



# Volume 4 Issue 6

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#### What Was Revealed To You In The Midst Of The Storm

By Eunice A. Christian June 27, 2021

- Acts 27:13 ~ <sup>13</sup>When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. 14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. 15 So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive.
- Matthew 7:24-29 ~ <sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He [Jesus] said to them, *Let us cross over to the other side.* <sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, *Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?* <sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, *Peace, be still!* And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> But He said to them, *Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?* <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, *Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!*
- Jonah 1:1-5 ~ <sup>1</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me. <sup>3</sup> But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. <sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

\* \* \*

May the memories you have created, and will create, continue to be blessed with the fullness of **Light** (John 8:12).

May the memories of current and past loved ones, friends, and good neighbors not be forgotten.

May we always be mindful and not forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country and around the world.

May we keep up in prayer those who have demonstrated, and those who continue to demonstrate, compassion during these challenging times.

For those of you who are struggling in various aspects of life to the point of feeling overwhelmed, may you soon realize the tender grace, mercy, and favor The Most High God has in store for you, and that you receive the relief and support you need and desire for a far better, more fruitful outcome.

**Stay encouraged. You are not alone.** If you have the need to reach out to someone, ask The Most High God for direction; be led by The Holy Spirit. Stay blessed. Stay well.

My prayer is that we not lose hope or give in to the darkness of this world. May we demonstrate wisdom, knowledge, kindness, and compassion when we address those who promote fallacies and infringements against what is good and just. May we continue diligence in well-doing; unified for the sake of a civil and more perfect union; premised upon what has been deemed good and just according to God's Holy Word.

Remember: God is still on the throne, and Jesus lives in us through the power and unction of The Holy Spirit, our Comforter. So, trust in God by adhering to His Holy Word. It is my prayer that God will continue to see us through with blessings too numerous to measure or count. Again, we must trust in God.

\* \* \*

**Galatians 5:22-23** ~ <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

#### My Perspective - Key Words

As is my custom, I like to define or expand upon what I consider are the key words of the month's theme. The topic for this month is: **What was revealed to you in the midst of the storm?** 

**Revealed.** The word *revealed* means to have something uncovered. To have made visible what was invisible; that what was covered or hidden from view has now been shown; that what may have been hidden from one's perspective, is now in sight; to be enlightened.

**Storm.** A storm is a weather condition consisting of darkened cloudy skies, gusts of heavy wind, and depending upon the type of storm, torrential rain, and flash floods. Sometimes storms consists of other atmospheric elements such as lightening, hail, and snow. The common denominator for all natural-forming storm conditions is the wind. As we know, one cannot see the wind unless there is a dust formation, or other elements in the sky, that gives its presence away. It is through such formations, as well as sounds of mighty gusts of wind power, that gives a hint, when observed or detected, of what is on the horizon. What is interesting about storms is that these atmospheric disrupters can show up within minutes without warning, and disappear just as fast. Some storms seem to never go away; or rather, its impact can be so devastating, that it seems as though it will take forever to recover from its debilitating effects.

As a result of a storm's unpredictability, needless to share, precautions or proactive measures; especially in areas that are prone to storm formations, should be taken. Those who are susceptible to frequent storm formations due to regional conditions and climate change, know to act wisely by exercising reasonable caution and care since storms can have an ability to shift and change course; and worse, have the potential to leave a path of irreparable harm and destruction. What comes to mind is that storms are sometimes referred to as *Acts of God* (natural forces); and as such, are unharnessed atmospheric power that should not be taken lightly or for granted.

So, you may have thought, Why all of this content on storms? I made it a point to share a bit about storms because just as there are underlying components to atmospheric conditions that induce natural storm formations, there are underlying components that, in a moment's notice can cause a personal storm. In other words, atmospheric storms and spiritual storms have similarities (Romans 8:38-39).

#### To Prove God

Some storms in life *may be allowed* so that God can prove Himself to Believers and non-Believers alike; that He Is God Almighty. Some storms may have been induced because of God's divine plan and purpose for one's life. For example, some storms may be meant to cause one to move; while the same storm may encourage another to come, stay, and make systemic change. Some storms may cause one to traveled a road or path unknown so that He may be glorified. Other storms in life may occur due to self-imposed conditions where extreme circumstances have formulated unchallenged turbulence. Regardless as to the storm, God is in control.

#### Jonah and Job

A couple of the most notable individuals of The Holy Bible are Jonah and Job. Jonah, for his incredible level of disobedience, and Job for his extraordinary level of faith.

