

*Eyes Wide
Open*

Eyes Wide Open

by

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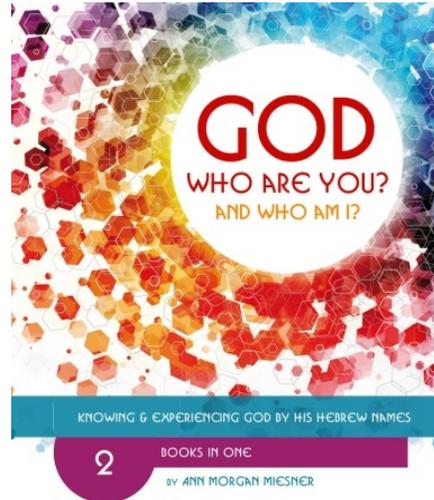
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To My Family

The content of this booklet was written in 1980 although the story begins in 1973 when our first-born son was 18 months old. Our only daughter was on the way.

I dedicate this booklet to the glory of God and to my four children: Kurt, Francy, Matthew and Hank; and nine grandchildren to date: Riley Scott, Cooper James, Morgyn Rae, Hugo Henry, Brody William, Emmy James, Adeline Kay, Lydia Martha and Henry David.

I am grateful to my husband, Jim, who with the direction of the Person discussed here, has helped open my eyes to “Life.”

###

I write only as a lay person, a wife and a mother, and do not attempt to teach any certain doctrine. I am attempting only to share with you my own experience, how Jesus became real to me and how He has dealt with me personally.

Eyes Wide Open

“**THERE’S MAMA**, kissing Daddy—and her eyes are wide open!” Kurt and Francy exclaim every time they open our wedding album.

My most embarrassing moment is ever before me, with no similar pose to replace it.

Our wedding took place three weeks after Jim’s return from Vietnam in the small church where my father was pastor. The ceremony and reception happened so fast I do not even know who was there; we might as well have gone to the Justice of the Peace. But anyway, there were still the pictures for which to pose. Although they were the typical wedding poses, we thought they would never end. At last, we came to the final shot, with all eyes upon us, for Jim to “kiss the bride.”

This one ought to be fun, I thought, but I was caught by surprise as Jim put his cold hands around my neck. My eyes shot open like I'd been hit with a bullet!

My unforgettable moment reminds me of Saul, a man who had been persecuting the early Christians after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. He dramatically met Jesus on the road to Damascus to persecute more Christians.

A light flashed from heaven that blinded him; he arose from the ground, "but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing."⁵ He was led to Damascus where Ananias came to him three days later:

And he (Ananias) laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he recovered his sight.

—Acts 9:17-18 Amplified

Likewise, my eyes were open, but spiritually speaking, something like scales was over my eyes.

Although I had accepted Jesus when I was young, and He had been real to me until my husband entered my life, Jim then became my idol. Four and one-half years later with our second child on the way, Jesus became real again as He was brought before my open/closed eyes as I read the book, *Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey. It caused me to stop, face myself squarely, and to become open and honest with Him.

I shuddered to think of Jesus returning to earth. *Could it be in my own lifetime?* To look into His eyes—I couldn't. I just couldn't. I hadn't been what He wanted me to be; my life would not be acceptable to Him. I was afraid to utter His name to anyone, even my very best friend who didn't know Him. But, how could I? My life didn't show any reason for her or our friends to give Him a second thought?

Even so, I knew I was going to heaven, and I highly valued my Christian upbringing, but that's not what I was giving my children. Jim and I went to church, but it was out of a sense of duty and to ease the conscience. In pondering these thoughts, I knew there had to be more: where, just where, was the ability to be what God wanted me to be?

In looking back at what happened then and in the succeeding seven years, the following allegory is what I believe happened:

At eight years of age, I opened my heart's door to Jesus, the King of Kings and LORD of Lords! An attendant rolled out the red carpet⁶ and in walked Jesus as tall and grand as any king could ever be, with love pouring out from His eyes to me.

I gave Jesus a seat at my dining room table⁷ where I kept Him for the next fourteen years. He did not catch my attention until He reflected Himself through two "mirrors" in my living room—Christian television and Christian books. Could He really be alive, the same yesterday, today and forever like the Bible said?⁸

I walked into the dining room where Jesus was and asked Him, "Are you really alive, Jesus?" I could plainly see that He was.

