that void and become Adam's help meet.

Hozea

Hozea was not moved by his own will and emotion, neither was he moved by the world. He took instruction from God. He understood his mandate despite how bad his situation seemed. His ears were open to instruction and he was obedient and sacrificed everything for the call of God on his life.

Rebekah and Isaac

We learn the importance God instructions from a specific group or race. God is a generational God. He impacts generations. The DNA of the incorruptible seed designed for each assignment. Isaac and Rebekah were both able to receive the promise.

- Here we have three examples of Kingdom Marriages
- Each Marriage comes with its own flair and story line.
- Not every Mandate is the same. Not every Kingdom assignment will be the same.

- It's important to learn from others keeping in mind you have your own race to run.
- God has many sides and facets
- It's important to hear from God concerning your kingdom assignment, as we see they are not all the same
- Each story is different however the Spirit of God within each person has been demonstrated here.

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father, our Creator who art in Heaven, who knows my end from my beginning and has predestined my life for me. Father, it is only you that has the solution for my life. Lord, I give you full control to lead and direct my path into all righteousness. El Roi my God who sees, I ask you to open the eyes of my understanding and allow me to see what you see so that there will be no delay in my life. I declare that your will be done for me in this lifetime. Let me not wander like the Israelites but enable me to walk out my life according to your divine plan for me. I pray in Jesus Mighty Name Amen.

Chapter 3



MY TESTIMONY

I would like to share one part of my Testimony with you. Through the keys of obedience and sacrifice God allowed me to write this book. I believe that I was the seed that fell to the ground so that others would come to the knowledge and understanding, within my family, and for nations.

I am only going to speak about parts of my life that are applicable to the content of this book. I don't want the book to be about me, but this book is to Glorify God through my testimony.

I was brought up in the ways of the Lord. I was active in Sunday school. I was part of the praise and worship team. I grew from Sunday school and then into youth ministry. I came from a strong Pentecostal church - Assemblies of God. I started very early in my life pretending to be going to youth, yet I was out in the nightclubs. I must have been around 13 when I started drinking, smoking, clubbing and kissing boys. I had my first child at the age of 16. I entered so many wrong relationships, searching to be completed by the opposite sex. I didn't realize that my character was changing because as I engaged in different relations, soul ties are formed and I gave parts of myself away. It became easy to lie and cheat and my very being became tainted.

On one of my journeys of loss and despair through so many failed relationships, I finally met someone that loved me. I believe to have loved him. We had two beautiful daughters together. My last two out of 6 in total. Everything that a woman would want and desire all started coming to pass through our union. We didn't marry. The wedding set was purchased, and many dates were set but nothing materialized. I believe that God honoured the words that I spoke. I always said that the day I marry it would be eternal. You see despite the life that I chose to live, when roots are embedded in the soil, they grow. God watches over His word (that's rooted in us) to perform it. We spent 13 wonderful years together. We did everything together and tried going to church together from time to time, although at times that was also a stumbling block in our lives. We did try to pray but that was when our relationship became rocky so we continued simply living for each other. Whenever things were going good for us, we put God on the shelf. Besides, what exactly did we need? We had good paying jobs, beautiful kids, a home to live in, a car to drive and each other. That does sound like the above average family that has made it in life. Life was good or so we thought. I felt God had blessed me and that after so much pain and anguish I finally got everything my heart desired. It's easy to eat the forbidden fruit and to live a life for oneself without realising that the absence of Christ is death before actual death.

But God is sovereign. God wanted me to Himself, and he also wanted my ex to Himself as well. *"What does it really profit a man having everything in the world yet loses his soul."*

I re-dedicated my Life to Christ - for real this time around May 2017. I was really in and out of church my whole life so this time round the roots within me had to be grounded. I was living with my boyfriend at that time. As I grew closer and closer to God, I began

to feel guilty for sleeping in the same bed with him. The Holy Spirit was dealing with me. I constantly got up at night to pray. the Holy Spirit would keep me up at night. Intimacy with my partner became a nightmare as I would cry, being convicted by the Holy Spirit. I was invited by a friend to attend my local church DCC Bluff for an Easter production. I later visited the Wentworth branch for Sunday morning service and it was around the same time that I was waiting on God to show me which church I was to go to. From 2016 something inside of me was already being stirred. After my third visit to the Church, I attend currently, I felt that God had directed me to be there. A guest speaker also confirmed whilst preaching on the third Sunday morning that where I was, was exactly where God wanted me. Even though I was still in the world, I still prayed - most people do. I began serving in the Church. I joined the Walking in His Footsteps programme. I encourage every person that joins a family Church to make it their duty to actively serve in the Church. Give the enemy no free time to rope you back into the world. The closer I became to God the more and more rocky my relationship became. God began ministering to me through Scriptures found in James 1:27,1:22-25 and John. Scriptures on forsaking family and friends for the Gospel and receiving a hundred fold in this lifetime.

I would wake up at night to pray and God would speak by saying "my incorruptible seed...attend to mine and I'll attend to yours." One night I woke up to pray and God told me to go home, back to my father. I fought with everything inside of me. When I finally confirmed that everything that I was hearing was from God. I had to act. I felt so much heartache about my decision because I knew the pain it brought to my ex-boyfriend.

I gave up the only love I had ever known. So much pain and

anguish filled me, especially because the community I came from waited patiently for my fall and waited to laugh at me. I had a reputation to never to keep a relationship. So, this was more accolades added to my failures. I can't forget the pain it brought to both of us because I believe it was through this that the folding of our lives began to take shape according to the perfect will of God.

My ex had his heart ripped out. He walked around in so much despair at that time. I cried before God, "O Lord, let your will be done in and through our lives." I always prayed and believed. I said, "If we get back together, it will be because you are working on us separately. If you will that we be together we will be two complete whole individuals. However, if it is not in your will let it be that you will raise up one of my exes to bring back his joy. Let him move forward first and then according to your will, show me what I am called to."

When we begin to sort out the plans and purpose for our lives God speaks plainly. He moves Heaven and Earth because we become willing participants of His Heavenly design. As we lay down our lives and cry out to Him there is a super exchange for our natural situation, and we experience the supernatural speed of God. We learn His voice. He speaks more and more. He trusts us with His kingdom. He begins to show us the mystery of His Kingdom.

He knows the plans He has for us. They are good plans to prosper us and to give us a hope and a future.

For God is satisfied to have all his fullness dwelling in Christ. And by the blood of his cross, everything in heaven and earth is brought back to himself—back to its original intent, restored to innocence again! Even though

you were once distant from him, living in the shadows of your evil thoughts and actions, he reconnected you back to himself. He released his supernatural peace to you through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin-payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in his presence. And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored,
Colossians 1:19-22 TPT

God wanted us both set free from the bondage that we couldn't recognise we were in when we were in the world. You see we chose each-other. God did not choose us for each. However, in all situations nothing goes wasted because Scripture tells us that all things work together for our good. And yes, some may be asking about the children and would God actually do that. Well, God Himself promised me according to Isaiah 54 that He himself has become my husband and He has become the father to my children. Who better to train and develop my kids than God Himself! Who better to be a husband to me than God Himself! I have no lack in Christ. Yes, God's divine plan is a husband, wife and children. We see that right at the beginning. God also wants to undo and set us free. Is not the soul of more value? How can I continue to live a life where I am constantly making my own choices, but I am out of the will of God, living an incomplete substandard life satisfying only my flesh? Understand that every child born is not a mistake. God is sovereign that He will fit the pieces of the puzzle together for you. We choose paths that are not for us, however, through God's Sovereign hand over us He finds a way to get us back on the right path. He uses the very mistakes we have made to become our greatest testimony, teach us through these experiences so that is why I always say nothing goes wasted with the God we serve.

From the beginning I revealed to you what would happen. These words came out of my mouth, and I made them known. Suddenly, I acted, and they happened. You've heard these words. Now look at all this. Won't you admit it? From now on I will reveal to you new things, hidden things that you do not know. Isaiah 48:3,6 GW

I want to share these mysteries with you and how God speaks plainly.