Jonah was given instructions by God to speak to the people of Nineveh. God instructed Jonah to give them a warning of impending destruction if they did not turn from their wicked ways. Instead, Jonah decided that he would rather run from the Will of God than be faithful and obedient (Jonah 1:1-5). As a result, Jonah's initial response almost cost him his life and the lives of others.

However, in spite of this, those who had believed in false gods, learned to believe in the God of Jonah, the True and Living God, and not only that, but reverenced and worshipped Him.

On the other hand, Job was considered a devoted man of God; a man who shunned evil and embraced good. God found Job so faithful that He brought Job to Satan's attention to prove his level of faithfulness (Job 1:1-12). Job endured pain beyond measure, yet, he continue to trust in God, and for his faithfulness, his latter years were greater than his former years, and those who had not truly known God, repented and worshipped Him (Job 42:1-16).

In both situations Jonah's actions still glorified God (but that is not how we would want to do it, right?), as well as Job's situation where his friends, family, and familiars repented and worshiped God.

Storms are an expected aspect in a Child of God's life because we are strangers in a foreign land; that this world is not our final destination. In other words, our very presence will cause pressure and an atmospheric change in this sin sick world. Be sure; however, that as Believers, we do not have a gloom and doom existence—we have the joy of the Lord as our strength and the power of The Holy Spirit as our Guide; and that we can have experienced joy in season and out of season (John 16:24; 2 Timothy 4).

When storms do rise, and storm winds blow, it is how we respond that matters. We must stay the course and continue to trust in God for there is no other way. Furthermore, if God has a plan for our lives, no storm can stop us, if we abide in faith, God will see us through (Acts Chapters 23 & 27). Now, if you were weary in reading so much about storms, think about how burdensome it most likely is for someone to actually experience a storm. *Now ask yourself: Are you currently in the midst of a storm? What have you learned? What are you learning?* 

Psalm 107:28-31 ~ <sup>28</sup> Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. <sup>29</sup> He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. <sup>30</sup> Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup> Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

#### **One's Personal Storm**

One's survival and ability to thrive after a personal storm is contingent upon the veracity of storm one encounters and how one reacts to it. As painful as storms of life can be, with God's blessed assurances, storms of life can lead to a teachable experience that can be turned into a ministry of helps. When considering the above description of a storm in a symbolic sense, one may be able to learn, albeit, at times, under very painfully situations, one's spiritual strength that might not have been realized until afterwards.

How often has someone realized or declared their surprise or shock about how strong they were, or have been, during and after a tremendous challenge? Storms tend to prove not only physical strengths, but the strength of the human psyche as well. Importantly, storms usually serve to prove the love of God for us. To experience a teachable moment while in the midst of the storm may mean to have become enlightened during an emotionally and potentially physically challenging event; a revelation that may not be fully understood or appreciated by those involved, if at all, until the passage of time; for years to come.

#### **Storms That Inspire**

Whether one learns from being in the midst of the storm is contingent upon one's strength to root and ground oneself in wisdom and knowledge. In particular, how one is rooted and grounded in God's Holy Word is a determining factor for how one will or can weather a storm. Reliance upon The Holy Bible is essential because it is life's application for a child of God's life. So, just as a meteorologist studies his or her craft to determine, among a multitude of other phenomena, the

numerous ways a storm is formulated so as to identify when certain conditions begin and could potentially end before it occurs, so does The Word of God give us signs as to what to look out for that may reveal factors and conditions that will prevent or hinder spiritually catastrophic events in our lives (Matthew, Chapter 5).

For those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior: The Word of God not only serves as a source of instruction, it serves as a source of inspiration. The Word of God serves as a source for how to overcome adversarial attacks. It is a source that encourages the faithful in knowing that the joy of the Lord is one of the ways that strength can be attained. Another way is in knowing that there is strength in fellowship.

The Word of God directs our path on the road to righteousness and sanctification, as well as enables us to self-assess our relationship with God and our Redeemer—Jesus The Christ. The Word of God serves as a spiritual compass that provides clarity so as to manage our lives based upon biblical teachings, especially when turbulence arises; rather, in season and out of season—at all times. Without The Word, life would be like living in a world that has no true meaning or purpose. Everyone would be left up to his or her on devices, which is like living without a compass, or being in a vessel that does not know which way it will or can be directed. Truly, without God, we cannot achieve salvation.

#### **After The Storm**

Whether from one's own experiences, or from the experiences of others, being able to process or comprehend what is happening in real time can be quite a challenge, especially if one is unprepared or had been taken off guard when a storm hits. As shared above, what can be revealed in the midst of a storm may not be fully appreciated or understood until one has been able to become stabilized enough to assess what transpired.

