

LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD Who  
Are You? AND Who Am I? Knowing  
and Experiencing God by His Hebrew  
Names

**God Who Are You?, Volume 1**

Ann Morgan Miesner

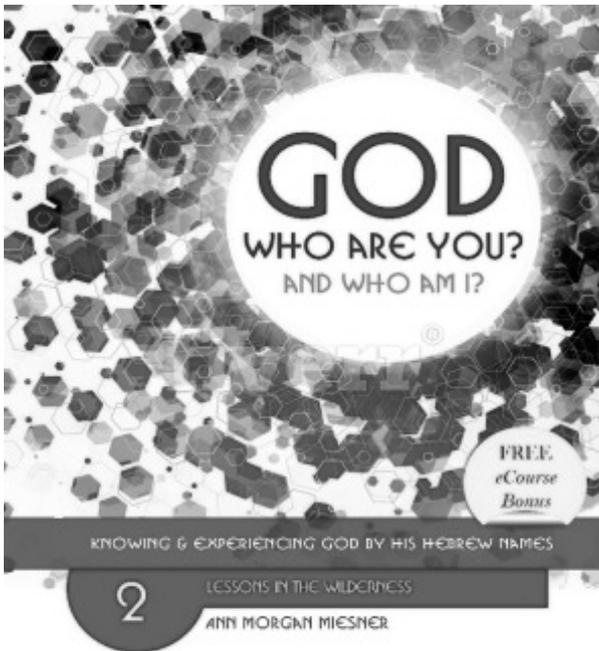
Published by CROWN Connections Publishing, 2019.







**FREE DOWNLOAD**



eBook 2 of 4 in the 'God Who Are You' Series:

**LESSONS IN THE WILDERNESS**

“Ann makes this study of the Hebrew names of God easy to understand and inviting to read. I think God has given Ann a gift of teaching and an obligation to get this in front of as many people as possible.” --Beverly W., Kansas

“I HAVE BEEN BLESSED to be part of the United States Army for many years and have recently been introduced to the civilian

world. Now retired after several deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and many assignments in between as a warrior in the flesh, I have been brought to Oklahoma.

“Long before I knew I was to read this precious book it was placed in my path. I attended a group, who with all their spirituality and not just talk but walking with the Lord, I knew I wanted more by reading and was there each week. Learning the principles out of Genesis, for me, was incredible. For some it might come easy. Without all the detail – you don’t just get medically retired for no reason.

“Through how the book was written, it was truly easy to read. I personally learned that I have been running from things for many years. Although I still had God’s shield around me, the whole time, He is the reason I’m still here. I Learned through the book that I needed to face these issues or my relationship with God would continue to feel like it was on R & R (rest & relaxation).

“So, with starting to face these issues I was running from, gradually things have been working themselves out. As I may quote a sentence from the book, ‘It won’t provide answers to all your problems, but it will point you to the one who sees all, knows all, and does all things well. It will help you find who are you, where you came from and where you are going.’

“I’m forever grateful that Mrs. Ann was given the gift to write this book. Her gift has placed this wounded warrior on her feet, not just physically, but also mentally, and on the path that God has chosen for me. My hope is that others struggling from military service or just life in general, that each and every one would just take a peek at this book. You will find the answers in life that God has for you. Just don’t give up five more minutes for your miracle.”—Melissa H.

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO AM  
I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS HEBREW  
NAMES**

**3**

Get your FREE copy of GOD Who Are You? AND Who Am I? LESSONS IN THE WILDERNESS by signing up to the author's reader's list.

**CLICK TO SEND FREE BOOK>>**

<https://www.godwhoareyou.org/get-books/free-book-download/>



## FOREWORD



**T**his book is the result of a prayer I prayed in 1994:

*Lord, I know the Bible says that no man will know the day or hour when Jesus will come back to earth—except only the Father. But I know the Holy Spirit is the very spirit of the Father, and Your Holy Spirit lives within me, so if I am part of the last generation on earth who will see Jesus face to face, I think You should be able to let me know personally.*

AWHILE LATER, the Lord answered this prayer in ways beyond anything I could have imagined. Two events rendered me speechless and impacted my whole life so that I felt I had the weight of the whole world on my shoulders. How could I ever tell anyone so they would believe me? Every man, woman and teenager needed to know God's answer to my prayer. I sought God constantly to know how to get these messages across, because it was not just a matter of telling, but of explaining, showing and even persuading.

Finally, God's leading became clearer in 2001 when He brought a group of amazing women into my life. Each one had such an awesome story, not of end-times, but of how they experienced God. He had worked marvelous wonders in their life . . . *who was telling their story?* Their stories seemed to fall into a pattern of "experiencing God by His names"—the Hebrew names of God we studied together in the group we started—Women with a Passion for Jesus.

Not initially intending to write for those seeking to know more about God, Jesus and/or the Holy Spirit—and for new Christians to

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS HEBREW NAMES**

**5**

know “what to do with what they got” when they invited Jesus into their heart—this is the result: a precept upon precept study of who God is, and by knowing Him, we come to know who we are—and where we are going. All of this comes by facing where we came from. “My/Our Story” weaves all twelve teaching modules together—a story of our family leaving financial and emotional bondage and entering into God’s best for our lives.

This book can be used in three ways:

- a self-study devotional—no previous Bible knowledge required—with companion of four eBooks and FREE eCourse at authors’s

Web site: <https://www.godwhoareyou.org>

- a manual for one-on-one sharing – Each One Teach One – with the workbook
- small group Bible studies – with the workbook

—Ann Morgan Miesner



## PREFACE



**H**AVE YOU EVER HEARD someone talking in the background, then they stopped talking as though they were waiting for someone to reply; then, you realized that *someone* was *you*? You'd like to say, "Don't you know my name?" It's irritating, and it makes us feel unimportant.

Recently, a secretary was training me to take over her job. She constantly talked and never once called me by my name. I never knew if she was talking to me or someone else, because she constantly jabbered. She also treated her employer this way. One day, he replied to her, as he looked at me in an understanding way, "I like my name." But the woman never acknowledged that she heard or understood a word he said.

Likewise, our heavenly Father must feel the same way about His name. Otherwise, why would He have so many of them that reveal different aspects of His character? We show respect and acknowledge He is a very important person when we understand and honor Him by His name.

The ironic thing is that when we come to understand even a small portion about God's names and who He is, we find who we are; we find out about ourselves and the answers to absolutely every problem we could ever face in life. We come to experience His great love for us and that He wants to meet our every need. He shows us we can overcome any difficulty, and then teaches us how. And through that overcoming process, we learn where we have come from and where we are going.

LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS HEBREW NAMES

7

We are going to look at twelve of the more prominent Hebrew names of God and how they relate to us. We will experience God through the lives of women, and some men, who came to know God intimately by His name as they overcame great obstacles. These people, from ages twenty-two to eighty-two, from different denominations trusting in the One and only True God, came to find that God likes His name too. He responded to each of them as they called upon His name.

Be aware that our goal is to know God and to experience Him, to have an intimate relationship with Him. To *experience* is so much more than to *know* and even to understand. Many people, even Christians, know about God yet do not have *experiential knowledge* of who He is. According to Webster's dictionary, to experience means "anything or everything lived through, training and personal participation, knowledge, skill, etc., resulting from this; to undergo."

It is my prayer you will make a quality decision right now to do what it takes to trust God's *ability*, His *power* and His *goodness* in your own life as you experience, and undergo, the aspects of His nature, one name at a time. The best way to do this is to keep a daily journal as you face your personal struggles in His presence.

At the end of each name of God (in the workbook and with the FREE eCourse Bonus) are questions or simple exercises to help you make this journey one of "personal participation." If you answer the questions and look up the Scriptures throughout, I guarantee it will be the most exciting *experiential* journey of your lifetime—which you will travel with your heavenly Father.

Be still and know that He is God. Stop, look and listen, and digest the material before moving to the next module and you will hear Him calling you by your name.

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the [consistently] righteous man—upright and in right standing with God—runs into it and is safe, high [above evil] and strong. —Proverbs 18:10 (Amplified)*



## LEAVING BONDAGE



*Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.*

*So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders.*

*—Deuteronomy 26:7-8*



## CHAPTER 1

### El Roi

#### [The God Who Sees Me]



**D**ENISE WAS THE ENVY of her co-workers. They spent many rushed fifteen-minute breaks and half-hour lunches together in the crowded, stuffy, hospital cafeteria. Twenty-five-year-old Denise was beautiful with her long dark hair and matching brown eyes. Her lean body was such that a person knew she never had to count calories. But her business associates soon learned she was more sensitive about being thin than they were about being, well, not so thin. Denise's outward appearance, with her ready smile, masked all the hurt and pain she held inside until she missed work for two weeks in a stressful period of her life. Her supervisor had to escort her to the emergency room when she was unable to breathe while at work. Serious stomach problems, anxiety attacks, difficulty in breathing and sleeping, and depression plagued her.

As a child, Denise had to adjust to numerous schools. After moving from Inglewood, California, to Tukwila, Washington, during second grade, she did not know how to read. Frustrated, she told her teacher, "I'm just not going to do it!"

Her instructor explained, "Denise, if you don't learn how to read, you won't be able to get a job or to even order food at a restaurant."

Convinced she could not take the easy way out, Denise started to work hard and by the end of the school year, reached the top of her class.

At the age of fifteen, Denise was uprooted to Whitefish, Montana, where relatives helped her care for her younger brother, and her ailing mother. Her mother had been diagnosed with lung cancer and given only months to live.

When recalling this time in her life, Denise managed to press her full lips together, then explained, “While every other girl was worried about what to wear to the homecoming dance, I worried about what people would think seeing me pushing my mother in a wheelchair, hooked up to oxygen, wearing a turban to cover her hair loss. While other girls were enjoying their dates at the homecoming dance, I wondered when my mother would have her next chemotherapy treatment.”

“When my mother died three months later, it was amazing the weight that lifted from me. I could finally be a teenager again and go to dances without wondering if that night would be the night my mother died, and I would miss saying goodbye. The hardest thing I had to do was to watch her go from being vibrant and full of life to being only a shell of what she once was.

Ready to see her free of pain, one night I pleaded with God to please take her. That night she died.”

Her mother’s death was only one of many wounds. Before Denise was born, her mother left her father to live with another man. While still young, she remembered praying in the middle of the night for God to stop the loud quarreling between her mom and her boyfriend. She shielded her younger brother from the fights as much as she could. When he was drunk, the man beat her older brother with a chair.

The same year her mom died, the boyfriend of her mother died. Denise and her younger brother went to live with her mother’s cousin while her older brother faced life on his own. Her second cousin,

Marie, of about the same age, became like a sister to her. To this day, she refers to Marie as “Sister.”

At the age of eighteen, Denise married a twenty-two-year-old marine. A year later, she took in her fourteen-year-old brother to live with them. After about three years, her husband told her, “I really don’t love you. The marital benefits increased my paycheck.” She cried in his arms.

With her marriage falling apart and feeling alone, Denise asked Marie to go shopping. They liked the South Coast Plaza, in Costa Mesa, California, especially the Barnes and Noble bookstore.

It was on this day that Denise was unexpectedly brought to the turning point in her life. The two girls found themselves in the spiritual section looking at books about angels. Suddenly—a gray-haired lady approached them and pointed out some other angel books that were good reading. Then, she started talking about Jesus, and said, “Jesus loves you.”

Denise always became defensive when strangers started preaching to her. She had built a high wall against anyone who appeared to be a *religious freak* or a *holy roller*. Her natural instinct was to tune the woman out. Her parents referred to themselves as Christians because they believed *there was* a God. Denise also considered herself a Christian and adopted the attitude from them that if a person was enthusiastic about God, that person was a *fanatic*, and that was bad. The only time Denise heard the name of “Jesus Christ” mentioned in her home was when it was used in vain.

Today though, it was impossible to turn this lady off. The girls got chills when she talked about Jesus. They never felt this way before. *Who is this Jesus she is talking about?* Denise was listening because she thought Marie was listening. Marie was listening only because she thought Denise was listening.

Suddenly, the lady had the girls’ full attention when she asked a question they had never heard, “Have you ever been saved?” *What did that mean?*

Further explaining, the woman asked, “Would you like to pray and ask Jesus to come into your hearts?” Marie looked at Denise who said, “Yes,” so Marie answered yes. They grabbed hands, bowed their heads, and prayed together—asking Jesus who died for their sins to forgive them, and then asked Him to come into their hearts. The woman then took each girl’s face in her hands and one-by-one, looked into her eyes, and said, “I can see a difference.”

Denise hurried home to look in the mirror to see if she looked different! *No*, she thought. Later, she told her co-workers, “Whatever I received, I didn’t know what to do with it.” The lady had encouraged the girls to get into a Bible-believing church, pointed one out to them, and walked away.

For two more years the girls drove by churches wondering if they would be good ones to visit, but they never did. They wondered if they really were different. Was that encounter for real? Did they meet God that day? Did Jesus Christ actually come into their hearts? Hungry and searching for answers, they both found they *wanted* to read their Bibles. Denise had a King James Version (KJV), given to her by her first father, but it was difficult to understand.