"Then, you didn't just die on the cross for my sins where I have been identifying with you?"

"That's right, I did arise," He told me. "Don't you think it's about time you decided for yourself what you

believe and quit relying on your parent's Christianity?
You know that will never do."⁹

"I suppose you're right, Jesus. Tell me what makes these people in the books and on television so happy all the time, and what causes them to talk like they know just what is what?"

JESUS: I thought you'd never ask that question. It's not what but *who*.¹⁰ Turn around and you will see Him.

I turned around and there in the corner of the room sat a Person I barely recognized as the attendant who rolled out the red carpet for Jesus years ago.

ME: Excuse me, Jesus, I'm so-o em-m-ba-r-rassed. I do-o-n't believe I know His name.

JESUS: Mr. Holy Spirit.

ME: Mr. Holy Spirit, I apologize for not having known you were here. Would you please forgive me? How have I not known you were still here?

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: It's not my mission to draw attention to myself,¹¹ but to reveal Jesus to you¹² and all He has freely given you from God the Father.¹³ But, don't be condemned.

Do you remember where Paul, in Acts 19, asked the twelve Ephesian disciples of Jesus, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit,”¹⁴

Isn't that where you stand today? You just haven't acknowledged me yet, nor understood who I am, nor have you received what I can do for you and in you.

ME: I don't understand.

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: Remember the other night when your friend Martha came to the door and you still had your hair in rollers? Jim and the children, even the baby, met her at the door and received her in. But, you were fixing your hair while she waited patiently on you. I've had to be patient waiting on you, too. But at the same time, I've been grieved,¹⁵ and quenched,¹⁶ by your ignorance and shunning of Me. I am a Person, too, you know. I have a mind,¹⁷ a will,¹⁸ emotions,¹⁹ and I can speak.²⁰ I am to be received by faith²¹ just as you received by faith the person, Jesus Christ.

ME: That makes sense but I don't understand what receiving by faith means. But, first, may I ask you just who you are?

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: Certainly. I am God's own Spirit. No one can really know what anyone else is thinking, or what he is really like deep inside except that person himself. And, no one can know God's own thoughts except God's own Spirit. That's me! I search God's mind and I know His deepest thoughts, secrets, and ways. I will reveal them to you and show you things to come.²² That is, if you will believe and allow me to be released from this corner to fill you as you have been commanded to do in the Bible in Ephesians 5:18.

But, that's not all. I am the very same Spirit and dynamo power who went to the bowels of the earth where Jesus and I openly defeated Satan in his own domain.²³ Then, I catapulted Him from the hell He took for you²⁴ and set Him at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places, far above all forces of evil.²⁵

That's where I have put you, too. Jesus is in you and you are in Him.²⁶ So, if you are just the little toe

of Jesus' foot, you are also above Satan, and have all the power and authority of heaven behind you, just as Jesus does.²⁷ Therefore, you can speak to your mountains "in the name of Jesus" and they will disintegrate.²⁸ You will be able to overcome your problems instead of them ruling over you.²⁹

ME: You really are a very important Person then, aren't you? But, I don't fully comprehend what you're saying. Anyway, Satan's never bothered me.

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: He has, you just don't know it. He's the one who has kept your eyes blind. Furthermore, you haven't given him any reason to bother you—yet.³⁰ As far as comprehension, that's my job—to lead you and guide you into all truth³¹ as you are ready to comprehend, and to give you spiritual discernment of the Scriptures and all things.³²

ME: That's interesting, but may I ask a somewhat selfish question? What does that mean to me personally?

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: That means that when you pick up this Bible and read, you will understand it and know that it is God Almighty speaking directly to *you*.³³ I will make the Word come alive to you

personally as I lead and guide you through its pages.³⁴ Nothing will ever be by chance.³⁵ And when you need to recall a Scripture, I will cause you to remember it, giving you instant recall.³⁶

What does it mean to you personally? It means I am able to teach you everything you need to know, as your personal 'round-the-clock' tutor.³⁷ I will teach you to pray in faith, believing,³⁸ bestow on you magnificent gifts³⁹ and luscious fruit.⁴⁰

ME: Then, how can I do without you? Please, please fill me!

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: I can't.

ME: But, why?