Comprehending what has been revealed *after the storm* is more attainable because reflection is usually easier. It is the unpredictability of twists and turns of an ever-evolving situation—that's what makes a teachable moment in a storm that much harder to discern. There is a saying, *Hind sight is 20/20*. This statement is so true; yet, even after considerable analysis, certain storms and why they occur are still hard to comprehend—so can be the troubles of this world if we do not believe in our Risen King Jesus. Furthermore, determining what happened and how matters could have been done differently can be just as difficult—or worse—heartbreaking. That is why it is so important to not focus but so much on what happened in the past (although, again, it is important to discern to a degree what transpired to avoid future storms, or to avoid worse case scenarios). Rely that much more upon the peace of God when facing future storms. If you place your trust in Him, if you praise Him, and if you pray to Him; if you leave your burdens before the Lord, our Savoir, God will see you through.

Some storms are so harsh that your mind cannot grasp its impact, or that you are not meant to comprehend the underlying lesson that could potentially be there—so just trust in God for new strength—do not give in to despair, grief, or depression. Do not give place to the adversary. Recognize that you are an overcomer and that the joy of the Lord and His strength will see you through. Take God at His Word—He loves you. **Seek peace after the storm.** 

What is certain is this: If one bases their life upon The Word of God and has faith (Matthew 17:20), God will provide spiritual support through it all. How is this support evident? This support is evident when one not only has survived a torrentious experience, but is able to heal. So whether realized or not, while weathering a personal storm, it is important to not go it alone; seek support, or allow yourself to connect with someone you trust just to have someone kept apprised of what is going on for emergency reasons. If it is within God's Will for your life, if applicable to you, you

can to turn your worrier spirit into a Warrior spirit for Christ Jesus. To be able to share what happened during one of your personal storms signifies that it did not have consuming power over you; and that God kept you through it all for a high calling. That is because God is able to see His chosen through the storm; or rather, God has keeping power over His chosen. Actually, while in the storm, God keeps Believers and non-Believers alike (the wheat and the tares grow together (Matthew 13:29)). So, when we allow, storms can make one stronger and wiser; a storm can become a teachable moment as long as it does not engulf one's mind and heart to the degree that one is consumed by its after affects, or becomes stagnated with inaction, grief, and disbelief.

Isaiah 41:10-13 ~ <sup>10</sup> So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. <sup>11</sup> All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. <sup>12</sup> Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. <sup>13</sup> For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

#### Jesus and Jonah

There are events in The Holy Bible that even non-Believers know of due to its popularity. The events entailing our Lord Jesus walking on water when Peter requested to join Him is one. Yet, I will refer to two other teachable moments while in the midst of a storm.

As it is written, Jesus and His disciples traveled by sea in pursuit of other regions to spread The Good News. During one of their voyages, the winds and the seas became so ferocious to the point that His disciples thought they were going to die. While His disciples were panicking, Jesus was sleeping in the lower part of the ship, so the disciples, consumed with fear, woke Jesus up. As it is written, Jesus arose, chastised them for their lack of faith, and then rebuked the winds and the seas with the famous words, *Peace*, *be still*. (Matthew 8:23-27). Mind you, Jesus' disciples, who walked and talked with Him, were so afraid although The Son of God was on board!

Now, there is Jonah. Jonah was given instruction to warn Nineveh, a sin-sick and Godless region, to turn from their wicked and sinful ways or else they would face the wrath of The Living God. Instead, Jonah judged Nineveh, declaring in his heart that Nineveh was not worthy of saving. So, because he believed that they deserved the wrath of God upon them, he decided to flee. *Jonah had the misguided notion that he could actually run from God!* So, Jonah goes as far as boarding a ship carrying a group of strangers. When the storm began to rage, each man, being fearful of sinking with the ship, had thrown their cargo overboard. As this was going on, it is written that these men began to pray to their respective god. *This is the kicker—Jonah was not fearful!* While the storm raged on, Jonah decided to go to sleep in the base of the ship! Now, this is not Jesus—but Jonah who slept peacefully while the winds and the seas raged on!

The frantic men on board decided to wake Jonah up. They casted lots to see why or who was responsible for their ill-fated voyage, and the lot fell towards Jonah. When this happened, they had some level of discernment because they were able to detect that the storm was brought about due to Jonah's presence. So, Jonah agreed that they should throw him overboard—and pretty much, he accepted this fate. *Isn't that interesting!* Jonah did not mind being tossed into the raging sea, and was more fearful of Nineveh and the assignment God gave him to complete than the raging sea. (Jonah Chapters 1-4).