As Denise experienced lack of love and communication with an earthly father, she found herself reluctant to trust a relationship with someone called a Heavenly Father. Denise felt abandoned by her mother. She married to find love from a man who did not know how to love. She felt used. Could there be Someone who was real and who would never leave her? Was it possible to ever be loved and to feel happy? All these questions were answered for Denise as time passed.

Through her searching, Denise discovered what happened to her in the bookstore also happened to a young woman in the Bible. In Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament (O.T.), Chapter 16, El Roi, our Heavenly Father Who Sees, reveals that He yearns to have an intimate relationship with us. Furthermore, this chapter also gives the principles that guide us in gaining that intimate relationship which helps us

to overcome any challenge we could ever face in life. We will decipher verses 7-14, one-by-one, to see how they relate to Denise and us.



**I**n the story prior to this special chapter, God promised Abraham if he would leave the land of his father, the land of Mesopotamia, or present-day Iraq, God would bring him to a land He would show him. After arriving and settling in the land of Canaan, or present-day Israel, God promised Abraham He would give him a son, one coming from his own body, and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. However, ten years later his wife Sarah was still not pregnant.

Sarah told Abraham, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; [Sarah had a maid named Hagar, who was probably given to her as they left Egypt from a previous trip] perhaps *I* can build a family through her” (Gen.16:1). The emphasis on “I” is added because actions stemming from self rather than God always backfire, resulting in chaos.

Abraham agreed and slept with Hagar who conceived. When Hagar knew she was pregnant, pride consumed her as she now viewed herself superior to her mistress. Sarah said to Abraham, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me” (Gen.16:5).

“Your servant is in your hands,’ Abraham said, ‘Do with her whatever you think best.’ Then Sarah mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her” (Gen.16:6). This brings us to these key verses:

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

8 And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarah, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.”

10 The angel added, “I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.”

11 The angel of the Lord also said to her, “You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery.

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”

13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

—Genesis 16:7-14

**7. God seeks and finds.** Who was this angel of the Lord, in Verse Seven, who found Hagar? Most Bible scholars agree that the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament represents Jesus Christ before he is born of the Virgin Mary because of “his promising to perform what God alone could do and foretelling what God alone could know.”<sup>[1]</sup>

The angel of the Lord *found* Hagar, meaning He was searching for her. Jesus himself tells us He came to seek and to find those who are lost. After He met Zacchaeus in a tree on the road to Jericho, Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:9). God’s unseen Spirit is constantly seeking, con-

stantly finding, constantly saving, and continually initiating a relationship with us until we make the right choice to follow Him.

God, the Son—Jesus—found Denise in the bookstore. She made the right choice in answering yes to the question the lady put to her, “Do you want to be saved?” As time went on, she knew what that meant, because the Lord’s presence was with her.

Some years later a friend gave her a book, *Angels on Assignment*, by Charles and Frances Hunter as told to Roland Buck. It emphasizes our Heavenly Father’s passion for His family and the searching He does for His children, creating choices for them, over and over, until they make the right decision.

Denise realized how important it was to share her testimony, so she wrote it down. She then emptied her savings account, bought thirty books, and mailed them to her friends across the United States. She does not know if the lady in the bookstore was an angel or not. The lady said she had been to a revival at her church, held a tract from which they prayed, but never followed up with the girls, which always bothered them. Whatever the truth is, Denise became an angel on assignment to her friends as God’s messenger had so boldly shared with her.

**8. God Calls Us By Our Name.** In the Eighth Verse, the Angel of the Lord said, “Hagar, servant of Sarah.” He knew who she was and called her by her name, and then He proceeded to remind her who she was, “servant of Sarah.” He was saying to her, “Hagar, I know you, I created you. But, the question is, “do you know who you are?”

The Lord was saying to her, “I have called you by your name. I have surnamed you though you have not known Me. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides Me. I will gird you and arm you though you have not known Me” (Isa.45:4-5 Amplified). Notice the angel of the Lord did not ask her who she was. He knew He was the only one who could reveal that to her. He is the only one who can tell us who we are. He was telling her, “Hagar, you are my child; furthermore, I have even tattooed your name upon my palm” (see Isa. 49:16).

After meeting Jesus in the bookstore, Denise told Marie, “I began to face the reality in my life—that it was based on lies. I was filled with emotions I didn’t know how to deal with, and a realization that I didn’t even know who I was or why I felt the way I did. I had to ask myself what else in my life I was not facing.”

**8. God Asks Us Two Questions That Enable Us To Look At Who We Are.** In Verse Eight, the Lord asked, “Where have you come from, and where are you going?” Hagar is truthful because the Angel of the Lord knew everything anyway, “A man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths” (Prov. 5:21).

Hagar honestly answered, “I am running away.” But she gave no answer for where she was going. She had not even considered her destination. All she knew was that she was running away. The reality of the situation was this: she was alone in the middle of the desert, on a road leading to death. If the Lord had not intervened, called her by her name to cause her to consider these two questions, she would have died. The reality of blind decisions is death—the termination of life, whether mentally, physically, or spiritually. Honestly facing the Truth is the first step to life, whether it is eternal life or living one of vitality here on earth.



**W**hen Denise began to face her life in honesty, she was able to see the physical answer to the question, “Where are you going?” Her husband tried to persuade her to go to her dad’s house (to get her to leave). When the Lord revealed to her that she should, she left and took her younger brother with her. Amazingly, Denise’s husband, who was out of the Marines and unable to hold a job, tagged along. Eventually though, he chose to leave permanently.

Will Denise’s eyes be opened to be able to face her past and the question, *where have you come from?* Will she experience other aspects of God’s nature to find the emotional and physical health she so de-

sires? We will follow Denise's story in following chapters as she experiences God by His Hebrew names.

What is our response to these two questions? Hagar eventually found where she was going by facing the fact she was running, "I'm running from my mistress, Sarah." It is no different with us. This is a hard question, for our situation may not be so obvious. Although *happiness* is a surface and fleeting goal, if we ask ourselves what we *think* will make us happy, we can usually find something we are not facing. Hagar could have said, "I'd be *happy* if Sarah treated me well." The reality was, she was not treating Sarah well, and that is why she was in such a hot spot. Many of us can say we would be *happy* to be out of debt, but are we facing the discipline to make it happen? We would be *happy* to be thin, but is the truth that we aren't taking care of our bodies—we are running from eating correctly and exercising regularly?

At any given time, no matter where our relationship is with the Lord, we can go no further with Him until we have asked ourselves this pressing question: Am I running from something I need to be facing? Maybe we don't have trouble like Hagar did with her employers; but, are we rebelling against the holy ways of God, not loving our husbands or wives as unto the Lord, or not taking responsibility for our own words and behavior?

Many times, we can only find where we are going by facing the fact that we are running, out of fear, from the direction we should be heading. Are we resisting change—leaving our comfort zone to launch out into a new career path, ministry, or leadership position? This book will not provide answers to all your problems, but it will point you to the One who sees all, knows all, and does all things well. It will help you find who you are, where you have come from, and where you are going.

**9. God Requires Accountability for Our Choices.** The angel of the Lord told Hagar in Verse Nine, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." God was requiring Hagar to be accountable for her actions. Who was she? She was Sarah's maid. In essence, the Lord, by appearing

to her, was saying, “You are my child first, Sarah’s maid second. Know that and be that. Face that fact and go home and trust Me to take care of you and to make good come from your life situation.”

Hagar then had a choice to make. She was faced with a life and death decision. Deuteronomy 30:19 says, “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.” God laid out for her, in a personal way, His words of life for her right here, “Go back; submit; grow up.” Being accountable for our behavior always brings with it—a choice. That choice may not seem like a *happy* one, and rarely is, but when it is based on the words of the One who created us, a deep satisfaction and joy grows through being obedient.

It must not have been easy for Hagar to face the fact she must be obedient ultimately to God and go back to Sarah, to humble herself before her “boss,” her “supervisor,” and the father of her child who was not her husband. If going back would cause physical harm to her, God would not have asked her to return. Everything He asks us to do eventually pushes us to grow from a child to an adult, mentally and spiritually. Colossians 3:22-24 says:

Slaves obey your earthly masters in everything, and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

God’s desire for Hagar was a change in attitude—which is what the Bible is, an attitude book. Being accountable to God first brings purpose in the drudgery of day-to-day existence. It is choosing life.



Denise was no different than Hagar. She was faced with a life and death situation. She had fought hard for her marriage even though her husband gambled away the savings she had before they married. Many nights he left her waiting alone in the parking lot where she worked until 2:00 a.m. She had constant stomach problems during this period: worked one week, off two weeks, and never weighed more than ninety pounds. She knew that for her own life's sake, she had to let him go; when she did, a whole new life awaited her.

Denise summarizes her feelings, "When I was told the truth of why my husband married me, I began to remove my rose-colored glasses. My whole life, I denied all the hurt and negativity I lived with day-to-day, pretending in my heart I was happy when I was miserable and depressed; I buried my true feelings."

Denise's choice in being accountable to choose life meant returning to her father's house, and God took care of the rest.

- 1. God Blesses Obedience.** The Angel of the Lord added in Verse Ten, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." God is saying to Hagar, if she will repent, change her mind and attitude, turn around and go back home, she will find life and become the mother of many. But we find later, she was only partially obedient. She went back physically, but did her attitude change?

Sometime after choosing to return to where her father lived, Denise met a man who loved and appreciated her. After moving in with him, she began to listen to Dr. James Dobson's *Focus on the Family* radio program. It convicted her of how she was living. In obedience to God, she and her fiancé moved into separate bedrooms. Her fiancé asked a friend of his, who was the pastor of a small church in town, to marry them. Finally, Denise found a church through the man God brought into her life. They committed to this small group of believers who became their accountability support group.

God began to urge Denise to be baptized, so she asked God to convict her husband also. One Sunday morning when leaving church, she asked the pastor, “What do I need to do to be baptized?”

Her husband, who accepted the Lord through Denise’s witness, responded, “I was going to ask the same question.” (The sermon had not been on baptism.) They were both baptized on Easter Sunday, thus, beginning their spiritual relationship with God together.

1. **God Sees Our Affliction and Circumstances and Hears Our Misery.** In Verse Eleven, the Lord told Hagar that He saw her unborn child and told her she would have a son and she should call him Ishmael, meaning, “the Lord has heard of your misery.”

Psalms 139:16 says, “My eyes saw your unformed substance and in My book all the days of your life were written before ever they took shape when as yet there were none of them.”

Did we get that? There is a book in heaven with God’s plan for us in it—not only is every day of our life recorded, but our life’s purpose is included. This book will help you find it.

God sees where we are, as well as our circumstances. “And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, naked and defenseless to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Jer. 23:24 Amplified).

Every detail of our lives is recorded in heaven. “You number and record my wanderings; put my tears into your bottle; are they not in Your book?” (Ps. 56:8 Amplified). He records our wanderings. He knows every move we make, every word we say, and every tear we shed.

As a small child, Denise called out to God when she was afraid. Today, she says, “I knew God was watching over me. I could feel His presence. As I grew older and was never taught about Jesus, I didn’t know I could have a relationship with Him and that He would fill the void in my heart.”

**12. God Sees Our Future Purposes and Designs.** God told Hagar more about her unborn son in Verse Twelve, “He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”

Job 39:5-8 gives another description of the Ishmaelites: “Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied his ropes? I gave him the wasteland as his home, the salt flats as his habitat. He laughs at the commotion in the town; he does not hear a driver’s shout. He ranges the hills for his pasture and searches for any green thing.” In other words, He will be a *wild donkey of a man . . . living in hostility toward all his brothers*. The country which these free descendants of Ishmael may be properly said to possess stretches from northwestern Syria to the Arabian Sea, and from Egypt to the Persian Gulf; a tract of land 1800 miles in length by 900 in breadth.”<sup>[2]</sup>

Surely, God was saying He had a plan. He had a purpose, and He designs all things, even though we may never see the complete picture or understand it all. But He knows, and that is what matters, “For I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11).

God has a purpose and a plan for our lives as well. God gave Denise the gift of writing songs and a full, rich voice to sing them. She went back to school to learn voice and take piano lessons in preparation for the future she could now see God had for her. She also furnished her spiritual library with all versions of the Bible she could understand and self-help books to increase her learning.

**13-14. God our Father Who Sees His Children Wants to Be Wanted.** In the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Verses, Hagar gave the name *El Roi* to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me. That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.”

How can we tie these loving actions and requirements from God together to make enough sense to have an intimate relationship with this One who sees us? Maybe some clues can be found in looking at God's parenting skills. If we are His children, surely, He is our Father "for we are His offspring" (Acts 17:28).