God showed me in a dream what my ex-boyfriend's future wife would look like. This happened as I was always praying, "Lord if he is not for me, please send his significant other", so when he started dating her a year later, I stumbled on a picture of them on social media. It was the same girl from the dream. The Holy Spirit began putting pressure on me to start writing this book. I felt an unexplainable urgency to do this book. I was not aware at the time that my ex was planning on getting married, however, God knows all things.

So as time passed, I eventually got to know that he was planning on marrying her. We did keep a friendship for the sake of the kids. God caused my ex to understand that everything that took place was by God so forgiveness and the healing process took place faster and there was no hindrance or blockage preventing my ex from pursuing his new life.

I didn't know that in these moments that my encounters would have assisted me in writing this book. It has guided me to help Him understand kingdom relationships and the way God brings people together for His glory.

He began to have pre wedding jitters. Many questions began to flood his mind such as "am I doing the right thing? What about the kids? Is this really from God?" Honestly, I started doubting what I believed was true when he came to me with so many questions. I praise God for His faithfulness. God has gifted me in prophetic dreams and visions. Immediately after speaking to my troubled ex, I took everything before God and that night, God allowed me to see details such as the colours of the wedding and the meaning of each colour. My ex knew that my dream was from God, and the confirmation came through so strongly. In my own strength, nothing would have been achieved, however, God spoke to us plainly so there was no way that what I had seen and shared could have been a lie.

Five years earlier I had a dream whereby I was in a massive soccer stadium. There was an international guest speaker, I was wearing a green sweater. The stadium was full of people from all over. The guest speaker singled me out and asked that I pray over marriages in this dream. Ever since then I find myself counselling in the areas of marriage, divorce and singleness.

I believe God had been training me through such a process, for me to learn and understand kingdom marriages.

I trust you were blessed with this part of my testimony and I pray that if you have found yourself in a position to choose correctly to sacrifice and through obedience hear what the spirit of God is saying to you, that you will yield to God's leading.

Like I mentioned earlier, if you are married already, do not leave your spouse. Unless the marriage covenant is broken then

you have a legal right to end the relationship, however, if you are having problems, it's not a reason to divorce.

There is the Perfect will of God.

There is the Permissible will of God

There is the Acceptable will of God.

We choose how we want to live. Either way we are loved by God. God loves us. He hates the sin in our lives but He loves us. Search the Scriptures, sit at Jesus feet to understand the character of our Father and then you will know the road to take. Each person has his/her own story and a wonderful journey. We share our testimony to help those that are faced with similar experiences.

Chapter 4



KEYS TO HELP KEEP US ON OUR JOURNEY

We learn through our relationship with Christ that every command that He has given us was never to harm us. It is beneficial for daily living as these are the keys that will shape and mould us into everything that we are called too. These are the keys that will allow us to have a fulfilled and complete life. These will preserve us for hard times. We will be able to function in any condition because our core will be engaged and aligned with our Father:

“Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that spoil and ruin the vineyards [of love], While our vineyards are in blossom.”

Song of Solomon 2:15 AMP

Identifying the core of a problem is key.

Let us identify what these troubling foxes in our lives are, that have caused us to walk out of the will of God and hinders our relationship with God. Let us catch these foxes and deal with each one. When we identify a problem, it is easier to deal with, rather than walking around blindly believing that our life as we see it is perfect and there is no need for correction.

- Lack of discipline with social media?
- The spirit of “I can't say No to friends?”

- Unforgiveness?
- Past Hurts?
- Offense or being easily offended?
- Lack of Commitment?
- Lack of Faith?

If I have not listed your fox here, please add to this and let us pray and be healed today

Praying about the problem and receiving healing by Faith is also another key?

Heavenly Father, we come to you in the name of Jesus.

Father, it is your will for our lives that we live in peace, that we are fulfilled, complete and that we love one another. Lord, we pray and ask you to remove any hindrance that causes our vineyards to die. Restore us from these troubling foxes so that we can blossom the way you have created us to, from before the foundations of earth. Let your will be done. Let your kingdom come in us and through us, in the name of Jesus Amen.

LOVE CHRIST

And Jesus replied to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37-38 AMP

We love, because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates (works against) his [Christian] brother he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom

he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

1 John 4:19-20 AMP

God knew it would be impossible to live by the standard of the 10 commandments. The laws of do not murder, do not steal, do not commit adultery etc., are not easy to remember. God did not come to abolish the law; however, He did come to fulfil the law. When He gave us this final commandment, I believe He knew that when we learn to love Him, we begin to conform to the very image of Christ. Everything within us lies dormant. The command to love God activates the resurrection power of love. It restores within us the resurrection power of our love. This transformation of us loving God takes on a whole new meaning, a whole new dimension of His supernatural love within us. To walk in the love of God is to experience His Love. Where you are overflowing with love, means you will not seek the approval of man, offense will be so far from you and you will understand your identity and the call of God on your life. There will never be a scent of jealousy from you. Love has a very special aroma that when given off is contagious. When you are overflowing with love you give off an aroma and become a blessing to others. The world is in a state where man's heart is growing cold. We need to sprinkle the love of God wherever you go and see transformation of lives. Now we see that loving God should not be a chore. It has lasting benefits for us. We see that when God commands us, He is really looking out for our best interests.

When you Love someone, it is much easier to submit to their will. Therefore, the law is fulfilled through the love that one has with the Father.

I believe that when we get a revelation of the cross and what God

has done for us by His blood, the redemptive power of His blood redeems us back to the original plan of His Love. We will never again walk away or out of His will. Ultimately His revelation can only activate in you as you choose to walk intentionally in His love. A practical way to learn the love of the Father is through developing a relationship by being intentional in the time spent with Him.

What benefit do I receive? Everyone wants and loves benefits!

- ***The Gift of Eternal life:*** we are created to live in eternity with our Heavenly Father. His Spirit that He breathed in us will return to Him. We will be with Him forever. We are not designed to live out of the presence of God. We must grab hold of eternal truths and remain steadfast. God sees the end from the beginning. We should start learning to look through the eyes of Christ in everything and begin to see our lives at the end. I believe this will help us make conscious decisions.
- ***Living a fulfilled life:*** The most painful for anyone is living an entire life never knowing the plans that God had for them, never obtaining fulfilment whilst walking the earth and never walking into their purpose. That is a pain that I have watched and seen in my very own family and in my community amongst God's people.
- ***Freedom:*** The freedom that comes with living in His eternal plan, knowing that whether you live or die you are alive in Christ is fulfilling.

Who else obtains from this?

- ***Your entire Family*** for Generations to come. When one person comes to Christ, through your prayers, a whole household then attains salvation.

- ***One Kingdom Family*** unit can impact an entire community just by walking accordingly and by being the example.

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4:23 AMP

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to Your precepts].

Psalms 119:9 AMP

The commandment to love and the issue of our heart is all linked as we know that love really flows from the heart. Proverbs 4:23 guides us on ways to keep our hearts in order.

To watch and pray is to really be in prayer, with all diligence, meaning that we should make the effort by working it out through prayer. We ought to watch and pray Matthew 26:40 Jesus is saying that the disciples could not watch and pray with Him for one hour and that they need to stay alert. Through prayer we stay alert and are not deceived by the entrapments of the enemy.

We see again In Psalms 119:9 that we should watch "in order to keep our way pure according to your Word."*Watch and pray!*

Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:5 AMP

PRAYER

With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people. Ephesians 6:18 AMP

We ought to pray, at all times. Praying in the spirit throughout the day is powerful. The spirit knows what to pray for us. We can pray prayers that sound like ramblings, however, when we pray in spirit, we pray the perfect will of God speaking mysteries to our Father. Prayer is a tool that is used to develop a relationship with Christ. It is communication. God is first interested in you as an individual before anything else. His interests are to build a relationship with you. The benefits of praying:

- Builds relationship with God
- Keeps you alert and sensitive to what the Spirit of God is saying
- Learn the heartbeat of Christ
- Learn to pray effectively
- Walk according to the Will of God through prayer
- Your spiritual discernment is awakened

There are different ways of praying "*with all prayer and petition prayer*" we always pray and in every season.

Knowing the importance of prayerful communication is essential.

- Type 1 – **Worship and Praise:** This prayer acknowledges God for what and who He is in our lives. We revere Him and love on Him. God loves to be adored and honored. We are made to Worship Him.