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: I've been snooping around in all the corners where you've kept me. Don't you know these books on the occult and astrology are an abomination to God?⁴¹ See this bottle you hid from your folks? Just look at all this selfish, unforgiving dirt. My first name is Holy. I can't live in this mess!⁴²

Awhile later:

ME: Okay, Mr. Holy Spirit, I burned the books and cleaned house.⁴³ Thank you for giving me the power to go to my friend and to ask for her

forgiveness. Thank you for the words you gave me, to tell her about Jesus when she was about to get a divorce.⁴⁴ Thank you for the love you gave me for her, and the joy in obeying You, and especially for saving her marriage. That must be some of the fruit you were talking about.⁴⁵

My house is clean now as far as I know; will you fill me now?

MR. HOLY SPIRIT: You have been seeking to learn of Me and are therefore looking for Me to release myself from this corner, but even I don't have the power to do that. Remember what John the Baptist said? He said, "Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."⁴⁶ I am the gift;⁴⁷ He is the giver.⁴⁸ So, you need to talk to Jesus now.

I turned to Jesus and asked Him to fill me with Mr. Holy Spirit, and to please, please, release Him from the corner where I had neglected Him for so long.

JESUS: There's still one problem. You are in the way. He can't fill you as long as you are here.

ME: But, this is my home!

JESUS: *We* want to live here. Isn't that what you've been asking for? For us to take over now and

do the housekeeping?⁴⁹ You haven't allowed us to do anything but sit here.⁵⁰

ME: WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

JESUS: It's not so much what we want to *do*, it's what we want to *be* in you.⁵¹ Have you noticed where you seated me? In the baby's highchair! I want to be LORD of all in you, seated in the Daddy's chair, the Head, Number One!⁵²

ME: How do I make you Lord?

JESUS: By pulling out the head chair for Me and leaving— permanently.

ME: How can I leave my own home, my husband, my children, forever?

JESUS: By dying.⁵³

ME: Dying? You can't really mean that. How cruel! You can't be serious!

JESUS: That's the only way you can completely get out of the way, isn't it?

ME: Well, I g-guess so-o. But, how can I take my own life?

JESUS: By laying your body on the altar, the same cross where I died, presenting your *self* as a living sacrifice, following my example.⁵⁴ For you see, that's

something you have to do as an act of your will in presenting yourself to me, in making me Number One, or LORD of your life.⁵⁵

But, be of good cheer. I have good news for you! YOU HAVE ALREADY DIED. You have already been crucified with me. I not only died for you; you died with me that day.⁵⁶ And now, you will be a living, breathing, dead person, dying daily,⁵⁷ in order that I may truly live in you by My Spirit.⁵⁸ Do you believe that is possible?

ME: I know that all things are possible with you, Lord,⁵⁹ but I don't understand.

JESUS: You must believe and obey in order that you may understand.⁶⁰ It is the work of Mr. Holy Spirit to reveal this to you in your spirit. As you begin to walk in faith, the understanding will come.⁶¹

ME: Then, Lord, how do I receive Him by faith?

JESUS: Let's read I John 5:14-15 together:

And this is the confidence that you have
in Me, that if you ask anything
according to My *will*, I will hear you.
And if you know that *I hear* you,
whatsoever you ask, you know that you

have the petition that you have desired
of Me (emphasis added).

In other words, for Me to hear your request is for Me to answer, and you can be confident I hear you when there's no sin or dirt blocking the way.⁶² You certainly know this is my will for you by now, so what's your request?

ME: That you release Mr. Holy Spirit from that corner over there. Allow Him to fill me to overflowing. Just fill me up, Lord!

Some days later:

ME: Well, Lord, aren't you going to do it? I don't feel any different than before. I'm still the same old me and it's been days.

JESUS: Look at Luke 11:11-13. If your 2-½ year old son, Kurt, should ask bread of you, would you give him a stone? Or, if he should ask a fish, would you give him a serpent? Of course not, if you, being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

ME: Now, I understand. I can see! I can see!⁶³ If I know it is your *will* to fill me, then I know you *have* heard me, and if I know you have *heard* me, then I know you have *already* answered me. The problem isn't with you, Lord, it's with me, not *receiving*. That must be what Mark 11:24 means, when it says to "believe that you have received it, and it shall be yours."