The parenting guidelines, taught by Jim Fay and Dr. Foster Cline, in their book *Parenting with Love and Logic* could easily come from this passage about El Roi. Their teachings are widely utilized by parents and educators. Their premise is: "Effective parenting centers around love . . . that is powerful enough to allow kids to make mistakes and permit them to live with the consequences of those mistakes. Most mistakes do have logical consequences. And those consequences, when accompanied by empathy—our compassionate understanding of the child's disappointment, frustration, and pain—hit home with mind-changing power."<sup>[3]</sup>

Fay and Cline continue to say, "The challenge of parenting is to love enough to allow them [children] to fail—to stand back, however painful it may be and let significant learning opportunities build our children."<sup>[4]</sup>



**D**id God allow Abraham and Sarah the freedom to fail? You bet He did. He did not step in to keep Sarah from asking Hagar to sleep with her husband. He did not step in to keep Abraham from doing so. God was not like so many parents who are the rescuing kind, who rescue out of their own need to be needed. He is a parent who wants to be wanted. The children of rescuing parents never learn to think, to decide, or to learn how to solve their own problems. They don't take responsibility for their choices or understand there are consequences.

Did God step in to keep Hagar from failing? Yes, in the desert. Why? Because good parenting calls for “stepping in (1) when our children are in definite danger of losing life or limb, or of making a decision that could affect them for a lifetime; and (2) when children know that we know that they know that they cannot cope with their problem, and the consequences are very significant.”<sup>[5]</sup>

Did Hagar learn from her interaction with the God she named El-Roi? Did her attitude change? Genesis 21 tells about the birth of Isaac to Sarah and the great feast on the day he was weaned. Ishmael mocked Isaac, the child of promise fulfilled, just as Hagar had ridiculed Sarah when Hagar found herself pregnant. Children adopt the attitudes of their parents. Evidently, fourteen years later, Hagar’s attitude had not changed.

Hagar only partially obeyed God—physically, not spiritually. Matthew 7: 13-14 says, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Hagar took the wide, easy, lazy road. She was unwilling to make the effort necessary to allow God to change her heart, mind and soul, which is the narrow road to life. And, Hagar’s choice affected her son’s choices and those of his descendants. How about you? Are you partially or wholly obedient to God?

Did God step in to keep Denise from failing? Certainly, He did. He sought and found her in the bookstore. “Although my father and my mother have forsaken me, yet the Lord will take me up [adopt me as His child]” (Ps. 27:10 Amplified).

What did Abraham and Sarah learn from the logical consequences of their choices? Did they learn to think, to decide, to be responsible (accountable) for their own behavior? Sarah faced a real problem after Isaac was born. She had not accepted the responsibility for her own actions and words before when she blamed Abraham for getting Hagar pregnant. She was now forced to have to deal with her mistake because

of the resulting strife and hostility between Ishmael and Isaac. She told Abraham he needed to send Hagar and Ishmael away, because both could not share in the inheritance together.

Of course, this greatly distressed Abraham. What happened next is priceless! If you are a parent and old enough to appreciate the joy of having your adult child come to you for advice after the years they thought you knew nothing, then you may appreciate what happened. The adult child Abraham of 100 years of age went to his Father seeking His wisdom. Abraham certainly did not want to make another mistake he would regret. He had to *know* this time before he did anything.

And, finally, the only way he could know was to go to the One who knows all and sees all.

Can you feel the Father El Roi's joy when Abraham took the time to present Sarah's suggestion to God for His advice? God responded with the fatherly *love and logic parenting empathy* saying, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant." Then, he said, "Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned [called]. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring" (Gen. 21:11-13). God was telling Abraham, "I have a plan."

This is where the relationship between God and Abraham begins to deepen, although they had known each other for more than twenty-five years. The Lord probably reminded Abraham (through His still, small voice) of His promise to Hagar to increase her descendants. Abraham then recognized God's intent: the only way two nations could grow is if both sons were separated. Abraham wanted God's wisdom and sought it out. *Only then*, did Abraham and Sarah communicate.

In 1911 B.C.<sup>[6]</sup> Abraham and Sarah had to live with the consequences of their choices. Those consequences are significant because they affect us today. Likewise, our choices affect everyone around us—for eternity. You may ask, "Why didn't God step in with Abraham and Sarah to keep them from making a decision that would adversely

affect them and the whole world for the rest of time?” Perhaps, He is still trying to get the attention of the *descendants*, and as our Parent, He is still trying to teach us through the choices we make.

Conflict is the passageway to intimacy in any relationship. Hostility, suffering, adversity, all force us to look outside ourselves for answers. What a stubborn, rebellious lot we are! Could it be God is allowing continual conflict because He wants His children to want Him, and to seek His wisdom in everything, just as He is constantly seeking an intimate relationship with us?

What better promise can we have than the one God gave the children of Abraham who became the children of Israel? In 597 B.C., after seventy years in captivity in Babylon (Iraq), God told the Israelites, “Then you will call upon me, and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ‘I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and will bring you back from captivity’” (Jer. 29:12-14). The same is true for us today when we seek God through facing life’s difficulties in the light of our Father El Roi’s love.



## My Story



It looked like something out of “Country Woman” magazine—the small, white church with its bell-towered steeple reaching to the sky, and the white parsonage next to it. It was even called Pleasant Valley—in Wann, Oklahoma, a part of South Coffeyville, Kansas. You guessed it. I was the preacher’s kid (PK), along with my two brothers and one sister.

Having heard every sermon my father preached and in attendance at every summer Vacation Bible School he and my mother led, I knew I didn’t know Jesus personally. At the age of eight, I wanted Him in my heart with assurance I was going to heaven when I died, yet I didn’t know how to ask Him. Our church, or denomination, has an “invitation” at the end of every service when anyone can go forward to make a decision for Christ, or to be “saved.” I was so shy and timid; I could not put myself in front of anyone. Knowing the Bible said if I was willing to acknowledge Jesus before people, He would acknowledge me before the angels of God, and those angels would rejoice at my coming into the kingdom of heaven, made no difference (see Luke 12:8-10). Fear had its hold on me.

One Sunday morning, during the invitation, I wanted to go forward so badly, but my fingers just gripped the wooden bench in front of me. My knuckles grew white; I found it impossible to step into that isle. Gratefully, my father saw my anguish. Later that afternoon, he called to me, “Annie, why don’t you come with me to my office.”

I followed him to his office in the church. “You know John 3:16, don’t you?” He asked me right away.

“Yes, Dad. I’ve known it all my life.”

“Then, why don’t you pray it to your heavenly Father by putting your name in the blanks where it says the whole ‘world’? Make it personal to Him. And then, ask Him to come into your heart.”

“You mean like this?” I bowed my head.

“For God so loved Ann that He gave His only begotten Son, that if Ann believes in Him, Ann shall not perish but shall have everlasting life? Please come into my heart.”

“Yes, that’s right. Do you feel any different now?”

I did NOT *feel* any different, but I was afraid to tell my father so. I didn’t want to disappoint him, so I meekly replied, “Yes.”

Immediately, I jolted out the door so Dad couldn’t see I was lying.

As I ran toward the house . . . the sky startled me; I stopped. It was bluer than any blue I’d seen; and then, I looked at the grass; it was greener than any green I knew. Joy filled my soul. God was so close. Jesus was in my heart without a doubt, and He had made all things new. From that time on, I *knew* heaven was my home—that Jesus saw me and loved me and died for me even if I was the only person in the whole wide world.

Fourteen years later, although I still had the assurance of going to heaven, the joy had slowly vanished. My husband and I had a son and a baby on the way. Not having known what to do with what I’d received, I felt dead. Life was dry, and I absolutely had no idea how to get the joy of Jesus back in my heart.



## CHAPTER 2

### God is Elohim

#### [The Creator and Triune God]



**W**E MET EL ROI, the “God Who Sees Me,” but are we able to see Him? In the classic book, *The Attributes of God*, A.W. Tozer says, “No one can see God nor believe in God until the Holy Ghost has opened his eyes. When we grieve and quench the Holy Ghost, when we neglect Him, crowd Him out and substitute other things for Him, we make blind men out of ourselves.”<sup>[7]</sup> I was that blind person.

Who is this Holy Ghost who will open our eyes? I had grown up hearing about the Trinity— three Persons in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—but that was about it. I had no understanding of the Trinity or the Holy Spirit, except to think of either of them as being an “it.” I had learned that one could think of the Trinity as being one person like a man who can be a father, a husband, and a son, or a woman can be a mother, a wife, and a daughter. That helped, but now I know there is so much more, especially to this Holy Ghost, who I prefer to call the Holy Spirit, for there is nothing in Him that should cause us to fear.

Anne Graham Lotz explains the Trinity in her book, *The Vision of His Glory*. She says, “Every illustration that seeks to explain it seems superficial; however, thinking of water, which retains its basic elements in the form of liquid, steam, or ice, may help. God retains His power,

character, personality, and attributes in the Person of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And although the Trinity is not named as such in the Bible, it is implied again and again.”<sup>[8]</sup>

We are introduced to the Holy Spirit in the first chapter of the Bible in the first verse, “In the beginning God [*Ēlôhîym*] created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). *Ēlôhîym*, commonly seen as *Elohim*, is the Hebrew name for our Triune Creator God, and is mentioned twenty-eight times in the first chapter of Genesis. “It is the most common Hebrew word translated *God* in the Old Testament.”<sup>[9]</sup> In the first three verses of the Bible, the Trinity is implied to the reader. We have seen how Genesis 1:1 speaks of God as Creator. But Genesis 1:2 speaks of God the Holy Spirit, “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

In Genesis 1:3, the first words were spoken, “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light . . .” It was God the Son, or Jesus Christ, who spoke these very words that brought everything into being. He then became the living Word made flesh that His disciple, John, tells about in the New Testament:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. —John 1:1-5

Another passage of Scripture shows that Jesus was with His Father from the very beginning: Proverbs 8:22 and 30 says, “The Lord formed and brought me (Wisdom) forth at the beginning of His way, before His acts of old. I (Wisdom) was beside Him as a master and director

of the work; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing before Him always (Amplified).”

In Genesis 1:26 God says, “Let us (plural) make man in our (plural) image, in our (plural) likeness . . .” Then verse 27 says, “So God created man in His (singular) own image, male and female He (singular) created them.” The shift in pronouns refers to the fact that God is more than One. He is Three in One,<sup>[10]</sup> yet, He is One God. Let us not confuse the different names of God examined in this book to mean He is more than One God. His names serve to show the different characteristics of His personality and the attributes of this One and only true God of the universe.

We can think of God the Father as the architect, the mastermind—our Father who is in heaven, on the throne, never leaving it, always orchestrating every event, nothing outside His gaze. God the Spirit is the creative power that brings “life.”

And, Wow! Jesus, who was with His Father from the very beginning, spoke the Words of life that brought the Father’s plans into being. He became the living human Word in the flesh when His Father sent Him to earth over two thousand years ago. His Word we still have in the form of our Bible, the Words of the Creator and Triune God.

When it was time for Jesus to go back to His Father, He said, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor [the Holy Spirit] to be with you forever’ (John 14:16). Just like water, steam and ice, each Person of the Trinity has a different role to play. How three dimensional and awesome is our Triune God!

“With all you have gotten, get understanding” (Prov. 4:7 Amplified). Having a true understanding—of anything—makes the difference between life and death. This chapter, and the next, is my understanding of the Holy Spirit. I call Him *Mr. Holy Spirit* in the story of how He became real to me—to illustrate that He is a Person, with a capital “P.” He is not an “it.” He is the power who creates, and who makes alive and raises the dead!

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

**31**

The following part of “My Story,” is an attempt to show the Holy Spirit’s role of taking knowledge from our head and planting it in our heart. The next chapter is a continuation of my story as written in 1980, which is also contained in a booklet entitled *Eyes Wide Open*. My purpose in sharing this is not to teach any certain doctrine or rule. I am attempting only to share my own experience, how Jesus became real to me through the Person of the Holy Spirit—God the Creator—Elohim.



## My Story



All of the preceding paragraphs are just pretty words unless they can mean something to us personally. After a series of events that occurred in my life, I met and received the Holy Spirit. As a young mother in the 70's, I realized I was spiritually powerless to teach my children the ways of the Lord as my parents had taught me. I knew I had only one opportunity, and time was running out—the most impressionable time of their lives being before age three. My inward longing was: *where was the power, or ability, to be what I know God wanted me to be?*

It was then that Christian television came on the scene with interviews of lively, enthusiastic Christians like Corrie ten Boone. Her story in the book *The Hiding Place* tells of the time she spent in a concentration camp. She and her family were arrested for hiding Jews during World War II. Corrie prayed and God answered her prayers. For example, she asked God to blind the eyes of the guards to the Bible she openly held while going through a search line—naked. God did. *Where did she get the boldness and understanding to pray that prayer, to “be” so strong?*

Shortly afterward, my sister Pat sent me a book, *Hot Line to Heaven*, by Frances Hunter. This lady prayed and God answered her prayers, too. It was incredible! I was intrigued that one could actually pray and see results. For instance, she prayed for rain during a famine, and it rained. This was the first book I read as an adult. I hated to read; however, this book was different. It answered another question in my heart: *is God's love big enough to meet needs today as He did in Bible times?*

I kept reading and watching to see what these women had that I did not possess. Finally, I determined they talked about the Holy Spirit as Someone they knew. They referred to Him as though He was a real person. Catherine Marshall was wife of the Reverend Peter Marshall, a renowned Presbyterian pastor and Senate Chaplain. In her book, *Something More*, she tells about meeting the Holy Spirit. Two unforgettable statements she made about Him were: He is able to teach a person everything he needs to know, and that the Holy Spirit is a gentleman.