- Type 2 – **Petition:** to petition in prayer is when we pray and ask God for ourselves and for others. It is also where we plead with God for our sin and turn back to God.
- Type 3-**Intercession:** In the same way that Jesus stands at the throne and constantly intercedes for all believers in Christ, we as believers have a function on the earth to stand in the gap for our loved ones, our community, our family, our neighbours, our city, our country, our world, our government and our president. We must intercede for salvation, peace, health, wellbeing, corruption and so much more.
- Type 4 – **Supplication:** From its Latin translation of supplicare, meaning “to plead humbly,” supplication can also be summarized as a request to God. In our request (or supplication), we must be wise to ask God for things that will truly enrich our lives, like wisdom, strength, health and love. In Christianity, genuine supplication is an expression of authentic belief in God and trust in Him to answer our prayers.
- Type 5 – **Thanksgiving:** We express our gratitude and thankfulness, when we see our prayers being answered. The evidence of the Blessings of God bestowed upon us causes our hearts to become so joyful and our prayers acknowledge the God that makes provision for us.
- Type 6 – **Spiritual Warfare:** This prayer is used when there is an urgency, when you are going through trial and tribulations and you feel like Satan is coming after you at every corner. Engaging in Spiritual warfare is when you literally become aggressive, speak out according to the Word of God, make declarations, cut off negative words and assignments that the enemy tries to ensnare you with. Come into agreement with the Word of God and engage in battle as you pray the Word of God.
- Type 7 - **Praying in other tongues:** As your relationship with

God grows, you learn different methods of prayer. Praying in tongues is a heavenly language given to every believer to pray the mysteries of God. This prayer cannot be understood by Satan or his demons but is designed for God Himself to hear what the Spirit of God is saying in prayer. This prayer also builds you up in your innermost parts strengthening and rooting you.

- Type 8 - **Travail:** Jesus travailed at the Garden of Gethsemane before He was taken to the cross where He hung on the cross of Calvary for our Sin. Travail is a prayer that cannot be explained with the lips but rather a groaning and moaning from deep within. The inner spirit of man connects with God's Spirit and begins to intercede through the Spirit itself.

*There is a season (a time appointed) for everything and a time for every delight and event or purpose under heaven—
Ecclesiastes 3:1 AMP*

In our lives, we go through different seasons. It is important to understand the season that we are in especially when it comes to the area of prayer. Too many times I see prayers of warfare going about - we tire ourselves out. We are to be in tune with the Spirit of God and what His spirit is saying in a specific season.

Prayer is also sitting and waiting on God for an answer to a problem. Prayer is not one way communication, it's a conversation with God. God speaks to us in prayer. Imagine you in constant warfare. Do you honestly believe that you will hear the voice of God? We miss our breakthrough by not understanding the time or season we are in.

Jesus taught us a very special prayer and a way to pray, This

will guide us in prayer so that we are not taken off into any kind of doctrine or teaching that is not in line with the Word of God.

“Also, when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to pray [publicly] standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets so that they may be seen by men. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, they [already] have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your most private room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. So do not be like them [praying as they do]; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors [letting go of both the wrong and the resentment]. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’ For if you forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins], your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others [nurturing your hurt and anger with the result that it interferes with your relationship with God], then your Father will not forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:5-15 AMP

Why else should we pray? The Bible tells us the prayers of the righteous avails much, (James 5:16) so when you choose to walk

in obedience you are in right standing with God, rendering your prayers effective.

I will never forget a time when my daughter's friend became ill. My daughter had accepted Christ as her personal Saviour. (She has fallen into a backslidden state, but God is Faithful and I know that according to the Word of God that as for me and my household we will serve the Lord)

I was woken up by my child. She asked me to pray as she could not sleep and was up all night. My first responses to her as I woke up was, "Why could you not sleep?" "Don't allow fear to make you lose rest and don't you know that you should pray?" My daughter is annoyed at me at this point. She says, "Yes I have been praying but I want you to pray."

I get out of bed frustrated having been disturbed from my morning glory sleep. The problem we often have is the spirit of slumber. Had I been so sensitive to everything around me I would have prayed before her friend became ill. I go to the bathroom and immediately the Holy Spirit reprimands me and says, "*The prayers of the righteous availeth much.*"

I immediately got out of there, held my daughter and prayed with the understanding so that my prayers reach right into the Holy of Holies.

The meaning of righteousness is when someone is in right standing with God. It is an everyday walk constantly deciding that my heart will be right before God. It is the posture of the heart and being intentional that is most important.

Who may ascend onto the mountain of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to what is false, Nor has sworn [oaths] deceitfully.

Psalms 24:3-4 AMP

The testimony that came from obedience brought healing to my daughter's friend who was hospitalized. Brain scans were being done because of the severe headaches she encountered. The results came back clear and she contacted my daughter and shared the report of her healing.

POWER IN AGREEMENT

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 AMP

We see so much unity and knitting together illustrated Christ, God the Father and the Holy Spirit. This is freely given to us through grace, love and fellowship. This is demonstrated through the trinity and because we have been purchased into an eternal Family through Christ Jesus, we should also demonstrate these attributes to others who do not know Christ.

For this reason [grasping the greatness of this plan by which Jews and Gentiles are joined together in Christ] I bow my knees [in reverence] before the Father [of our Lord Jesus Christ], from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name [God—the first and ultimate Father].

Ephesians 3:14-15 AMP

There is this that has been going around from as far as I can remember. First the Jew and then the Gentile – yes, the Jew was God's first love, however, God loves humanity and has not separated anyone. To say the Jew and then the Gentile would defeat the purpose of the Cross of Calvary and Jesus dying for humanity. When He died Jew and Gentile became one. We are all now partakers of God's Heavenly design. Paul agrees here and is demonstrating his gratitude.

To revere the Father is to admire and respect, and because Paul highly respects God there is a mutual agreement that is existing between Heaven and Earth.

Because of a mutual agreement, Paul agrees with heaven so heaven responds to Paul when He prays on the earth.

Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment? Amos 3:3 AMP

I love the way we have all been given freedom of choice. We get to choose how we should live. The GW version says "*Do two people ever walk together without meeting first?*"

We intentionally decide to get to know a person and walk it out together. When vows are shared there is an agreement that takes place. This agreement is a covenant that is made. Eve was presented to Adam but ultimately Adam still had a choice. I believe it was their spirit that agreed. That is why it is so important to walk according to the spirit first. We are spirit and then Flesh. The flesh will fail you. It produces after its own kind.

There is another fact to consider. This revelation was explained so beautifully to me by a dear friend. Her name will be among every contributor of this book.

The two walking together and coming into an agreement can also be You and the Holy Spirit. You, coming into agreement with the Holy Spirit is God reasoning with you and you aligning yourself to His will. She says that the unequally yoke factor of couples coming together ultimately is God agreeing with you. That is a powerful revelation.

We see in the stories that I have penned that each story is unique. Each character is under submission of the will of God. So each story truly warrants its own uniqueness. That is why we should seek the Father so that we can find Him. It is in seeking the will of God for our lives that a mystery and a deep revelation is received.

If you see the oppression of the poor and the denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight [of corruption]; for a higher official watches over another official, and there are higher ones over them [looking out for one another]. After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land.

Ecclesiastes 5:8-9 AMP

The power of agreement will cause an effect on our land. What are we agreeing with when we see the oppression of the poor? Who are the officials that are watching over our land and who are we agreeing with concerning what we see? There is good and there is evil. There are those who confess doom over our land and there are those who pray in our land. The team that screams the

loudest wins. Which team are we supporting? Do we profess the Word of God by Faith and believe that God is Faithful to heal our land from oppression or do we come into agreement with those that see things carnally and agree with the corruption of our land? Who is this king? The king is you and me. We have been given dominion to cultivate our land, just like Adam cultivated the Garden of Eden and even when He was thrown out of the Garden, He continued to cultivate the earth.

LIVING IN UNISON WITH EACH OTHER

make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love [toward one another], knit together in spirit, intent on one purpose [and living a life that reflects your faith and spreads the gospel—the good news regarding salvation through faith in Christ].