Okay, Lord, I thank you that you have done what you said you would do, because your Word says so, no matter how I *feel* about it.⁶⁴ I thank you that you have already released Mr. Holy Spirit from the corner and that He is beginning to fill my whole house.⁶⁵

As soon as those words⁶⁶ were uttered, an unspeakable joy and laughter filled my soul. I felt a tingling sensation that began in my fingers and ended in my heart with joy. One year old Francy awoke from her nap, eyes wide, as she thought her mother was crazy—she had never seen her so happy before—and dancing around the house.

Mr. Holy Spirit continually reminds me to daily identify my “self” dead with Christ⁶⁷ and to ask for His continual filling⁶⁸ in learning to be a disciplined disciple. One thing is for sure; His housework is never done.⁶⁹

Jim and I learned to speak to our mountains in Jesus’ name, as they appeared in our marriage, finances, and job situations. All of them miraculously came tumbling down through steadfast patience and endurance. Through those victories of faith we came to experience for ourselves the unspeakable love, joy and peace of God through His indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit continues to reveal Jesus to us as we follow Him in faith, one day, one step at a time. Many of those steps have been through valleys where we were left having to relearn spiritual truths that were once dear, but we still find that Mr. Holy Spirit is patiently waiting for us to acknowledge Him and continue on.

As a family, we eagerly await the return of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when we will no longer “see through a glass darkly, but then face to face” (I Corinthians 13:12 KJV).

“Yes, Jesus, You are Alive!”

ENDNOTES

“My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes: keep them in the midst of thine heart. For **they are life** unto those that find them, and **health to all their flesh**. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of **Life**” (Proverbs 4:20-23 KJV emphasis mine).

5. Acts 9:8 Amplified
6. See John 3:3-6; Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:3-4
7. See Revelation 3:20
8. See Hebrews 13:8
9. See Matthew 10:37-38
10. See John 14:16-17
11. See John 16:13
12. See John 15:26
13. See John 16:14-15
14. See Acts 19:2 (KJV)
15. See Ephesians 4:30
16. See 1 Thessalonians 5:19
17. See Romans 8:27
18. See 1 Corinthians 12:11
19. See Ephesians 4:30, I Thessalonians 5:19, and Romans 15:30
20. See John 16:13
21. See Galatians 3:14
22. See I Corinthians 2:9-12
23. See Colossians 2:15
24. See Ephesians 4:8-10

25. See Ephesians 1:18-21
26. See I Corinthians 12:13 and I John 4:13
27. See Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:5-6; Luke 10:19;
Matthew 16:18-19; I John 4:17
28. See Mark 11:23; Exodus 15:1
29. See Romans 5:17, 12:21; I John 5:4-5
30. See Ephesians 6:12
31. See John 16:12-13
32. See 1 Corinthians 2:15-16
33. See John 6:63
34. See Psalms 119:25, 133
35. See Isaiah 42:16; Psalms 32:8-9
36. See John 14:26
37. See John 14:26, 16:13.
38. See Psalms 80:18; Romans 8:26-27
39. See I Corinthians 12:1-11; 27-28
40. See Galatians 5:22-23
41. See Deuteronomy 18:10-13
42. See John 16:8
43. See Acts 19:19
44. See Acts 1:8
45. See John 15:11, 16
46. See John 1:33
47. See Acts 2:38
48. See Colossians 1:17-19, 2:9-10
49. See John 15:3-5
50. See Galatians 5:16-17
51. See Acts 1:8
52. See Luke 9:23-26, 14:26-33
53. See Romans 6:5-6
54. See Romans 12:1, 6: 13
55. See Philippians 2:13
56. See Galatians 2:20
57. See 1 Corinthians 15:31

58. See Romans 6:8; II Corinthians 4:10
59. See Luke 1:37
60. See John 11:40
61. See Galatians 5:25
62. See Isaiah 59:1-3
63. See Acts 9:18
64. See Hebrews 11:1
65. See Philippians 4:4, 6; Hebrews 13:1567.
66. See Isaiah 57:19; Matthew 12:37;
Hebrews 11:3
67. See Romans 6:11
68. See Ephesians 5:17-18
69. See Psalms 139:1-4, 23-24

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As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you do not need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

And now, little children, abide [continue] in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

--1 John 2:27-28 NASB