Finally, Frances Hunter asked a question in her book, “Are you filled with the Spirit?” She implied this is necessary if we are to have a powerful love relationship with the Lord in seeing answers to prayer. I now believe it is necessary to even *want* to pray. I knew I was not filled with the Spirit, or I would not feel so dead. Certainly, if I was filled with the Spirit, I think I would know it; thus, began my quest to know this *Something More*.

For the first time in my life, I searched the Scriptures. I came across Acts 1:8 where the resurrected Jesus is about to ascend back to heaven to His Father. He tells His disciples, who already knew Him, “. . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will *be* my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (emphasis added.) I just wanted to *be* so bad, to feel alive and to get away from feeling like I had to *do*, but no matter what I prayed or how I prayed nothing seemed to make a difference.



## CHAPTER 3

### Because He is Elohim, I Am Alive



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 on us, for Jim to “kiss the bride.” *This one ought to be fun*, 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; he arose from the ground, “but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing.”<sup>[11]</sup> He was led to Damascus where Ananias came to him three days later:

And he 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 when 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:



**A**t 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 carpet<sup>[12]</sup> 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 table<sup>[13]</sup> 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?<sup>[14]</sup>

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.”<sup>[15]</sup>

“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*.<sup>[16]</sup> 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-rased. 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,<sup>[17]</sup> but to reveal Jesus to you<sup>[18]</sup> and all He has freely given you from God the Father.<sup>[19]</sup> But, don’t be condemned.

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

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit,”<sup>[20]</sup>

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,<sup>[21]</sup> and quenched,<sup>[22]</sup> by your ignorance and shunning of Me. I am a Person, too, you know. I have a mind,<sup>[23]</sup> a will,<sup>[24]</sup> emotions,<sup>[25]</sup> and I can speak.<sup>[26]</sup> I am to be received by faith<sup>[27]</sup> 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.<sup>[28]</sup> 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 dynamos power who went to the bowels of the earth where Jesus and I openly defeated Satan in his own domain.<sup>[29]</sup> Then, I catapulted Him from the hell He took for you<sup>[30]</sup> and set Him at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places, far above all forces of evil.<sup>[31]</sup>

That's where I have put you, too. Jesus is in you and you are in Him.<sup>[32]</sup> 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.<sup>[33]</sup> Therefore, you can speak to your mountains "in the name of Jesus" and they will disintegrate.<sup>[34]</sup> You will be able to overcome your problems instead of them ruling over you.<sup>[35]</sup>

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.<sup>[36]</sup> As far as comprehension, that's my job—to lead you and guide you into all truth<sup>[37]</sup> as you are ready to comprehend, and to give you spiritual discernment of the Scriptures and all things.<sup>[38]</sup>

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*.<sup>[39]</sup> I will make the Word come alive to you personally as I lead and guide you through its pages.<sup>[40]</sup> Nothing will ever be by chance.<sup>[41]</sup> And when you need to recall a Scripture, I will cause you to remember it, giving you instant recall.<sup>[42]</sup>

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.<sup>[43]</sup> I will teach you to pray in faith, believing,<sup>[44]</sup> bestow on you magnificent gifts<sup>[45]</sup> and luscious fruit.<sup>[46]</sup>

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?<sup>[47]</sup> 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!<sup>[48]</sup> Awhile later:

ME: Okay, Mr. Holy Spirit, I burned the books and cleaned house.<sup>[49]</sup> 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.<sup>[50]</sup> 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.<sup>[51]</sup>

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."<sup>[52]</sup> I am the gift;<sup>[53]</sup> He is the giver.<sup>[54]</sup> 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?<sup>[55]</sup> You haven't allowed us to do anything but sit here.<sup>[56]</sup>

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.<sup>[57]</sup> Have you noticed where you seated me? In the baby's high-chair! I want to be LORD of all in you, seated in the Daddy's chair, the Head, Number One!<sup>[58]</sup> 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.<sup>[59]</sup>

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.<sup>[60]</sup> 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.<sup>[61]</sup>

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.<sup>[62]</sup> And now, you will be a living, breathing, dead person, dying daily,<sup>[63]</sup> in order that I may truly live in you by My Spirit.<sup>[64]</sup> Do you believe that is possible?

ME: I know that all things are possible with you, Lord,<sup>[65]</sup> but I don't understand.

JESUS: You must believe and obey in order that you may understand.<sup>[66]</sup> 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.<sup>[67]</sup>

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.<sup>[68]</sup> 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 2-1/2 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!<sup>[69]</sup> 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.<sup>[70]</sup> I thank you that you have already released Mr. Holy Spirit from the corner and that He is beginning to fill my whole house.<sup>[71]</sup>

As soon as those words<sup>[72]</sup> 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 Christ<sup>[73]</sup> and to ask for His continual filling<sup>[74]</sup> in learning to be a disciplined disciple. One thing is for sure;

His housework is never done.<sup>[75]</sup>

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 13:12a KJV).”

“Yes, Jesus, You are Alive!”



**F**acing the deadness of my life allowed Elohim to create in me His Life that opened my eyes to *be* able to see Jesus. When it had been days since I went to Jesus and asked why He had not done anything—relying only on how I felt, not on faith—I was reading the *Living Bible*. It is a green, padded, paraphrased, and easy to understand

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

43

Bible. Mad at God, I slammed it shut. The darkened words, *Living Bible*, seared into my soul, saying to me, “Live the Bible!” This unexpected answer from God was a mystery to me until four years later, when I came to the end of Hagar’s road that left me with another choice to make.



## CHAPTER 4

### God is Jehovah Tsidkenu

#### [The Lord Our Righteousness]



“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.”—Jeremiah 23:5-6

**I**N THE BOOKSTORE WITH DENISE, Marie’s mind wandered while the gray-haired lady talked about other angel books worth reading. *I hope she’s almost done; my feet are beginning to hurt.*

Denise looked at her and smiled. Marie checked her watch and wondered, *how much longer is she going to go on talking? I don’t even believe in angels.* Then she heard the lady mention the name *Jesus*. Her mind focused more on what was said, but not totally.

Marie got chills while listening. She had never felt this way before. *Who is this Jesus this woman is talking about?*

After the girls had prayed with the lady to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts and they were alone, Denise and Marie discussed what had just happened, “Shawn, my younger brother, went to church in Montana where he accepted Christ into his heart. He’s not been to church

since we moved in with you. He misses his friends and the love and attention he got from all the families,” said Denise.

*Umm . . . What is church all about?* Marie had never gone to church, but now she had an urge to read her Bible. Later on she told Denise, “I read through Genesis and some of Matthew and Mark, but I couldn’t understand it.”

“I read a verse that said if you don’t understand what you’re reading, you don’t know Christ.”

“Then I guess I don’t know Christ because I sure didn’t get anything from what I read.”

Marie’s second experience with the Holy Spirit’s seeking her out came two and one-half years later when she knocked on the door of her boyfriend’s house. Jason’s mom answered the door. She called for Jason and took Marie into the living room where they sat down. “Jason used to be so involved in the church when he was in high school, but once he was no longer considered a youth, he quit going. Would you like to go to church with me?”

When Jason came downstairs, he put on his shoes and the two hopped into his car. “Your mother just invited me to go to church with her. Will you come so I don’t feel uncomfortable?” He agreed.

Two weekends later, Marie attended her first church service. She was so excited and nervous. She had no clue what to expect or what to do. She held onto Jason’s hand so tight he thought he might lose it. This Sunday just so happened to be the day that the Lord’s Supper was served. Marie bent over and whispered to Jason, “What do I do with this cracker and juice?”

“This is a time to pray and ask God for His forgiveness for the sins you have committed.”

Marie looked around at the people around her and noticed that they had their heads bowed, so she bowed her head and asked for forgiveness for her sins that day. Next, was the *invitation* where Jason’s mother tried to get her to go up front. Scared, she grabbed Jason’s hand

and said, “No.” She felt so uncomfortable and had no idea why she was supposed to walk in front of the congregation. Before she could say anything else, the service was over.

“I really enjoyed that service. It wasn’t so bad that I wouldn’t go again. As a matter of fact, I *want* to go again.” But Jason was not interested, so they never went back.

Marie’s father’s job moved them to another town. The owners of the new company where her dad worked were devout Christians. One Sunday, they invited Marie’s family to go to church with them. Marie was so excited once again to go, to try to find out what church was all about. *Why is it on my mind so much to go to church? Why is it so important?*

Finally, three weeks after the invitation the family attended church. It seemed like forever to Marie for her parents to finally consent. She went to the college Bible study class. She had no clue what they were talking about, but she did have a desire to learn. The service was okay, so she kept going back.

The next year her mother accepted Christ into her heart. Marie thought: *That was such a joyous occasion. So many people crying, including me. But I know there must be something on the other side I’m missing. What is it?*

Nearly a month later, Marie walked the aisle of her church. Scared to death of what she was doing, she talked to a counselor in an adjoining room to the sanctuary. The only thing he said to her was, “Do you understand what Jesus did for you?”

“Sure, of course I do,” she said, not wanting to claim ignorance.

The counselor shook her hand and took her out to the congregation to be introduced. *What just happened?* she thought.

Marie started to read her Bible every day, went to church and Sunday school and wanted to get more involved. But her heart was not in it. She did not want to give up *self* to worry about anyone else. *I have enough problems of my own*, she thought to herself; but it left her miser-

able, depressed and down on herself. She thought, *I really don't like who I am.*

Finally, she talked to her Sunday school teacher who put her in touch with a Christian lay counselor. Marie saw her for one month but did not feel like she got anything from their meetings and quit going.

A guy she had known came back into her life. He and two of his friends invited her to share an apartment with them. Marie knew this was something God would not like. She had made a vow to herself to never have sexual relations with anyone until she was married. The night she was to move in, God spoke to her heart that she was choosing against His ways. She sat outside the door of the apartment for an hour crying. But she made the choice, "I don't want to sleep on the sofa at home anymore."

Marie quit having quiet times with the Lord but did go to church when her boyfriend was working, and she had nothing else to do. He refused to go with her, and she grew possessive of him which brought about their break-up within six months. She went home to live with her parents and shared a room with her little brother—at least she had her own bed now.

Marie's struggles were no different than anyone else's from past generations until today. Why could she not live as she desired? She did all the right things. She read her Bible, went to church, knew the right words to say and even prayed, but still she was miserable.

The problem lies in the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant of the Bible. The answer lies in the blood of Jesus Christ that ties the two covenants together. The book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament (Old Covenant) helps us to begin to understand this dilemma.



**J**eremiah is referred to as the "weeping prophet," because of his suffering; no one would listen to him. God called Jeremiah at a young

age, probably twenty, to give His messages to the Jewish people who lived in Jerusalem in the land of Judah. He saw the sin of the land increasing and the burning of incense to the Queen of Heaven. The people no longer worshipped the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Instead, they continually told Jeremiah that God was not speaking through him and that he was lying to them.

But the word of the Lord did come to Jeremiah. He went to see a potter at work. The pot being shaped from clay was marred in the potter's hand. So, the potter just formed it into another pot. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah's heart and asked him to say to the people:

Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. . . I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions. But they will reply, "It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; each of us will follow the stubbornness of his evil heart."—Jeremiah 18:6, 11-12

God gave Jeremiah the ability to see beyond the pending disaster with a message of hope:

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line, he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness."—Jeremiah 33:15-16

The Hebrew name for "The Lord Our Righteousness" in this last verse is Jehovah Tsidkenu. Tsidkenu comes from a Hebrew verb mean-

ing to cleanse, to be straight, to be just, to be true, upright, or in the right.<sup>[76]</sup> Jeremiah knew that God would preserve King David's line and would send a son of David to be the Messiah who would reign as king forever. Luke's gospel tells about Jesus, that "The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32)," whereas Matthew says Jesus will "... save his people from their sins (Matt.1:21)."

After listening to Jeremiah, the people decided, "Each of us will follow the stubbornness of our evil heart." God knew this would never change. His plan from the very beginning of time was to bring a New Covenant, one written in the heart:

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people . . . For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."—Jeremiah 31:33-34

## TRAIL OF BLOOD

Before we can understand the New Covenant (New Testament), we must understand the old one. It is a trail of blood pointing to the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, like a red thread woven throughout the whole Bible. Please follow that red trail with me:

### Adam and Eve

Way back in the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit, thereby allowing sin and death to enter the human condition, God cursed the ground and then He cursed the serpent. He told him, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Gen.3:15).

The offspring was Jesus—the man child—who would be satan's rival. But Jesus would have the final victory. He would someday crush the devil's head by reversing for mankind the choice that Adam and

Eve made for themselves and all their descendants. This is the first reference to the hope of a second “Adam” to come who would choose *life* for mankind, “For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous” (Rom.5:19).