Philippians 2:2 AMP

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty [conceited, self-important, exclusive], but associate with humble people [those with a realistic self-view]. Do not overestimate yourself. Never repay anyone evil for evil. Take thought for what is right and gracious and proper in the sight of everyone. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:16-18 AMP

Finally, believers, rejoice! Be made complete [be what you should be], be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace [enjoy the spiritual well-being experienced by believers who

*walk closely with God]; and the God of love and peace [the source of lovingkindness] will be with you.
2 Corinthians 13:11 AMP*

*There is one body [of believers] and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when called [to salvation]— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all who is [sovereign] over all and [working] through all and [living] in all.
Ephesians 4:4-6 AMP*

We see a similar style and a cry for oneness and being like-minded from the many different reads throughout the Bible,. Like I mentioned earlier, if something is highlighted in so many places, I believe it's a call to action and not to be taken lightly. These are the keys that will unlock us.

A holistic view of the body of Christ is that each joint supplies. We are one body with different parts coming from different denominations, or church groups, different groups learning at a different pace, however, we all belong to Christ. Although we are different, we all function with the same goal or vision and our connector is Christ. Our main function is to preach and speak the gospel of Christ so that all can come to the same understanding. The bridegroom is waiting on us. We cannot awaken His love until the gospel is preached throughout the earth. Any other that is not linked to Christ does not belong to the body of Christ. The only way to belong to the body is by accepting that Jesus is Lord, that He died on the Cross of Calvary for our Sin.

Two are better than one because they have a more satisfying return for their labour; for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and does not have another to lift him up. Again, if two lie down together, then they keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? And though one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 AMP

When like-minded individuals connect and come together in agreement there is a supernatural shift that takes place, two has always been better than one. "Woe to him who is alone when He falls." A Woe is a warning and something that we need to pay attention to. How does a person that is called to marriage function without his/her significant other? When the coordinates and the alignments are not in order there is delay. The real cause of delay is this: How much time are we really investing in the Spirit? The more we sow to the Spirit, we will be able to identify the plans and purpose that God has for us. As I mentioned earlier, we are spirit first. The more we allow our spirit to receive the Heavenly download, we will not walk in spiritual blindness and just like Adam we will identify who our helper is.

For the order of heaven to function on earth there is an urgency for proper alignments for kingdom marriages and assignments to arise. "A cord of three strands is not easily broken" Everything is created by God and for God's purpose. For this very reason that God should be at the centre of any marriage, so that even if you have chosen in the dark and have not received this revelation remember God honours covenant and will work with a person you

choose. Placing God in the centre of your marriage changes the function of this union now. Do this. Allow God the Honour and the privilege to mould, shape and design the next chapter of your lives. Wow! This is our Sovereign God who is able to turn any situation into a Wow moment. I love the way He wants to be in our lives. He hasn't just created us and left us aside. He wants to be a part of every plan in our lives.

7 Signs to Identify When You Are Under A Spiritual Attack

- 1. *Loss of spiritual desire:*** The goal of any spiritual attack is to turn you away from what Jesus wants to do in your life. That is why the first warning sign of attack is a loss of spiritual desire. We don't live by feelings alone, but there is a difference between doing something merely out of obligation and doing something because you delight in it. When you delight in the Lord, nothing else compares. Someone passionate for Jesus Christ finds pleasure in the things of God.
- 2. *Physical fatigue:*** The second warning sign is physical fatigue. I know that doesn't sound very spiritual, but keep in mind that we are created spirit, soul and body. If my body is weak, it allows things to get into my mind (soul), and that allows things to negatively affect my spirit. Many times, we face our greatest attacks just before a great promotion or just after a great victory. Keep in mind when you're going through it—an attack could very well be an indication that you are about to be promoted or you just got a great victory.
- 3. *Lack attack:*** The third sign that you are under attack is a "lack attack." There are times when it seems that all your resources dry up at the same time. The enemy attacks in this way to get you to take your eyes off Jesus and put your

eyes on money. If he can get you worrying rather than worshipping, you will start making decisions based on opportunity rather than anointing. Always remember there are two times in your life when you are especially vulnerable to temptation: when you have nothing and when you have everything. Stay close to Jesus Christ in both the good times and the bad times.

4. ***Weak prayer life:*** The fourth sign that you are under spiritual attack is a weakening prayer life. "Could you not watch with Me one hour?" Jesus asked His disciples. Then He told them, "*Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*" (Matt. 26:40-41).
5. **Feeling overwhelmed and helpless:** Are you feeling overwhelmed by circumstances? That could be a sign that you are under attack. The word circumstance comes from two words: circum (encircle) and stance (stand). In other words, you are standing encircled by what's going on. It doesn't take long for feelings of being overwhelmed begin to lead you to hopelessness. The Bible says, "*Hope deferred makes the heart sick*" (Prov. 13:12). It also tells us, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (Heb. 11:1). If the enemy can get you to lose hope, he can get you to stop living by faith.
6. ***Old habits and lifestyles resurface:*** The sixth sign that you are under spiritual attack is that old iniquities begin to resurface in your life. What is an iniquity? Some consider iniquities to be those old habits that your soul wants to fall back on when things aren't going your way—things that indulge the flesh. If this begins to happen, do not ignore the warning of the Holy Spirit.

- 7. *Pulling away from Godly relationships:*** When old iniquities start tempting you, the next sign of spiritual attack is sure to follow - pulling away from Godly relationships. Look around. Have you pulled out of relationships with people at church or with people in your small group? Are more and more of your friends carnally minded rather than spiritually minded? If so, you are stumbling around the battleground and the enemy has a target on your head.

I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:19 AMP

Chapter 5



INTIMACY WITH GOD

Christ is coming back for His Church. We are His Church. Yes, we are His bride. He is coming back for a perfect bride and there will be peace throughout the land when this transition takes place.

As we read, the Songs of Solomon, we see the illustration of Christ, and His Church (you and I). We will take a tour of this amazing book of true intimacy and we will understand one of God's many facets.

The most amazing song of all, by King Solomon. Let him smother me with kisses—his Spirit-kiss divine. So kind are your caresses, I drink them in like the sweetest wine! Your presence releases a fragrance so pleasing— over and over poured out. For your lovely name is “Flowing Oil.” No wonder the brides-to-be adore you. Draw me into your heart. We will run away together into the king’s cloud-filled chamber. We will remember your love, rejoicing and delighting in you, celebrating your every kiss as better than wine. No wonder righteousness adores you! Jerusalem maidens, in this twilight darkness I know I am so unworthy—so in need. Yet you are so lovely! I feel as dark and dry as the desert

*tents of the wandering nomads. Yet you are so lovely—
like the fine linen tapestry hanging in the Holy Place.
Song of Songs 1:1-5 TPT*

The young bride seeks to be intimate: "Your presence releases a fragrance so pleasing— over and over poured out." I'm reminded of the woman that broke the alabaster box at Jesus' feet. In that intimate moment a beautiful aroma was released.

There is another Scripture that says the prayers of the righteous goes up to heaven like a sweet-smelling aroma. God desires to be in a constant intimate relationship with us. The very reasons we are created is to belong to a large family and be in relationship. For this reason, when we don't plug into the source through intimacy we dry up. We are not meant to be without the presence of God. Our oil is generated from being in His presence. In His presence we never thirst nor hunger after anything else, but Him. Each person should always make it their duty to get into God's presence.

*Please don't stare in scorn because of my dark and
sinful ways. My angry brothers quarreled with me and
appointed me guardian of their ministry vineyards, yet
I've not tended my vineyard within. Won't you tell me,
lover of my soul, where do you feed your flock? Where
do you lead your beloved ones to rest in the heat of the
day? For I wish to be wrapped all around you as I wan-
der among the flocks of your shepherds. It is you I long
for, with no veil between us! Song of Songs 1:6-7 TPT*

The bride like so many of us today can sometimes fall into this trap of becoming so busy in our ministries within church or out-

reach. Whichever area you are called to serve, you must never neglect the very source of our lives, Christ. He is the one who is able to revive us the moment we step into the secret place with Him, especially when our vineyard has to be tendered to.

I pray that we never fall into this trap of working in the ministry and forgetting to make time for intimacy with Christ. We need our vineyards to be cleaned in the presence of God so that we can serve from a pure place without thistles and thorns grabbing hold of us and choking out the essence of God within us. There must be a balance in our lives. God is a God of order and He will never give you more than you can handle. If you ever find yourself too busy, please take a step back, identify the issue, refuel, repent for no rest because God Himself created the seventh day for rest.

To the questions asked by the bride in verse 7, my answer is, that the flock is the body of Christ. The flock is fed in any gathering from a church meeting, Home-cell meeting, intercession meeting and so forth. Neglect not the gathering of the saints. God visits and does a special work for us during these meetings. In the heat of the day, we are led beside still waters. He restores our souls. He hides us under the shadow of the Almighty. We are hidden in His chambers.

My dearest one, let me tell you how I see you— you are so thrilling to me. To gaze upon you is like looking at one of Pharaoh's finest horses— a strong, regal steed pulling his royal chariot. Your tender cheeks are aglow— your earrings and gem-laden necklaces set them ablaze. We will enhance your beauty, encircling you with our golden reins of love. You will be marked with our redeeming grace. Song of Songs 1:9-11 TPT

Wow, how beautiful is this? The bridegroom is in such awe of His creation. The way we see ourselves is not the way He sees us.

We see ourselves as frail. He sees us as strong as a horse. We see ourselves in a place of poverty. He sees us as royalty. We see ourselves as insignificant. He has adorned us with beautiful gems. We see ourselves ugly at times and yet He sees the beauty in us. We are marked with His grace. We are a royal priesthood and a chosen generation. We are God's sealed chosen saints called unto sanctification and holiness to demonstrate His splendour and majesty on the face of the earth.

Yes, you are my darling companion. You stand out from all the rest. For though the curse of sin surrounds you, still you remain as pure as a lily, even more than all others. Song of Songs 2:2 TPT

Although we are surrounded by the entrapments of this world, a deep level of intimacy with God has caused one to stand strong. God acknowledges and sees all things. Don't ever be disappointed when man does not see the good in you. God sees and that's all that matters. Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord. You remain as pure as a lily. Your garments are not soiled. You are one with a pure heart and clean hands.

My beloved is to me the most fragrant apple tree— he stands above the sons of men. Sitting under his grace-shadow, I blossom in his shade, enjoying the sweet taste of his pleasant, delicious fruit, resting with delight where his glory never fades. Suddenly, he transported me into his house of wine— he looked upon me with his unrelenting love divine. Revive me with your

raisin cakes. Refresh me again with your apples. Help me and hold me, for I am lovesick! I am longing for more— yet how could I take more? His left hand cradles my head while his right hand holds me close. I am at rest in this love. Song of Songs 2:3-6 TPT

The bride speaks of His fragrance once more. What is this fragrance? Let's read on. God's fragrance releases the scent of peace, joy and love. When a fragrance is released the ambiance or atmosphere changes and we are impacted by it. For example, you suddenly feel an unexplainable joy within you, God's fragrance has released this joy.

As the Bride sits in His presence, she waits to enjoy the many facets of her creator. In His presence you cry, laugh, speak in your Heavenly language, travail, stand or sit in wonder. Suddenly, you are taken into His most Holy place. This is a place that cannot be located by darkness. You find yourself in the environment of Psalm 91. You are renewed, made whole and purified. We must learn to stay in this place.

Listen! I hear my lover's voice. I know it's him coming to me— leaping with joy over mountains, skipping in love over the hills that separate us, to come to me. Let me describe him: he is graceful as a gazelle, swift as a wild stag. Now he comes closer, even to the places where I hide. He gazes into my soul, peering through the portal as he blossoms within my heart. Song of Songs 2:8-9 TPT

The relationship between the Shulamite and the Bridegroom has developed so much that she is able to identify when He wants

to speak to her. She knows when she must step into her prayer closet. Wow such a powerful place to be!

For anyone reading this book that has run dry on this journey for not cultivating and igniting the presence of God in your life, I pray a desire will flood your heart once more, to step into God's presence. May those dry places within you be filled with the power of God. I pray for progressive revelation and command that spirit of stagnation to be broken over your life in Jesus Mighty Name - Amen.

The season has changed, the bondage of your barren winter has ended, and the season of hiding is over and gone. The rains have soaked the earth and left it bright with blossoming flowers. The season for singing and pruning the vines has arrived. I hear the cooing of doves in our land, filling the air with songs to awaken you and guide you forth. Can you not discern this new day of destiny breaking forth around you? The early signs of my purposes and plans are bursting forth. The budding vines of new life are now blooming everywhere. The fragrance of their flowers whispers, "There is change in the air." Arise, my love, my beautiful companion, and run with me to the higher place. For now is the time to arise and come away with me. For you are my dove, hidden in the split-open rock. It was I who took you and hid you up high in the secret stairway of the sky. Let me see your radiant face and hear your sweet voice. How beautiful your eyes of worship and lovely your voice in prayer.

Song of Songs 2:11-14 TPT

There is a call to "arise" for us to go deeper into the presence of God. He says, "the seasons have changed." Before entering a new season there are season changing elements that present itself. For example, before we enter Autumn after Summer, it becomes extremely windy in the season transitioning month.

What takes place here in the Scripture is that the season changes, bringing about a shift in the life of the bride. God prepares us this way to become an unshakeable kingdom that will stand in every situation. We are being prepared for this end time move. We must learn to be able to flow in any kind of condition. We can't become content with the way we are or our fires will slowly burn out.

Take note the bridegroom sees ahead into the future. He gives you the whole story and He does direct your path. It's important to yield to His presence to know which way to go. He tells the bride that she is stepping into her new season, but the road becomes rocky.

Verse 13 the question is asked "can't you discern the time? The season that you are in."

When you become born again, you start learning to engage Christ in prayer. It's never explained that you will experience turbulence and go through many trials but understand you are not exempt from going through anything. Your comfort is in the fact that Christ is with you throughout everything you go through. I believe when God wants to bless you, He causes a shaking to remove the tears in your life. He doesn't want to give you blessings and you enter your new season with old baggage. It's so important to discern the times and seasons we are in and who is supposed to be part of it. It's a painful experience not to discern

and miss an entire season or draw back because the trials have become much.

In verse 10 & 13 the word "arise " is repeated. We need to arise and take a stand in moments of despair or when fiery darts are being shot our way. When going through these storms one's vision can become blurry. You are not seeing the way you would see in the past.

How to overcome it? How to get back to this place of intimacy? "Arise" in praise, in worship, with the word and in Psalms. Push through the pressure, refuse to stagnate and regress. Arise, and again I say, arise!

Verse 15 confirms what I have been speaking about.

The bridegroom sends a warning to the bride and reassures her that he will be with her. He says we will catch the foxes that hinder our relationship. We will do it together.

It is important to identify anything that hinders your relationship with God. We only go to God with our heart so therefore it is our duty to ensure that we look after it. Bring all hindrances to Christ. He is faithful to restore and deliver you from anything that would cause you to stumble or fall.

What often happens when we go through storms is that we don't arise and go into the safety of God's presence. We expose ourselves to the enemy, his fiery darts and we become wounded soldiers. We then harden our hearts, forget about the sound teachings that were taught and walk away from the one who is able to repair us – Christ!

I know my lover is mine and I have everything in you, for we delight ourselves in each other. But until the day springs to life and the shifting shadows of fear disappear, turn around, my lover, and ascend to the holy mountains of separation without me. Until the new day fully dawns, run on ahead like the graceful gazelle and skip like the young stag over the mountains of separation. Go on ahead to the mountain of spices— I'll come away another time. Song of Songs 2:16-17 TPT

How many times in our lives have we turned back? James 1:23-24, Just before the season changes, we give up and then we must start all over again. We delay our journey. God plans for us to be complete in three days but our decisions may leave us in the wilderness for forty years. You can't discern what's ahead. Please understand that God will never give you the full picture. He shows a little at a time to keep you in relationship with Him. Do you honestly think you need God if he shows you the whole picture? What exactly happens to faith in God? Yes, God directs your path. He leads the way. He gives you dreams and visions but to say here is the story of your life walk in it - I feel that is just so boring and may be overwhelming for you in any case. It is better to search out the mystery. Yes, in plain sight, you still take everything to God in prayer.

Verse 17 says "*Until the day springs to life and the shifting shadows of fear disappear, turn around my Lover and ascend to the holy mountains of separation without me.*"

This reminds me of a dream I had. There was a pool on the road. I kept jumping in and out of this pool. I swam at one point from shallow end to the deep end passing many friends along the way.