The Bible says there were two unique trees in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve could have eaten from the Tree of Life (not forbidden) and lived forever in a heavenly state. Instead, they chose to eat of the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

### **Cain and Abel**

God banished Adam and Eve from the garden in an act of love so they would not eat of the Tree of Life and forever live in their sin. Their eyes were opened to good and evil; therefore, seeing that they were naked, God clothed them in animal skins—shedding blood to cover them. When their sons Cain and Abel were born, their parents taught them to worship God. Cain presented some of the fruit of the ground and Abel the first born of his flocks. God was not pleased with Cain’s offering and told him why:

“Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”—Genesis 4: 6-7

This passage has much to do with the attitude of the heart in giving to God. Evidently, God saw Cain’s heart and was not pleased and was warning Cain to beware. Cain did not take heed, because he killed his brother in jealousy. Nevertheless, Abel’s offering involved the shedding of blood, possibly a foreshadowing of the only blood (of Jesus) that would remove sin forever.

### **Noah**

Approximately 1,500 years later, Noah built an altar to worship God. After the flood, when the ark rested on dry land, Noah took some

animals and birds, and sacrificed them on an altar—shedding blood. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart, “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done” (Gen.8:20-21).

### **Abraham**

Approximately 400 years after Noah’s ark rested on Mount Ararat, Abraham arrived in Canaan, the land God promised him. The Lord asked of Abraham to bring Him a heifer, a goat and a ram, along with a dove and a young pigeon. This was when God promised Abraham an heir that would come from his own body. After Abraham killed the animals—shedding their blood—and worshipped God with his best offerings, God made a covenant with Abraham to bless him with descendants as numerous as the stars. He also revealed that his offspring would be in bondage in a foreign land for 400 years.

Later, God came to Abraham again to solidify the covenant, telling Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and sealed the Old Covenant by the rite of circumcision—the shedding of blood. Circumcision is defined in Genesis 17:10-11, for “every male among you . . . in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

### **Jacob**

Abraham’s grandson Jacob (son of Isaac and Rebecca), whose name was later changed to Israel, had twelve sons who became the “Children of Israel.” These were the descendants (Israelites) who found themselves as slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. About two hundred years after Abraham’s day, Jacob and his sons went to Egypt to escape a famine in Canaan.

### **Moses**

After the 400 years, Moses appeared on the scene to bring deliverance to the Israelites. God brought ten plagues upon the Egyptians in order to persuade the Pharaoh to free His peoples. The tenth

plague—which convinced Pharaoh to let the people leave Egypt for the Promised Land of Canaan—brought death to the firstborn of the Egyptians. It was **blood from an unblemished lamb**, a male, one year old, placed on the doorposts of the Israelites homes that spared their firstborns' lives. The angel of death passed over their homes **when he saw the blood** but took the lives of the Egyptian's firstborn children and animals, because they did not honor the one true God in their homes.

“Because God spared the firstborn of Israel in the last plague that came over Egypt, all firstborn sons and firstborn animals belonged to God. The animals were sacrificed while the men were redeemed. To be redeemed, the family paid a price to the priest instead of giving their firstborn over to the service of the temple.”<sup>[77]</sup> This was a part of the first covenant, the **shedding of blood** to gain forgiveness of sin; in other words, redemption. The rest of it resided in keeping the law.

God gave the Law, the Ten Commandments, to Moses, thereby laying the foundation for acceptable attitudes and behavior—rather than just sacrifices—of reverence for God and man. In addition to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, King Saul, King David, and Elijah **all shed the blood** from firstborn animals, without blemish, offering them to God on an altar in worship to the only true God of heaven and earth.

Moses then wrote down the laws and all the words of the Lord in a book:

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.” Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the **blood of the covenant** that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.” —Exodus 24:7-8

Thus, “the covenant that pledged to obey the Law was sealed in blood.”<sup>[78]</sup> The people said, “We will obey.” Did it happen?

### Jeremiah

This brings us to Jeremiah’s day, approximately 598 B.C.,<sup>[79]</sup> when the Israelites burned incense to false gods until God’s message to Jeremiah came true. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon [present day Baghdad], marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. They set fire to the temple of the Lord, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building was burned down. The people were taken into exile. The bronze, gold and silver from the temple were taken.

Following this, the Jews were under Babylonian, Persian, Egyptian, Syrian and Roman domination until 70 A.D., seventy years after the Messiah, Jesus Christ, came to overturn the choices of Adam and Eve. Is it any wonder that the prophet Isaiah would again foretell of the coming of another covenant? “Give ear and come to me, hear me, that your soul may live, I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David” (Isaiah 55:3). This everlasting covenant can only be the New Covenant established through the **blood of Jesus Christ** of King David’s lineage, for “**without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin**” (Heb.9:22).

Jesus was His Father’s firstborn son whom He sacrificed for many.

God “provided Himself a Lamb” who saved His people from their sin.

The blood of the Lamb brings salvation, just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation to the Israelites from Egypt.

And by that one sacrifice “. . . we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb.10:10). Holy means a state of righteousness. In other words, we are accepted, not for animal sacrifices anymore, but just as we are. Plus, all of mankind is re-

deemed through Jesus' blood, but available only to those who choose to accept it. The apostle

Paul, from the New Testament, writes,

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.—Hebrews 10:15-18

### THE ATONEMENT

The Old Covenant was a part of the Old Testament whereby God was preparing one family (Abraham's), to found one nation (Jewish nation of Israel) to bring one man (Jesus) into the world. Jesus' purpose was to make the final, once and for all, sacrifice for sin—the second Adam who reversed the choice, and curse, of the first.

The Old Covenant provided for a yearly atonement, meaning *covering* in Hebrew.<sup>[80]</sup> Only the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, which was where God's presence resided on earth in the Jewish temple. The High Priest confessed the sins of the people on the head of a goat (called a scapegoat). It was then sent into the wilderness, outside the camp, to be destroyed.

During the year, the people made blood covenant sacrifices that pertained to their daily life, but this annual sacrifice for sin in the Old Testament, was only "an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away any sins" (Heb.10:3). This reminder pointed toward a King who would take away sin forever.

In the Old Testament, sins were only covered (atoned). In the New Testament, Jesus defeated satan (crushed his head) by taking the punishment for our sin—eternal death and hell—by going to hell for

us,<sup>[81]</sup> so we don't have to endure that punishment. And sin becomes as though it never existed!

When Jesus died on the cross something else happened that had a profound meaning. At the very moment Jesus gave up His spirit, the curtain leading to the Holy of Holies in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.<sup>[82]</sup> No longer would there be a separation between God and man. Jesus took the place of the High Priest, becoming our Intercessor, or Advocate with the Father. He was the scapegoat, taking upon himself the sin of the whole world, through shedding his blood for us.

Because of the obedience of one man, many have been made righteous by Jehovah Tsidkenu. And, the fellowship that Adam and Eve had in the garden with Elohim—the Creator and Triune God—is restored and available to us today—from our heart to His heart. "God does not justify us because we are worthy, but by justifying us makes us worthy."<sup>[83]</sup>

### RELATIONSHIP NOT RELIGION

Marie knew how to go through the motions of worship—the very same as keeping the laws and requirements of the Old Covenant. She grasped that going to church was important (or to the temple to offer sacrificial offerings), but she had no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. How did she come to grasp the secrets of the New Covenant as written on the heart? What is the New Covenant anyway? The next chapter will reveal.



## CHAPTER 5

# Because God is Jehovah Tsidkenu, He Sees Me as He Sees Jesus



I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed. I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands.—Ezekiel 36:26-27 *The Message*

**S**OMETIME AFTER BREAKING up with her boyfriend, Marie attended church again. That day, she met the man who would become her husband. They spent much time together talking about God and their past lives and joined a Bible study and began praying together. But Marie still did not feel much comfort and was depressed all the time.

Over the next couple of months, Marie found herself driving by the lay counselor's house—the one to whom she had talked previously. She yearned for someone to talk to. Feeling like nothing was going right and needing direction, Marie thought she would just drive by the house; her car quit working. With no other option, she knocked. The lady was home, gave her a big hug and welcomed her into her house. Their talk was just the encouragement Marie needed.

In the doldrums again one week later, Marie drove by the same house. Ironically, her car broke down again. This time, the counselor's roommate was home. Carolyn was closer to Marie's age. They decided

to get together every week to talk. One month later, Carolyn asked, "How do you know Jesus loves you?" Marie could not answer her.

"I don't think you know Jesus."

"That's absurd! I've been reading my Bible, going to church and praying for over a year now. What do you mean I don't know Jesus? I walked the aisle." Marie was so upset that Carolyn would think she was not a Christian.

Carolyn opened her Bible to Romans 3:23-24 and read out loud, ". . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Then, she turned to Romans 10:9-10 and read, ". . . if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Marie was finally beginning to understand that she needed to make a heartfelt decision and say it with her mouth. But when Carolyn asked her, "Do you want to pray the prayer of salvation by asking Jesus to come into your heart?" she said,

"Not right now."

"The longer you wait, the harder it will be for you to do it."

Eventually, Marie chose to face her life and give it to God. She prayed fervently from her heart. This time, as she confessed her sins before God, she could see angels fighting above her. She realized the devil had his hand on her and did not want to let her go. She could see the hand of God reaching down for her to go to Him, and she did. She opened her heart's door to Him, and He came in just as He promised to do: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [shall eat] with Me" (Rev. 3:20 Amplified).

The girls cried together. That night, Marie slept peacefully for the first time in many months. Four years from her first introduction to Christ when she was with her “sister,” she accepted Him into her heart. She told Denise, “My life began to change that day. I discovered God and felt a new love for people I’d never had before.”



**W**hat happened to Marie this time that did not happen before? What happens when Jesus comes in and replaces a stony heart with a soft one “that is God-willed, not self-willed” (Ezek.36:26)? What is the mystery at the heart of Jehovah Tsidkenu, the Lord our Righteousness, and this New Covenant? Understanding this transformation will make a tremendous difference in how we see ourselves—that God sees us just as He sees Jesus.

Comparing the operation Jesus performs on our heart, step-by-step, to a medical open-heart surgery conducted over 200,000 times each year, called Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG), will give us some clues. Coronary Artery Disease is the leading cause of mortality in the United States. More than two in every five Americans die of cardiovascular disease or hardening of the arteries.<sup>[84]</sup> The CABG surgery creates a new route (bypass) for the blood supply to flow around the blockages, restoring blood supply to the heart itself so it can keep up with its demands.

## **SEVEN DIMENSIONS TO THE OPERATION JESUS PERFORMS ON OUR HEART**

### **1. It is an operation built on trust:**

A patient has to trust a surgeon. She will be put to sleep with anesthesia, not knowing the outcome. She places her life completely in the surgeon’s hands, trusting in his wisdom to do what is right, in his power

and ability to carry it out, and in his goodness and care as a fellow human being with her best interests at heart.

Similarly, when Marie gave her life to Jesus, she trusted in His wisdom, in His power and in His goodness to care for the life she placed in His hands. When we put our complete trust in the arms of the Great Physician, we do not trust a fallible human, but Jehovah Tsidkenu. For “as the Scripture says, anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame” (Rom.10:11). Jesus told his disciples:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.—John 14:1-4

Marie could now say she was a disciple who knew where she had come from and where she was going. She knew heaven was her home because “anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart” (1 John 5:10). Not only did Jesus promise Marie a prepared place in heaven, but at the same time, He promised He would personally come back for her. For eternity, she will be where Love is.

### **1. It is an operation that cuts into the heart:**

A typical CABG operation begins with a vertical opening in the front of the chest. The sternum (breastbone) is cut with a special reciprocating (jig) saw. The split sternum is spread open with a winch, and the pericardium (lining around the heart) is divided.

Two tubes are then connected to the heart by cutting an opening. One tube siphons the blue (appearing through the skin), oxygen-depleted blood from the upper heart chamber by gravity into a reservoir.

It is pumped through an artificial lung where it is exposed to oxygen. Now the blood is bright red in color. Finally, the heart-lung machine pumps the oxygenated blood back into the patient through another tube connected to the heart. The loop continues as blue blood, containing waste matter and carbon dioxide, goes into the machine, and red oxygenated blood returns to the heart.

The sign of the covenant in the Old Testament involved cutting where blood flowed.

Jehovah told Abraham:

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep. Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you . . . My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.—Genesis 17:10-11, 13

How does this sign of the covenant relate to us today? A follower of Jesus named Stephen knew the answer. He was full of God's grace and power and did great wonders among the people after Jesus' resurrection. Opposition arose among the leaders of the synagogue who brought false witnesses against him. When asked if the accusations were true, Stephen gave them a history lesson of the Jewish people from Abraham to Jesus, and how they consistently turned away from God. Then, he said:

You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers. You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.—Acts 7:51-53

When the members of the synagogue heard this, they were furious. The American Standard Version of the Bible says, “. . . they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth” (Acts 7:54b).

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God” (Acts 7:55-56). At this they covered their ears, and yelling at the top of their voices, they rushed at him, dragged him outside the city and stoned him to death.

The results of being cut to the heart in this incident were not good. The cutting revelation which the Holy Spirit brings always reveals truth. The people did not like what they heard, so, they rebelled, and destroyed what they thought was the source of their conviction. Moses wrote years before, “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked” (Deut. 10:16 KJV).