When I entered the deep waters, fear gripped me. I was in the unknown and I couldn't see underneath me with my natural eye. So, I jumped out of the pool.

This is what the dream meant and was so applicable to my life at the time. The clear waters of the pool represented the Holy Spirit, the road represented the journey I was on and all the people that were in the pool were those that had journeyed along in my life. I could identify where each person was in their spiritual life based on the depth of the waters. However, I had passed them all and just like the Shulamite bride, I jumped out of the pool because I became fearful of the unknown.

The Shulamite, I too, tasted the goodness yet walked away from it due to fear of the unknown. There are so many of you that are reading this book that can relate to what I am saying.

God hasn't given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind so I break that spirit of fear from your life and declare that you step into everything that God has called you to in Jesus Name - Amen.

Night after night I'm tossing and turning on my bed of travail. Why did I let him go? How my heart now aches for him, but he is nowhere to be found! So I must rise in search of him, looking throughout the city, seeking until I find him. Even if I have to roam through every street, nothing will keep me from my search. Where is he—my soul's true love? He is nowhere to be found. Then I encountered the overseers as they encircled the city. So I asked them, "Have you found him— my heart's true love?" Just as I moved

*past them, I encountered him. I found the one I adore!
I caught him and fastened myself to him, refusing to be
feeble in my heart again. Now I'll bring him back to the
temple where I was given new birth— into my innermost
parts, the place of my conceiving. Song of Songs 3:1-4 TPT*

The Shulamite realizes her need for the presence of her bridegroom. She begins searching for Him. She roams through the cities; she meets with the overseers.

- The overseer could be an angel sent by God
- Leaders, Elders, Deacons
- Your brother or sister in Christ that is attached to your journey

Although she had abandoned the faith, she was not kicked out of the city. There is still help all around for you to get back to your intimate place with God. This, however, comes from restarting a search for the truth.

*I've made up my mind. Until the darkness disappears
and the dawn has fully come, in spite of shadows and
fears, I will go to the mountaintop with you— the
mountain of suffering love and the hill of burning in-
cense. Yes, I will be your bride.*

Song of Songs 4:6 TPT

The Shulamite agrees to become the bride. She has seen the darkness of the world that has surrounded her. She knows, that to break through the barriers of fear, of going to the mountaintop, deep prayer is required. We need to intentionally walk up the mountains in search of the bridegroom, our God, because everything we need is found in the Him.

Listen, my dearest darling, you are so beautiful—you are beauty itself to me! Your eyes glisten with love, like gentle doves behind your veil. What devotion I see each time I gaze upon you. You are like a sacrifice ready to be offered. When I look at you, I see how you have taken my fruit and tasted my word. Your life has become clean and pure, like a lamb washed and newly shorn. You now show grace and balance with truth on display. Your lips are as lovely as Rahab's scarlet ribbon, speaking mercy, speaking grace. The words of your mouth are as refreshing as an oasis. What pleasure you bring to me! I see your blushing cheeks opened like the halves of a pomegranate, showing through your veil of tender meekness. When I look at you, I see your inner strength, so stately and strong. You are as secure as David's fortress. Your virtues and grace cause a thousand famous soldiers to surrender to your beauty. Your pure faith and love rest over your heart as you nurture those who are yet infants.

Song of Songs 4:1-5 TPT

Our King Jesus is speaking to His bride (The Shulamite - The Church). He can see the transition that has taken place within her. This place is where the Shulamite intentionally left and put aside everything else to follow Christ. The journey up to the mountain top begins Her wilderness experience. Fruit begins to grow within her. She shines from inside out.

There are nine fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22 which are:

- Love
- Peace
- Joy

- Patience
- Goodness
- Meekness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

The Bible says that *you will know my people by their fruit.*

We are living in times where deception, false prophets and so many other deceits is so prevalent. It's so important to know who we are receiving and learning from.

And many lying prophets will arise, deceiving multitudes and leading them away from the path of truth.

Matthew 24:11 TPT

When one comes to know Christ, there is a refining process that all Christians go through. It's a process of purification. Through this process, fruit is birthed within and it becomes evident.

Another way to hear when a person is in Christ is to listen to the way they speak. Do they speak of mercy, grace and healing with gentle words that flow from the heart?

God says that "she is secure as David's fortress." We have learnt that David was known for praise and worship so we learn through that specific portion that our strength lies in praise and worship. The last part of this passage says, "*your pure faith and love rest over your heart as you nurture those who are yet infants.*" This speaks of ministry to those who need help on their spiritual journey.

CHAPTER 4:5

1. Called by God to serve in His Kingdom
2. Learn how-to walk-in Faith
3. Learn how to Love
4. Master the art of Worship "David's Fortress"
5. A ministry to self and a ministry to others
6. Everyone in the body of Christ has a responsibility to prepare for the bride.

Every part of you is so beautiful, my darling. Perfect is your beauty, without flaw within. Now you are ready, my bride, to come with me as we climb the highest peaks together. Come with me through the archway of trust. We will look down from the crest of the glistening mounts and from the summit of our sublime sanctuary. Together we will wage war in the lion's den and the leopard's lair as they watch nightly for their prey. For you reach into my heart. With one flash of your eyes I am undone by your love, my beloved, my equal, my bride. You leave me breathless— I am overcome by merely a glance from your worshiping eyes, for you have stolen my heart. I am held hostage by your love and by the graces of righteousness shining upon you. How satisfying to me, my equal, my bride. Your love is my finest wine—intoxicating and thrilling. And your sweet, perfumed praises—so exotic, so pleasing. Your loving words are like the honeycomb to me; your tongue releases milk and honey, for I find the Promised Land flowing within you. The fragrance of your worshiping love surrounds you with scented robes of white. My darling bride, my private paradise, fastened to my heart. A secret spring that no one else can have— my bubbling fountain hidden from public view. What a perfect

partner to me now that I have you. Your inward life is now sprouting, bringing forth fruit. What a beautiful paradise unfolds within you. When I'm near you, I smell aromas of the finest spice, for many clusters of my exquisite fruit now grow within your inner garden. Here are the nine: pomegranates of passion, henna from heaven, spikenard so sweet, saffron shining, fragrant calamus from the cross, sacred cinnamon, branches of scented woods, myrrh, like tears from a tree, and aloe as eagles ascending. Your life flows into mine, pure as a garden spring. A well of living water springs up from within you, like a mountain brook flowing into my heart! Song of Songs 4:7-15 TPT

The training and wilderness experience is over. The perfection of the bride is explained in verse 7. To go to the highest peaks, there is addition and multiplication and now we see height and width being considered. You are never alone. You are walking fully surrounded by God. Psalms 27 confirms this.

The Lord is my light and my salvation— Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the refuge and fortress of my life— Whom shall I dread? Psalms 27:1 AMP

"We will look down from the crest of the glistening mounts and from the summit." You will see everything you had overcome that you had not thought possible. There is a place in Christ where you are so hidden that the enemy cannot locate you. Track with me here, we are going deeper into this revelation:

"Together we will wage war in the lion's den and the leopard's lair as they watch nightly for their prey"

Together, (Christ and I) we will be in the enemy's camp waging

a war that the enemy itself knows nothing of because they are still watching out for their prey. My friend is now at a table prepared in front of the enemy - in this case the enemy's eyes are blind.

The bridegroom (Jesus) is marvelled at the bride. Take note of the attributes of the bride: Love, Worship, Righteous, Equal, Perfume-Fragrance, Perfect, Fruitful, Promised Land

Every single attribute mentioned here that I have taken from the Scripture above is every attribute of Christ. Here we see that this is the way He sees us. We are created in the image of Christ. As we grow, we conform to what we choose to conform to.

Sometimes we mix with the wrong groups of friends, sometimes our location has an influence, hard living and generational bad habits also impact us. In this part of the Scripture, we see a transformation that brings us back to our original status...in the likeness of God. To be seen that way by our Maker is such a sobering and humbling thought.

The promised land is within us and we become one with our Father, who is our source. We see once again that it all about a hearts surrender. Our Heart is submitted to our Creator and because we are submitted, we become like the Garden of Eden with all its fruits.

Chapter 6



THE RETURNING TO CHRIST & PREPARING THE BRIDE.

As I am writing this book, we are in the World's greatest pandemic. Covid 19 has hit the world from the beginning of March 2020. It is now September 2021. In South Africa, Kwa Zulu Natal faced a major unrest and public looting in July 2021. This was done to free our ex-President Jacob Zuma from prison. Our country is facing a major fall financially. Jobs have been lost, businesses have closed and lives have been lost during this time. People's hearts have grown cold and many have become tired of trying to provide and live in a world with so much devastation.

Amidst what we see with the naked eye, we know that the return of Christ is at hand. Christ is returning for His Bride - "The Church," that is without spot or blemish. So what should we do in this transition? We should return to Christ and fully surrender over lives to Him. There is plenty of stuff on the return of Christ. We need to know how to return to Him before He returns to us. Yes, man wants to know the signs of His return, however, the Bible teaches us this.

An evil and [morally] unfaithful generation craves a [miraculous] sign; but no sign will be given to it, except the sign of [the prophet] Jonah." Then He left them and went away.

Matthew 16:4 AMP

There will be signs of His coming. We are to recognise and understand the times and seasons that we living in. Looking for signs can lead to many disadvantages. With so many false prophets on the rise and with so many falling away from the faith, I personally believe that this is a time to cling more to our Saviour and to desire intimacy with Him so that we cannot be deceived by any person. "An unfaithful generation seeks out a sign," so if we continue to seek signs, this will lead to debauchery such as astrology and false prophecies and then we begin to open doors that should not be opened due to ignorance and lack of knowledge. We should also remember the gifts come without repentance therefore man can still operate the gifts that God has given him, however, the spirit behind the person operating these gifts can cause deception. Many can be led you astray. The key is found in the presence of God. God will give us signs that we can only obtain in His presence. Please, I urge you, don't go about seeking signs.

Because lawlessness is increased, the love of most people will grow cold. Matthew 24:12 AMP

Amidst all of this the Bible also says that in the last days God will pour out His spirit on all mankind (Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28)

Where there is injustice more grace abounds. The Spirit of God will raise a standard for His people. Yes, we will be faced with many disasters and many more to come. However, we should rejoice in the fact that we are in the light, God is our protector, He will be with us, we are in Christ.

The prophets of old wished they were living in the times that we are in. We have been chosen for such a time as this. What a Glori-

ous time to be living in. We are going to see the fullness of God. We are going to be a part of His glorious divine plan where heaven will be demonstrated on earth like never before and where the sound of earth and heaven will be in sync. The bride must come to this revelation that heaven responds to her sound. What sound are we releasing? In the beginning...God said, "Let there be light" and it was so. God spoke and it was so. The same God that created all in the very beginning is the same God today and if heaven is responding to earth's sound, what creative sounds are we releasing.

In this final move we are being brought back to Christ where God Himself is filling the earth with His Glory. In this final move we are seeing the manifestation of all the giftings being released to His body. The saints of God are demonstrating miracles, signs and wonders through their gifting and through touching the lives of our people. We have seen household salvations like never before. There will be a release and an acceleration of kingdom marriages to showcase the true intent of God's heart for the family from before the foundations of the earth.

For the coming of the Son of Man (the Messiah) will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the [very] day when Noah entered the ark,

Matthew 24:37-38 AMP

The function of as it is in heaven operates this way. We see glimpses of manifestations of heaven on earth such as healing, supernatural encounters and miracles in our daily living. When we see Kingdom marriages taking place know that this is also a sign. Now we know in the time of Noah no one listened to him and when the time

came the ark was shut. It will be so that in this time no one will also listen but will be concerned with the cares of this life which include eating and drinking and marrying. Not all marriages are stamped by God's approval. We refer the above Scripture which says, "Marrying and giving in marriage." Those that do not have the approval stamped by God will marry for their own pleasure. Those that are approved by God are given by God into a covenant marriage that honours Him. Their union is approved and glorifies the kingdom. For the sake of reproduction everything went in two by two in the time of Noah. Marriages are the two by two in this final hour. Wars, rumours of wars, earthquakes, lawlessness and so forth will all take place and have been taking place for as long as I can remember. Marriage is also a sign of Christ's return. The marriages, however, will be designed to illustrate the love of the Father and to demonstrate the exact way that was demonstrated in the time of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and Adam and Eve, Hosea and Gomer, Rebekah and Isaac.

Let us list some of the events to take place according to Matthew 24

- We must be careful that we are not misled by wrong teachings as many will come in the name of the Lord Matthew 24:4
- We will continually hear of wars and rumours of wars Matthew 24:6
- Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famine and earthquakes Matthew 24: 7-8
- Many will fall away and will hate one another Matthew 24:10
- Because of lawlessness many hearts will grow cold Matthew 24:12
- We will see the abomination of desolation where the Anti-Christ

will make a covenant with Israel and break it in the middle of the 7 years, according to 2 Thessalonians 2:4 and Daniel 9:27.

- Many of the elect will fall, as there will be many false prophets that can perform great miracles.
- *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not provide its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken Matthew 24:29 AMP*

What does God say through Matthew 24 that can help us in these times we are living in.

- Matthew 24:4 says we should be careful that we are not deceived. A relationship with God teaches us to discern right from wrong.
- Matthew 24:6 says we should not be frightened as these things must come to pass: fear is the opposite of faith, Faith is heaven’s currency and without it you are not able to obtain the promises of God. Build yourself up in faith by spending time in God, praying and reading the Word of God.
- Matthew 24:10 Many will betray and hate one another. The many that will hate and betray are those that have not learnt how to love the Father. He has commanded us to love Him because it’s the Love that will truly withstand in these perilous times.
- Matthew 24:13 those that endure till the very end will be saved. How does one learn endurance having no practice of enduring anything? Build yourself up in the secret place to stand against the wiles of the enemy. Learn to overcome the world now then you won’t be overtaken by the world.
- Pray that your flight [from persecution and suffering] will not be in winter, or on a Sabbath [when Jewish laws prohibit travel] *“We must make it a habit to pray, John 17:9 says, Jesus himself is*

praying for us. Jesus is forever making intercession for us so we are not exempt from prayer. Luke 24:46 says we should pray so that we don't fall into temptation

- Listen carefully, I have told you in advance. *Matthew 24:20, 25 AMP, "We are without excuses, now is the time to build ourselves up with the Word of God and spending real time in Christ... we reap what we sow, sow to the spirit first that way you build your inner an up and overcome the attacks.*

This good news of the kingdom [the gospel] will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end [of the age] will come.

Matthew 24:14 AMP

Our role in the body of Christ is to be like fishers of men sharing the good news of Christ in whichever way possible. The testimony of Jesus must reach the four corners of the earth for Christ to return. God has given us the keys to press forward and everything prophetically spoken in the Bible must come to pass. The Word of God must go forth and it will not return void and it will accomplish that which it has been sent out for. So, we understand that everything must come to pass. No one knows the time or the hour that the Son of Man will return. However, we must stay alert by watching and praying.

THE MISSING COIN

"Suppose a woman has ten coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house, and look for the coin carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Let's celebrate! I've found the coin that I lost.' So I can guarantee that God's angels are happy about one person who

turns to God and changes the way he thinks and acts.”

Luke 15:8-10 GW

1. Loses the coin
2. Searches for it
3. Finds the coin
4. Calls the Neighbourhood
5. Throws a party

Firstly, what is the cost of this coin for one to throw a party for its return and how much would a party cost? What is the reason for the woman throwing a party? What is Jesus saying through this Scripture?

To understand this, you must understand the Jewish Culture. In the Jewish culture, when a man marries a woman, He has to work for 10 days wage which is equivalent to one denarii. This had to be purchased and sewn to a cloth until there are 10 coins. On the day of the wedding, he takes it and places it around Her head. This is what happens, if she is found unfaithful in any area the husband will come and take the coin away and hide it. When she walks on the street anyone passing will notice the missing coin. Due to her unfaithfulness, there is a possibility of Her being stoned. The husband gives the wife a second chance by allowing her to search for the missing coin and when she does there is restoration in the marriage. That is the reason for her throwing the party.

The missing coin allows us to understand what Christ is saying through the context of Scripture.