**M**arie had to choose against her pride, stubbornness and rebellion in order to be obedient and open her heart to God. She knew she had built a tough wall around her heart she wanted no one to penetrate. In other words, she was resisting the Holy Spirit’s convicting tug at her heart. Thankfully, at the “do or die” point in her life, she chose life.

The Holy Spirit was also tugging on Marie’s heart to go to church. Could the reason be: keeping the Sabbath day holy is another sign of the covenant? The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy’ . . . observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant” (Exod. 31:13, 16).

### **1. It is an operation that brings death:**

While the heart is being connected to the artificial heart-lung machine, the coronary (heart) arteries are infused with a cold potassium solution. The heart beat stops; it grows cold and motionless so the physician can work on it. “The body is preserved by the nutrient flow provided by the heart-lung circuit, while the heart is preserved by the low temperature and other conditions managed by the surgeon.”<sup>[85]</sup>

Likewise, placing our life into the hands of the great Physician, Jehovah Tsidkenu, means having to die. Millions of surgeries are performed each year where only a percentage die. *All* those who trust Jesus to replace their heart must die to self. The heart during surgery is seemingly dead; it is not beating. “The great Physician, who sees in us what we cannot see, knows exactly where to place the knife. He cuts away that which we are most reluctant to give up. And how it hurts! But we must remember that pain is only felt where there is life, and where there is life is just the place where death is needed.”<sup>[86]</sup>

What a paradox! Death brings life—like a seed has to die before it can spring forth life. At the very moment Marie chose Jesus, she was crucified with Christ. She no longer lived, but Christ mysteriously started to live His life in her, as the Bible says,

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! —Galatians 2:20-21



Marie’s choice was saying to God, “I’m tired of trying to live this life by *myself*. I’m miserable and have failed on my own.” Turning her life over to God was no less than placing her own body on an al-

tar. It was Henry Van Dyke who said, “Self is the only prison that can bind the soul.” Dying to self means mentally letting-go of *my* rights—the “i” in the middle of pride. This spiritual death to *self* is the only thing that brings life—Jesus living His life through us when we are out of the way.

### 1. It is an operation that brings life:

The next thing we need to understand about the heart is that it requires energy. It is a muscle with cells that contract in sequence to force blood into every organ and cell in the body. It is a vascular highway taking nutrition to the whole body as well as the heart itself. “A normal heart in an average sized person will pump 4 to 5 liters of blood per minute. The average heart will beat almost 4 million times per year. It is estimated that the energy required to continuously pump blood at these rates is almost 5 watts of power per hour.”<sup>[87]</sup> To show how much energy this is, blood “. . . moves in the principal arteries at the rate of a foot per second and it makes the circuit of the vascular system in about 20 seconds.”<sup>[88]</sup>

The arteries of the heart of a patient requiring a CABG are blocked with cholesterol deposits. The surgeon builds substitute passages, with harvested vessels from other parts of the body, to restore blood (energy) to the heart. Only a bypass is erected. Jesus, our substitute, completely annihilated sin—actually removed the blockages—no mere bypass. Consequently, Jesus is the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

The energy Jesus restores to our heart takes beyond a lifetime to comprehend. Our hearts are no longer sprinkled with the blood of bulls and goats as Moses did to the people under the Old Covenant. At the moment the tired, blue, lifeless blood, carrying all its impurities, hits the heart-lung machine (the substitute), it is infused with high energy far above any natural oxygen we could ever imagine! The power-

ful heavenly energy Jesus infuses into our hearts catapults us all the way to heaven in the blink of an eye! We are immediately translated, just as Hebrew is translated into English (‘Tsikenu to “righteousness”)—into the body of Jesus Christ “who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love . . .” (Col.1:13 ASV).

We must comprehend: we are living with Him in heaven right now, “And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together—giving us joint seating with Him—in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One” (Eph. 2:6 Amplified). Additionally, heaven’s energy “fills all things” (Eph. 4:10).

This supernatural energy brings life. Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). Marie’s vision of the angels fighting over her—warfare not visible to the naked eye—unmasks this spiritual battle continually being waged for the hearts of humans. Thankfully, Marie confessed her sin and asked Jesus to come in and take over her life, bringing salvation, truth, and life.

Jesus prayed for Marie and for us immediately before he was arrested and crucified. He prayed to His Father, “that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them” (John 17:26). That prayer was answered with His blood actually replacing our own selfish, sin-stained blood at the very moment the Roman soldier pierced His side, “bringing a sudden flow of blood and water” (John 19:34). Jesus purchased salvation for the whole world right then (see John 3:16), but only those who choose to believe and receive this gift are “saved” from sin’s natural punishment. This is a free gift of grace through faith, not of ourselves, not by works we can do; for Jesus paid the price with His blood (see Eph. 2:9).

Hell is sin's natural punishment. Hell is an "eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41); God never sends anyone there, but the devil is deceiving many to go there with him.



After her salvation, Marie experienced the cleansing life-blood of Jehovah Tsidkenu. She wanted to feel pure again in regard to her virginity, "While reading my Bible one day, I came across 2 Corinthians 5:17, 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' That was the day I gave that sin to Christ and became a *born again virgin*. Although I didn't save sex for marriage, God gave me a second chance and a whole new joy-filled life. I changed my goal from living day to day with no direction, to living with my path pointed toward heaven."

### 1. It is a legal operation:

The first thing a patient does before any surgery is sign a consent form—*Conditions of Services*—giving the surgeon the legal right to do surgery with consent for medical treatment. It also says, "Should the patient not accept the treatment recommended, or leave the hospital contrary to the doctor's advice, the patient or his agent will assume full responsibility for such action and will in no way hold the hospital, its employees or the patient's attending physician responsible for the result."<sup>[89]</sup>

Followers of Jesus Christ are signing a legal contract as well. The Hebrew word for *covenant* means, "A contract which was accompanied by signs, sacrifices, and a solemn oath which sealed the relationship with promises of blessing for obedience and curses for disobedience."<sup>[90]</sup> Only when we come to understand this are we able to take advantage of the benefits, like any contract we would sign, such as for a house or a car.

Our spiritual covenant is between two parties: the first, Jesus; the second, us.

### First Party: Jesus

The Old Covenant was between Jehovah and Abraham, also called the Abrahamic Covenant. The new contract is between God the Father and Jesus. When we accept Jesus, we enter into the New Covenant. It is legal because Jesus was a legal Jewish sacrifice. The high priest turned Jesus Christ over to the Romans to be crucified on a cross altar outside the camp (see Luke 23: 13-14). Hebrews 13:12 refers to the Old Testament scapegoat, “And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.”

Jesus’ final words, “It is finished!”<sup>[91]</sup> while dying on the cross meant He fulfilled (not replaced) the Old Covenant. Jesus ascended into heaven’s tabernacle and “entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12). He later gave us His New Testament—testament meaning “a covenant between God and the human race.”<sup>[92]</sup> Like a last will and testament, it documents his gifts to us.

Jesus was His Father’s firstborn Son, without blemish, whom He sacrificed for the world’s sin, thus, bridging the gap of separation between God and man. Jesus, who paid the only legal price for sin said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Just as a patient must give legal consent, we must give Jesus permission to continually perform His operation on our heart before we can truly see Him. By so doing, we enter legally into the New Covenant with Him and receive what the shedding of His blood did for us, as it now courses through our veins.

### Second Party: You and Me

What if we later change our mind in allowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit to have their way in our heart and life? We have to accept the consequences of breaking our end of the contract. A patient not accepting treatment may die. A person not paying their mortgage or car payment could possibly no longer live in the house or drive the car. Our spiritual covenant with God is different from a contract in that we may pull away, but God never does--the same as the fact that the hospital is still here and the car is still around, but we no longer have access to their benefits.

The New Testament documents our contract including what is contained in the Old Testament. The whole book of Deuteronomy, written by Moses, is the formal treaty between God and Israel. It holds all the elements contained in treaties from the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C.: the introduction of the speaker, historical prologue, stipulations, statements concerning the document; witnesses, curses, and the blessings.<sup>[93]</sup> Chapter 28 of Deuteronomy stipulates the "Conditions of Services," the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. We are legal heirs to the blessings through Jesus Christ because, "cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit" (Gal. 3:13-14).

In a nutshell, God tells us in Deuteronomy 28 He will set those who honor His name and obey Him, high above all nations on earth; He will bless all the work of their hands; they shall lend and not borrow. The curses are blessings withdrawn from those who do not honor His name or obey His commands: confusion, disease (including those yet unnamed), defeat before enemies, unsuccessful endeavors, and indebtedness. Both blessings and curses extend to the next generation. The blessings are detailed in fourteen verses; the curses in fifty-four. Jesus took the curses in His body so we can receive the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant.



With her heartfelt prayer, Marie voiced to Jesus legal permission to change her heart, which would change her life. It was just the beginning, but eventually her understanding would grow. We, too, must “sign” our consent form. (An actual signature on paper or in a journal is not a bad idea.)

### **1. It is an operation for the whole heart:**

No matter how much of the heart is blocked, the whole heart is presented to the surgeon. Consider the children of Israel who did not understand this. After the Israelite’s 430 years of bondage in Egypt, “God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them” (Exod. 2:24-25). He sent Moses to deliver them. Moses, like all the children of Israel, was a descendant of Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel). Moses was delivered from the wrath of the Pharaoh of Egypt who hoped to retard the growth in the number of Israelites (Hebrews), by sentencing all newborn baby boys to be executed. To avoid that fate, Moses’ parents put him in a floating basket and hid him in the Nile River. He was discovered by the Pharaoh’s own daughter who raised him as her son.

When Moses was an adult and discovered who he really was, he tried in his own strength to deliver his people from their slavery by killing an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew slave. Accused of murder, he fled to the desert to save his own life. While tending sheep, Moses saw a burning bush. After turning aside to look, God called to him, saying, “. . . I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. . . .” (Exod. 3:8).

Through his servant Moses, God worked miraculous signs and wonders, with ten plagues, to snatch the Israelites from Pharaoh’s grasp.

After leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land, the Israelites witnessed first-hand miracles from God Almighty. They could have entered the Promised Land within eleven days; however, when Moses sent out twelve spies into the land, ten came back with a fear-filled report that the people were stronger and taller than the Israelites.

Only Joshua and Caleb trusted in the goodness, wisdom, and power of the Lord, in His promise that they could take the land as He commanded them. For that lack of faith, the Lord told the people, “Not a man of this evil generation will see the good land I swore to give your forefathers, except Caleb son of Jephunneth. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord *wholeheartedly*” (Deut. 1:34-36 emphasis added).

God sent all the people back to wander in the wilderness for forty years until that generation died. Only the little children who the people said “would be taken captive”<sup>[94]</sup> would see the Promised Land. Joshua would be their leader because, like Caleb, he believed God and followed Him with his whole heart.

Try to imagine what it would look like for a patient to refuse to allow the surgeon to operate on her whole heart? After experiencing the initial life-giving royal blood flowing through her veins and being translated into heavenly places, she wakes up from the operating table and says, “Just take half; give me back the rest.”

In doing so, the upper chamber pumping the blue, lifeless blood would only partially gravitate to the machine. Only a part would ever be energized and rerouted to the body. Left long enough in this state, the result is “congestive heart failure,” where fluid backs up, causing congestion in the tissues due to reduced pressure of the blood flow.

You may say, “But no one in their right mind would do such a thing.”

Spiritually speaking, it happens all the time. Look at what the children of Israel did. After they received the command of the Lord to go up and take possession of the land, the people fell into a half-heart-

ed commitment. Moses writes, “You grumbled in your tents and said, ‘The Lord hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. Where can we go? Our brothers have made us *lose heart*’” (Deut. 1:27-28 emphasis added).

The Lord had just told them where to go and how He would get them there; but, they listened to the wrong people—the ten spies. With their non-believing words, they took back part of their hearts from trusting the Lord to live His life through them in His power and in His strength.

This brings up an important question, “If the children of Israel lost heart, did they lose their salvation?” They were out of Egypt, weren’t they? So are the patients who have asked the Great Physician to *replace* their heart. It is just as impossible to take back a replaced heart as it is blood that is already shed. Scripture backs this up: “No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?” (Isa. 43:13).

The apostle John records the words of Jesus, chapter 10 verse 28, “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” If that were not enough, Jesus takes it to the highest authority, “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

Salvation cannot be annulled; it is the legal contract between Jesus and His Father.

If only the children of Israel could have, in faith, let go and believed this promise:

Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the desert. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.—Deuteronomy 1:29-31



With Marie, nothing good came to her life until she was ready and willing to commit her whole life, her whole heart, to Jesus Christ, in complete obedience to His will and His way. Our analogy stops here, for Jesus not only transforms our heart, He replaces it. He says, “I’ll remove the stone heart from your body, and replace it with a heart that’s God willed, not selfwilled” (Ezek.36:26 The Message.). The marvelous thing is, He gives us His heart, uncorrupted, pure and clean.

### **1. It is an operation with a deep inner meaning:**

“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them” (Ps. 25:14). The Amplified version reads that He will “reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.”

E. W. Kenyon (1867 – 1948), discovered this deeper meaning. He was a pastor and evangelist who found the Lord in a Methodist prayer meeting when he was seventeen years old. His ministry lives on through his writings. In one of his booklets, he says he knew there had to be more to the New Covenant than he realized, and that it resided in the Lord’s Supper table. “The silence of the disciples when Jesus introduced it, saying, ‘This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins’; and then told them to eat the bread which was His body and to drink the wine which He declared was His blood—I say, the very silence of the disciples indicates they understood what he meant. I did not and it confused me”<sup>[95]</sup>

Through more research, Kenyon found evidence that in Africa, India, China, Borneo, and the Islands of the Seas, men practiced a blood covenant very similar to the Lord’s Table. Their reasons for evoking a covenant, as it were for Abraham and others in the Old Testament of the Bible, were to bring peace between parties, or for love’s sake. When one party had a demand put upon it, the other obligated himself to meet that demand. It was a sacred rite that if broken, one’s own mother

or wife, or his nearest relative would seek his death. "No man can live in Africa who breaks the covenant . . . he curses the very ground he walks on."<sup>[96]</sup> It is so sacred that the children to the third and fourth generations revere it and keep it. It is perpetual and cannot be annulled.

Kenyon tells a profound story that illustrates the New Covenant Jesus was trying to communicate to His disciples and to us. Journalist Sir Henry Stanley was commissioned to go to Africa to find David Livingstone. When he found the Scottish missionary on November 10, 1871, his now famous words were, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" In his seeking, Stanley came in contact with a powerful war-like equatorial tribe. His interpreter explained what a blood covenant was and asked Stanley, "Why don't you make a strong covenant with them?"

"What will the results be from such a covenant?" Stanley asked.

"Everything the chieftain has will be yours if you need it."

Stanley revolted from drinking someone else's blood, but when conditions worsened, he agreed. The first step was negotiation as to motives and the commitment and ability to keep the covenant. Next, the chieftain and Stanley exchanged gifts. The old chieftain wanted Stanley's goat, but giving away the goat meant life or death for Stanley. He was in poor health and had to have goat's milk to live. It took everything within him to give it. The chieftain gave Stanley his seven-foot copper-wound spear. Stanley thought he was defeated.

To Stanley's surprise, the ritual continued with each man bringing in a substitute to perform the actual cutting. Blood dripped from the substitutes' wrists, falling into one cup of wine. The bloods were mixed, and then the cup was given back to the two substitutes to drink in equal parts. They were now blood brothers, and Stanley and the chieftain and his men were bound together. Gun powder was rubbed into the wounds of the substitutes, which when healed, was the sign of the covenant.

After sealing the wounds, a priest pronounced awful curses upon the wives, children and tribal members if the covenant was broken.

Then a tree was planted—one known for its long life— as a remembrance for the time to come.

Afterwards, Stanley's men did not have to stand guard over their bales of cotton cloth and trinkets, but now they could sell them and buy from the tribe as well; to steal meant death. To Stanley's amazement, everywhere he went with the chieftain's spear, everybody bowed to him *as though he were the chief himself*.



**I**n comprehending Stanley's story, heart surgery and how it relates to the New Covenant, consider these things:

- The difference between the Old Covenant and the new is that the third person of the Trinity cuts into the heart. (He is the only third on earth today.) The Holy Spirit does the work of Jehovah Tsidkenu. [For simplicity's sake, Jehovah Tsidkenu is used here, although Jehovah Mekoddishkem is God's name meaning *to sanctify*, or purify. The Holy Spirit is the sanctifier.<sup>[97]</sup>] When we trust Him to do so, He cleanses our heart of waste matter with His royal blood; for “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). He then daily and perpetually gives a spirit-filled life to those who believe whole-heartedly.
- An open-heart surgery cannot take place unless 100 percent of the blood supply is diverted to the artificial heart-lung machine. Until we mentally and spiritually assent to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, giving Him 100% commitment—as Stanley did with his goat—and make Him our number one priority, we cannot find life.

- These seven dimensions of heart operation performed by the Holy Spirit can only be discerned through the Holy Spirit, for “the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). As we spiritually discern this New Covenant, we begin to see that when God looks at us, He sees Jesus. He sees the royal red blood Jesus shed for us, and the legal contract signed in His blood.
- In exchange for our gift of self to God, He gives us five words, “In the name of Jesus” (see John 14:13). After Jesus ascended to His Father and sent His Holy Spirit to earth, His disciples used these words in time of need, for themselves and others. By so doing, Jesus replicated himself 100-fold, just as a dying seed brings forth life multiplied (see Matt. 12:42). Using the “name of Jesus” (which represents all that He is) puts a demand upon the New Covenant. This was revealed to Stanley when tribesmen bowed to him because of the spear. It represented the chief himself, “Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).



## My Red Umbrella Story



It was no different than when President Kennedy was shot or when 9/11 hit. I knew exactly where I was and what I was doing when the realization came to me of what Jesus' blood did for me--that God sees Jesus' blood when He looks at me. I was folding laundry, listening to a spiritual cassette tape when the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the words "in the name of Jesus."

It happened during the same time-span, and in the same house where I was seeking to find the *Something More* I knew I was missing. It seemed to me every prayer I prayed hit the ceiling and came back down. My thoughts were: *Why would God give me the time of day when there are so many other people who deserve His attention more than I?* Then, the man on the tape mentioned that Jesus, standing at the right hand of the Father, intercedes for us, and "that's why we pray, 'In the name of Jesus.'"

I had always learned to end a prayer with the words, "In the name of Jesus," but until then, the full impact of what they meant had not gone from my head to my heart. However, now, in my mind's eye, I could see a red umbrella covering me so that when God looked down upon me, He saw Jesus' red blood, not me. Until then, what I saw was the underneath side of the umbrella smeared with my own unworthiness. The words *no good in me* came to mind. I looked them up to see if they were in the Bible. Sure enough, there they were, "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out" (Rom. 7:18).

I realized I'd been trying to *feel* worthy on my own, when Jesus had already made me worthy—justified. *God actually did hear my prayers because of Jesus; He is the only good in me. God actually did see Jesus when He looked at me. He saw perfection.* What awesome thoughts! I just had to believe them in order to walk in the knowledge (receive) of what His blood had done for me. How I'd limited God's power and ability! I also began to realize that growing as a Christian was learning and relearning and comprehending the awesome dimensions of what Jesus did for me at the very moment He came into my heart many years ago.

It was not long before God taught me that “dying to self” [Galatians 2:20] would be a life long ordeal.

We sold that two-story house in Kansas and moved to Texas, debt free, so Jim could get a doctorate degree in community college administration. He had been coaching football and teaching, but felt he needed to prepare for the future while our children were still young. Four-year-old Kurt and two-year-old Francy hated the crowded day-care when I worked as a secretary at the college.

We had no friends, not even at our church. We lived in a trailer house with a postage-stamp sized yard. Life was dry. Texas was hot. Not one tree. God seemed to say, “Look to Me and Me alone. Let me teach you.” But our life, pursuing unfulfilling things, choked out all God's Word from our hearts we had to begin with. Life was dry, drudgery, confused, a desert, a wilderness, and we knew it.

Three things kept me going that year, things I read or heard: (1) When we make Jesus Christ absolute Lord of our life and of each day, it means there is nothing that can come into our lives that is not filtered through His fingers. (2) Dying to self in order that we may live in God's power, rather than our own, is something we must do daily. Mentally assenting to *self* dying allows Christ to live His life through us each day—His royal red blood flowing through our veins. (3) When we make Jesus Lord by giving ourselves and all we own to Him, He will, at some point, return 100-fold.

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

77

I had a green hanging plant God used to speak to me. It needed sun, water and fertilizer in order to grow. He impressed upon me that my heart was the same. It needed His Son, His water, and His fertilizer, but I did nothing to give it these things. With a three-year correspondence accounting course I was taking, a full-time job, and family, I made no time for God. My plant also needed pruning, cutting back in order to grow to its maximum potential. I hated the thought of being pruned, but I knew it was true—God was pruning us and was about to do a whole lot more. Our family had yet to put a real demand upon the covenant—a need to use the words “in the name of Jesus.”



## BEHIND THE SCENES



### **P**ART I: LEAVING BONDAGE

#### **Chapter 1: God is El Roi – [The God Who Sees Me]**

*Christmas, 2003, I told Jim that all I wanted for Christmas was an on-line writing course by Susan Titus Osborn—to learn fictional techniques. That’s what I got. In April the following year and without my knowledge, our writer’s group decided to have Susan come from California to lead. She stayed in my house. I asked for her course and got her, too. El Roi God let me know He knew where I lived.*

#### **Chapter 2: God Is Elohim [The Creator And Triune God]**

#### **Chapter 3: Because He Is Elohim, I Am Alive**

*In 2004 I went to Indianapolis, IN, to try to find a publisher. In May, 2006, the Holy Spirit—Elohim—led me to not depend upon an outside publisher. I was spending more time trying to ‘sell’ my book, rather than writing it, and I knew it was worth every ounce of my time to write; furthermore, I didn’t know it would turn out as a Bible study and that the years of experience in typing Jim’s students’ tests would kick in naturally for the review exercises. Little did I also know that a Bible study needs to be tested itself and tried – first as a neighborhood gathering; secondly as one-on-one mentoring – while completing the leader’s guide. This total process took ten years!*

**Chapter 4: God Is Jehovah-Tsidkenu [The LORD Our Righteousness]**

**Chapter 5: Because He Is Jehovah-Tsidkenu, He Sees Me As He Sees Jesus**

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

79

*This chapter prepared me for the second heart surgery of our firstborn son, Kurt. It also was written out of the experience of his first surgery. Kurt and his wife Davi moved from Michigan close to us and began editing these very chapters. My friend Jo could no longer do so, because of the birth of her baby.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



I am so thankful and grateful to:

- God Most High, whose ways are always right and just, no matter how long we may have to wait for his promises to be fulfilled. He is always good, trustworthy and faithful.
- The women and men who gave me permission to share their stories—without them this book would not exist. Their transparency reflects their Lord Jesus Christ. (Persons with first names only are not their real names.)
- My Wednesday morning critique group and the support of Christian Writer’s Fellowship.
- Our eldest son, Kurt, my very capable editor, and his wife Davi and Joanna Gauthier who helped with editing. Thank you also to those who have completed this workbook and given their valuable final critique for this second edition.
- My husband, Jim, who supported me always, especially through my bad choices. Thank you for allowing me to share *Our Story*, from Vietnam to retirement, for believing in me for over forty-five years, and for your tried and true patience.
- Our family: former Army Captain Kurt, his wife Davi and son Hugo; our daughter Francy and her husband, Colonel

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

**81**

Scott Mueller, and their three sons Riley, Cooper, and Brody; former Army Captain Matt Miesner and his wife Shelly, daughters Lydia and Gracie and son Henry; and son Hank and his wife Tara and their three daughters Morgyn, Emmy, and Adeline. Thank you for allowing me to share your stories and for your love, help, patience and support.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**M**Y HUSBAND JIM AND I have been married almost 50 years--from three weeks after his return from Vietnam. We have four children and nine grandchildren--all who love the Lord and follow Him. Although we have successful relationships within our military family now, that does not mean we have not had many trials. Within our immediate family, we have overcome about ten deployments. At this writing, our daughter and her family are in S. Korea with the Army. God has been faithful to bring physical and spiritual healing.

Our family has overcome, and we continue to fight the good fight of faith.

Ten years into our marriage, we learned that God had a plan and purpose for our life. In a time of extreme stress when we were hungry for a relationship with God, not religion, we decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The Holy Spirit opened our eyes to see we were living in bondage—concerning debt and in our marriage. From there, He brought us out as we trusted Him with our money and possessions. He taught us lessons of faith when we found ourselves without a job for one year. We experienced God in an exciting journey with Jesus that gets more exciting every day.

Years later, I learned that our journey fell into a chronological pattern of God's character names—His powerful Hebrew names. God brought into my life about forty women whose stories also helped to explain each of God's names. *God Who Are You? And Who Am I?* was birthed over seven years out of those relationships in our city-wide Bible study group.

#### **How to Contact Ann:**

I love hearing from you! There is no greater joy for me than to learn how God is working in your life. If you are going through the FREE eCourse Bonus<sup>1</sup>, you know you can always make comments on my blog site: <https://www.godwhoareyou.org>

You can also sign up for my eNewsletter; you can share your story at “Contact Us.”<sup>2</sup> Let your testimony encourage someone else. Your words are powerful! Nothing is too small or insignificant to share—that will help another.