Jesus paid for His bride. From Ascension day to the day of the Pentecost (Acts 2), Jesus worked for 10 days for the Father so that He could put a seal on his bride. The Bible states that we His bride are sealed (Ephesians 1:13, Revelation 7:3, John 6:27)

The Bible says, "*you have been marked with a seal of the Holy Spirit*". When an individual or a church is unfaithful, Jesus removes a coin. Many Christians are walking around with missing coins. The enemy is fully aware. He sees unfaithfulness and has access to attack. We need to assess and evaluate our lives and see if we have any missing coins.

The good news is, like the Jewish man gives the wife an opportunity to find the missing coin, Jesus gives us the opportunity to seek Him and find him and when we do, repentance and restoration for us and His church also comes. That restoration restores the coin and restores the seal of the mark of God back in a person's life.

It is not the will of the Father that any should perish but all should come to repentance. This is the desire of our Father.

*I love those who love me; And those who seek me early
and diligently will find me. For whoever finds me (Wis-
dom) finds life And obtains favor and grace from the
Lord. Proverbs 8:17, 35 AMP*

THE STORY ABOUT THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS

*"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of*

them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.' But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.' But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship].' Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

Matthew 25:1-13 AMP

Let us break down each symbol in the story to be able to understand what is required for this final move in the Kingdom of Christ.

A virgin represents purity, holiness, not touched by the systems of this world, undiluted, incapable of corruption.

The oil represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit

The jars represent those who carry the anointing within. We are carriers of the anointing of God.

In this final move there is a requirement. It is called Holiness. Only God is Holy but, in His presence, we are perfected and grafted into His holiness which enables us to push through the darkness and the wickedness of the world. The Holy Spirit within us burns as bright as a candle and our light shines so bright. The presence of God within us causes demons to flee, sickness to heal, the lame to walk, the blind to see and our shadows will cause the dead to wake.

Paragraph 5: Jesus is tarrying, meaning, he's tarrying a long process based on time, or fulfilment. Jesus has already been released by God, meaning the trumpet has sounded. He is tarrying, because we are on extended grace and He desires that none should perish but each to receive eternal life.

We also read that all 10 brides were asleep. 5 of the virgins were foolish which brings me to this understanding.

They were all virgins, meaning they were all sanctified and in right standing with Christ. Verse 7 indicates that they had trimmed their wicks to light the candles the same time which brings me to my next point. They all prepared for the journey. The preparation included: Church every Sunday, attending every midweek service, lending a helping hand wherever needed, working in ministry, learning gifts and talents, operating in the gifts and every outward demonstration possible. All of this is necessary as we should not neglect the House of the Lord, or the saints. We draw strength from each other and iron sharpens iron.

Then they were all asleep. The question is this: how does one sleep? To sleep is really a time of rest. Verse 9 gives us an indication that there were tasks that were distributed. Those tasks should have been completed before the bridegroom returns. When the Bridegroom returns it will be a celebration like that of a wedding - no tasks will be distributed in that time so therefore the way we manage our time and complete our assignments is of vital importance because there will be a rest before the return of Christ. We see that all the brides were asleep. Verse 9 also says that the 5 foolish virgins were told to go and buy the oil, which tells me when God gives us a task there is a price attached to every task and each assignment comes with many kinds of sacrifices. It is those sacrifices that are made that buy the anointing.

Whatever task God has gives you requires a level of commitment, laying down of your life, acts of selflessness and these cause the anointing to flow deeper within you and it comes with a cost. However, God has given us everything He has promised us.

Who is this one ascending from the wilderness in the pillar of the glory cloud? He is fragrant with the anointing oils of myrrh and frankincense— more fragrant than all the spices of the merchant. Look! It is the king's marriage carriage. The love seat surrounded by sixty champions, the mightiest of Israel's host, are like pillars of protection. They are angelic warriors standing ready with swords to defend the king and his fiancée from every terror of the night. The king made this mercy seat for himself out of the finest wood that will not decay. Pillars of smoke, like silver mist— a canopy of golden glory dwells above it. The place where they sit together

is sprinkled with crimson. Love and mercy cover this carriage, blanketing his tabernacle throne. The king himself has made it for those who will become his bride. Rise up, Zion maidens, brides-to-be! Come and feast your eyes on this king as he passes in procession on his way to his wedding. This is the day filled with overwhelming joy—the day of his great gladness.

Song of Songs 3:6-11 TPT

Jesus the bridegroom is the one ascending from the Glory cloud.

We spoke earlier on the presence of God through the scent of smell. Peace is a scent that is not just felt. It also gives off a supernatural scent. When we intentionally train ourselves on how to know the presence of God, our sensitivity is heightened and our spiritual senses are no longer just seeing and hearing but smell as well.

I believe it's important that every spiritual gift is awakened so that we can tap into all that God has for us. Like the Sons of Issachar understood the times and seasons, these attributes allow you and I to understand the times of Christ's return.

There will be peace in our land. The perfect plan and the will of God will prevail.

We will see Jesus appearing on a cloud. The marriage carriage would represent the clouds. The sixty champions are those that are gone ahead of us. the four runners of the gospel that have paved the way for us to continue. The cloud of witnesses (Hebrew 12:1)

Paragraph 8: We see our King, God our Fiancé, Jesus and the

Heavenly hosts of angels, the great cloud of witnesses all waiting in the sky to meet with us - our Family in Heaven.

Paragraph 9-10 beautifully explains the sacrifice of the Cross of Calvary and Jesus becoming the final sacrifice for our Sin. His mercy and love toward us and how we will behold and see His love for us His bride.

Paragraph 11: There is a call to arise in this final hour and to get the bride ready. We have such an important role to play in this time for those of us whom have encountered the Love of Christ

The word procession means:

"a number of people or vehicles moving forward in an orderly fashion, especially as part of a ceremony."

Jesus in procession is getting things in order and preparing the way for us to enter into our Heavenly Family which is God's true intention for you and I.

"Come and feast your eyes on our King"

As we behold the goodness of our Father and as we demonstrate his goodness and display His Holiness on earth, we bring more of our family on earth into the most magnificent and glorious family ever recorded. A family of unity, love and peace throughout all eternity. There will be peace in our land. The perfect plan and the will of God will prevail over every other.

"Let us rejoice, be happy, and give him glory because it's time for the marriage of the lamb. His bride has made herself ready. She has been given the privilege of wearing dazzling, pure linen." This fine linen represents the things that God's holy people do that have his approv-

al. Then the angel said to me, "Write this: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the lamb's wedding banquet.'"

He also told me, "These are God's true words."

Revelation 19:7-9 GW

We are living at the end of the beginning. The Messiah, our beloved Jesus Christ who went to the cross of Calvary for the sake of all humanity is returning for His beautiful bride - you and me. This is the time when many will marry and be given into marriage to illustrate the love of God and to show His affection and how He views each one of us, through covenant, family and marriage. This is the time where we will see God's love shared abroad with all of humanity. We ought to rejoice and be glad and be expectant like a full-term pregnant woman who waits in anticipation for the delivery of her new-born or as a bride who awaits her bridegroom with zeal and passion. They know that their love is not superficial but deep and pure.

We are so blessed that we have been invited to the world's greatest wedding where Jesus reunites with us and where He meets us in the clouds to be one again with Him.

If you have been living a life that you know is not pleasing to Christ then you need to make right. Now is the time.

If you believe in your heart that you won't be a part of this event and really want to start over then call out to your creator. He waits patiently at the door of your heart waiting for you to call out to Him.

If you feel like you have become lukewarm and desire an encounter, know that God has not left you. We walk away from Him. He said in His word that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

If you have been encouraged by reading this book then I encourage you to share the message by blessing someone with the book.

The Kingdom of God is about to increase. Christ is Love, and so are we.

I Pray you were blessed with the content of this book, Amen.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR

We would like to hear from you, share with us your Testimonies and let us know how we can help you work on yourself or for receiving more Products from the Author.

Cell no: +27 66 251 4471

Email address: lavernpoisson@gmail.com

Facebook: [lavern.poisson](https://www.facebook.com/lavern.poisson)

Instagram: [lavernpoisson](https://www.instagram.com/lavernpoisson)

Do you have a dream, a passion to write books?

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+27 72 931 6810

tich@drtich.com

www.drtich.com