You may find all my books [HERE](#)>>

[https://www.godwhoareyou.org/get-books/  
ann@godwhoareyou.org](https://www.godwhoareyou.org/get-books/ann@godwhoareyou.org)

---

1. <https://www.godwhoareyou.org/free-ecourse-bonus/>  
2. <https://www.godwhoareyou.org/contact-us/>

# Leader's Guide for GOD Who Are You? AND Who Am I?

--a 13 or 23 week study



This 8.5 x 11, 70 pg. *guide* and *answer key* to the paperback workbook<sup>3</sup> has been developed over nine years of leading this study in women's groups, with neighbors in homes, one-on-one at restaurants, and with groups in churches. It's a user-

---

3. <https://www.godwhoareyou.org/get-books/>

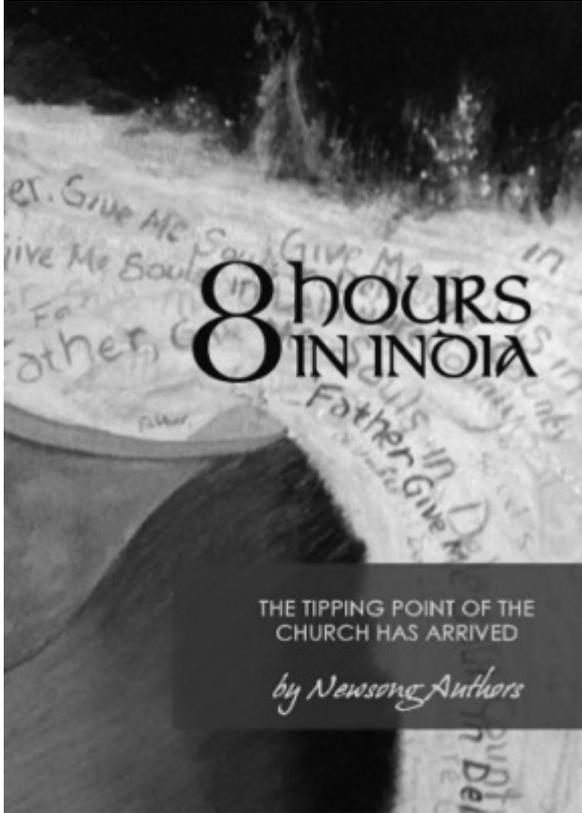
friendly guide for one who has never led a Bible study.

The first seven pages are instructions in how to plan and organize your study, whether in a small group or neighborhood. Includes: Why is your house so important? Who are called to this special task? How to get started? Why the Red Door? And, sample flyers.

At the back of the book is:

- a Family Tipping-Point Letter written to you
- the Story Behind the Cover
- Each One Teach One instruction and the
- Joshua-Jericho Prayer Walking Guide for 7 days

## *8 Hours in India* Fundraiser Designed with You in Mind



**T**HIS BOOK IS A FINAL WARNING of the imminent return of Jesus to meet his followers in the sky--also known as the Rapture. It reveals how a recent trip to India by a team of seven in March of 2016 uncovered revelations from the Lord that the tipping point of good and evil is here; thus, of the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Tipping Point is that pivotal “moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. The

tipping point is the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point. At that point, *change can happen very quickly*” (Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point: How little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, First Back Bay, 2002, p.11-12).

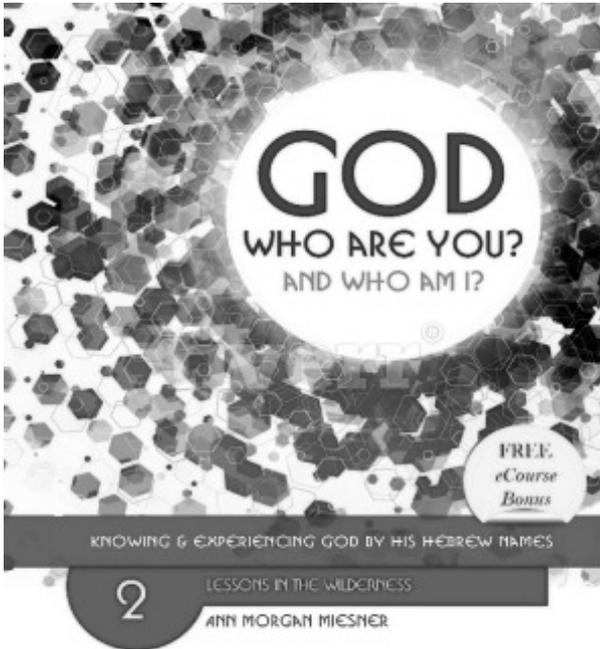
Come with us on this trip to India, Dubai and back. See for yourself the how, what and whys of this tipping point. We believe you will come away convinced as we are that Jesus Christ is half-way out the door.

Be a harvester and a watchman with us with your own Watchman Record in the back of the paperback book. Document all the blessings and answers to prayer—in your sphere of influence and around the world—that are being poured out from the golden bowl in heaven at this pivotal point in all history—including prayers from the very beginning of time!

- **To help complete the vision of the Great Commission go to:** <https://www.godwhoareyou.org/fundraiser/>
- **It comes in paperback and eBook.**



**FREE DOWNLOAD**



eBook 2 of 4 in the God Who Are You Series:

**LESSONS IN THE WILDERNESS**

“Ann makes this study of the Hebrew names of God easy to understand and inviting to read. I think God has given Ann a gift of teaching and an obligation to get this in front of as many people as possible.” Beverly W., Kansas

“I have been blessed to be part of the United States Army for many years and have recently been introduced to the civilian world.

Now retired after several deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and many assignments in between as a warrior in the flesh, I have been brought to Oklahoma.

“Long before I knew I was to read this precious book, it was placed in my path. I attended a group, who with all their spirituality and not just talk but walking with the Lord, I knew I wanted more by reading and was there each week. Learning the principles out of Genesis, for me, was incredible. For some it might come easy. Without all the detail – you don’t just get medically retired for no reason.

“Through how the book was written, it was truly easy to read. I personally learned that I have been running from things for many years. Although I still had God’s shield around me, the whole time, He is the reason I’m still here. I Learned through the book that I needed to face these issues or my relationship with God would continue to feel like it was on R & R (rest & relaxation).

“So, with starting to face these issues I was running from, gradually things have been working themselves out. As I may quote a sentence from the book, ‘It won’t provide answers to all your problems, but it will point you to the one who sees all, knows all, and does all things well. It will help you find who are you, where you came from and where you are going.’

“I’m forever grateful that Mrs. Ann was given the gift to write this book. Her gift has placed this wounded warrior on her feet, not just physically, but also mentally, and on the path that God has chosen for me. My hope is that others struggling from military service or just life in general, that each and every one would just take a peek at this book. You will find the answers in life that God has for you. Just don’t give up five more minutes for your miracle.” --Melissa H.



Get your FREE copy of GOD Who Are You? AND Who Am I? LESSONS IN THE WILDERNESS by signing up to the author's reader's list.

**CLICK TO SEND MY FREE BOOK>>**

<https://www.godwhoareyou.org/get-books/free-book-download/>

LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES

91

© 2008, and 2015 by Ann Morgan Miesner

eBook 1 – Leaving Bondage 2017

*GOD Who Are You?*

*AND Who Am I?* by Ann Morgan Miesner

*Cover Design* by Susie Kyman

Printed in the United States of America

PAPERBACK: ISBN-13: 978-1517071684

ISBN-10: 1517071682

All rights reserved solely by the author. The author guarantees all contents are original and do not infringe upon the legal rights of any other person or work. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the author. Permission is granted to Bible study leaders or individuals to photocopy Personalized Scriptures at the end of each module.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society, Used by permission of Zondervan; The New American Standard Bible®. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation, [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org); The Amplified® Bible. Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission; The Message. Copyright ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by NavPress Publishing Group; and The King James Version of the Bible.



**P**ublished by:  
**C.R.O.W.N.** Connections

Calling **R**eal **O**rdinary [**W**o]men **N**OW!

[www.godwhoareyou.org](http://www.godwhoareyou.org)<sup>1</sup>



**Would you like other people to go through this  
book and/or eCourse?**

Besides word-of-mouth the best way to share in order to reach people where they are, is to leave a review at amazon.com (Ann Morgan Miesner in search). Amazon sells 90% of all books sold.





# T H A N K Y O U !




---

[1] Adam Clark, L.L.D., F.S.A., &c., *Clark's Commentary Volume 1--Genesis to Deuteronomy* (Abington Press, New York, Nashville) p. 110.

[2] Clark, *Clark's Commentary, Volume 1*, p. 109.

[3] Foster Cline, M.D. and Jim Fay, *Parenting with Love and Logic*, (Pinion Press, Colorado Springs, CO, 1990), p. 12.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 13.

[5] *Ibid.*, p. 51.

[6] Clark, *Clark's Commentary, Volume 1*, p. 111.

[7] A.W. Tozer, *The Attributes of God* (Camp Hill, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, 2001.) p. 109.

[8] Anne Graham Lotz, *The Vision of His Glory*, (Dallas, London, Vancouver, Melbourne: Word Publishing, 1996) p. 10.

[9] Spiros Zodiatos, Th.D., Executive Editor, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*, (AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN, 1990) p. 1711.

[10] *Ibid.*, p. 10.

[11] Acts 9:8 Amplified

[12] John 3:3-6; Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:3-4

[13] Revelation 3:20

**LEAVING BONDAGE: GOD WHO ARE YOU? AND WHO  
AM I? KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD BY HIS  
HEBREW NAMES**

- [14] Hebrews 13:8
- [15] Matthew 10:37-38
- [16] John 14:16-17
- [17] John 16:13
- [18] John 15:26
- [19] John 16:14-15
- [20] Acts 19:2 KJV
- [21] Ephesians 4:30
- [22] 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- [23] Romans 8:27
- [24] 1 Corinthians 12:11
- [25] Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Romans 15:30
- [26] John 16:13
- [27] Galatians 3:14
- [28] 1 Corinthians 2:9-12
- [29] Colossians 2:15
- [30] Ephesians 4:8-10
- [31] Ephesians 1:18-21
- [32] 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 John 4:13
- [33] Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:5-6; Luke 10:19; Matthew 16:18-19; 1 John 4:17
- [34] Mark 11:23; Exodus 15:1
- [35] Romans 5:17, 12:21; 1 John 5:4-5
- [36] Ephesians 6:12
- [37] John 16:12-13
- [38] 1 Corinthians 2:15-16
- [39] John 6:63
- [40] Psalms 119:25, 133
- [41] Isaiah 42:16; Psalms 32:8-9
- [42] John 14:26
- [43] John 14:26, 16:13

- [44] Psalms 80:18; Romans 8:26-27
- [45] 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-28
- [46] Galatians 5:22-23
- [47] Deuteronomy 18:10-13
- [48] John 16:8
- [49] Acts 19:19
- [50] Acts 1:8
- [51] John 15:11, 16
- [52] John 1:33
- [53] Acts 2:38
- [54] Colossians 1:17-19, 2:9-10
- [55] John 15:3-5
- [56] Galatians 5:16-17
- [57] Acts 1:8
- [58] Luke 9:23-26, 14:26-33
- [59] Romans 6:5-6
- [60] Romans 12:1, 6:13
- [61] Philippians 2:13
- [62] Galatians 2:20
- [63] 1 Corinthians 15:31
- [64] Romans 6:8; 2 Corinthians 4:10
- [65] Luke 1:37
- [66] John 11:40
- [67] Galatians 5:25
- [68] Isaiah 59:1-3
- [69] Acts 9:18
- [70] Hebrews 11:1
- [71] Philippians 4:4, 6; Hebrews 13:15
- [72] Matthew 12:37; Hebrews 11:3
- [73] Romans 6:11

- [74] Ephesians 5:17-18
- [75] Psalms 139:1-4, 23-24
- [76] Spiros Zodiates, Th.D., Executive Editor, the *Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*, (AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN 1990), 0. 1767.
- [77] Henry Hampton Halley, *Halley's bible Handbook*, (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000), p. 156.
- [78] *Ibid.*, p. 148
- [79] Adam Clark, L.L.D., F.S.A., &c., *Clark's Commentary Volume IV--Isaiah-Malachi* (Abington Press, New York, Nashville), p. 313.
- [80] Zodiates, *Key Word Study Bible*, p. 1736.
- [81] See Ephesians 4:9; Acts 2:31; 1 Peter 3:19; Revelation 1:18
- [82] See Matthew 27:51
- [83] Thomas Watson, circa 1557-1592
- [84] Mark Levinson M.D., *The Heart Surgery Forum*, [www.hsforum.com](http://www.hsforum.com)<sup>2</sup>, Hutchinson Hospital, Hutchinson, KS (accessed April 2005).
- [85] *Ibid.*
- [86] Fénelon, *Let Go*, (Whitaker House New Kensington, PA, 1973), p. 6.
- [87] *Ibid.*
- [88] Clarence W. Taber, *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (Philadelphia, F.A. Davis company, 1968), B-28.
- [89] Mercy Health Systems of Kansas, *Conditions of Services*, Item 7.
- [90] Zodiates, *Key Word Study Bible*, p. 1716
- [91] See John 19:30
- [92] *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary-Eleventh Edition* (Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, Springfield, MA 2003), p. 1291.
- [93] Halley, *Halley's Bible Handbook*, p. 176.
- [94] See Deuteronomy 1:39
- [95] E.W. Kenyon, *The Blood Covenant*, (Kenyon's Gospel Publishing Society, Lynnwood, WA. 1969), p.5.
- [96] *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- [97] *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, p. 1100.