As I shared above, Jesus, while in the midst of the storm, taught His disciples to speak to the storms in their lives with faith and confidence. With Jonah, his teachable moment was that he could never run from God; that if God has a plan and purpose that He wants fulfilled, it will come to pass—one way or another. Two very different events that had storms, yet same outcomes—what our Lord and our God determines will come to pass—will come to pass regardless as to what storm comes

one's way. Furthermore, those who witness the finger of God during the storm will also have a life changing experience and deliverance as well.

#### What Was Revealed

What was revealed to me in the midst of my storm is that God loves me so much that He allows His Holy Spirit to rest, rule, and abide within and around me—guiding me—comforting me—delivering me. What was revealed is that God is an intimate loving Father who loves His children. What was revealed is that He is not a God afar off; that because He sent His beloved Son to redeem me—us all—The Holy Spirit can, has, and will continue to strengthen me. That is what was revealed to me—that through it all, my Lord Jesus is Real, and that God has proven Himself over and over through the midst of my storms. His love for me—for His chosen is ongoing; it is eternal.

What I realized while in the midst of my storm, is that certain troubles do not last always, and for those storms that seem to be ongoing, I have learned to respond to, and handle better. What I also learned in the midst of my storm is that while certain types of storms may seem to last, some of my enemies do not—some of them have fallen into their own traps. I have also learned that close relations and some Believers in my life do not remain, either. That is what was also revealed to me in the midst of my storm—that God will allow certain individuals to remain—whether faithful or foe, while others will continue onward or fall according to God's plan and purpose. Like a seed that seeps into the ground and loses its shell, so at times we must go through similar transformations for growth—there is a breaking away.

#### **Consider Your Purpose and Not The Storm**

Can you identify with this? Have you come to acknowledge that while in the midst of your storm, it was God who kept you and saw you through? That your strength to endure what you had considered to be unbearable was because God, through His Holy Spirit and mercies blessed you for newness and growth through His love?

Reading God's Word, praising Him through the positive as well as the difficult times, memorizing scriptures that promote joy and peace of mind works—that is what was revealed to me—that what has been written in The Holy Bible is Truth. *I do hope you realized this, too.* 

As a Believer, knowing that it is written in God's Holy Word that we are in this world, but not of it, I have taken the perspective that storms are meant to come; that storms are a part of life as a Believer and non-Believers. I believe storms are especially meant for the perfecting of one's faith walk in Christ Jesus and have at least two (2) potential positions:

- 1. In the middle of a storm where turbulence and strife is all around, but I am not experiencing its direct impact because in the eye of the storm, there is peace; and
- 2. Because the Lord is the Keeper of my soul, and that my Lord and my God are The Masters of my faith under the power of The Holy Spirit, I have confidence and encouragement because I have an expected end—that one glorious day, I will see my Lord and my heavenly Father face-to-face. So, whatever comes my way, I have to remain diligent in Him.

Will there be moments of fear? Yes. I know I am but flesh, but operating in fear is not the norm, nor will I accept the spirit of fear. With every storm, I am increasingly strengthened in spiritual growth. What was revealed to me is that regardless of the impact of my storms, I must continuously trust in God. Again, I hope you will trust in God for yourself, too.

#### Scriptures To Help You Through Your Storm

Jeremiah 29:11 ~ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

- Isaiah 40:31 ~ But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
- Romans 15:4 ~ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- Romans 8:24 ~ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

\* \* \*

I would like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to those who are experiencing grief and hardship during this COVID-19 pandemic. As I pray for my family, friends, and those I encounter, I pray for you, too.

May God's grace and mercies keep you; and that the joy of the Lord and the love of God which surpasses all understanding strengthen and encourage you always.

May God continue to bless and uplift all those who seek His Face, and may the Spirit of the Living God bless the works of those across the nations who serve to make this world a better place.

Eunice A. Christian

Content Writer; Missionary

#### Stay Encouraged

We cannot truly fathom how great our Lord and God is, but what we can identify with is our Lord and our God's mercies towards us. Knowing that there are recorded accounts of how Jesus the Christ walked this earth—and how He lived and died for us—should cause us to want to serve Him with an abundance of gratitude and humility. We know that we could never repay Him for what He has done, and continues to do for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, but the way we can honor Him is to trust, love, and obey Him.

Therefore, be willing to spread the gospel so that the Holy Word may be received by all who will believe—and for those who truly believe, may we rejoice together, and be continually encouraged in knowing that we have a glorious expected end in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:14-16 <sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

\* \* \*

There is no greater gift than the power of God's redemption.

So, if you have not done so already, give your heart to Jesus while you still have time.

Have a transformed mind, look to Jesus.

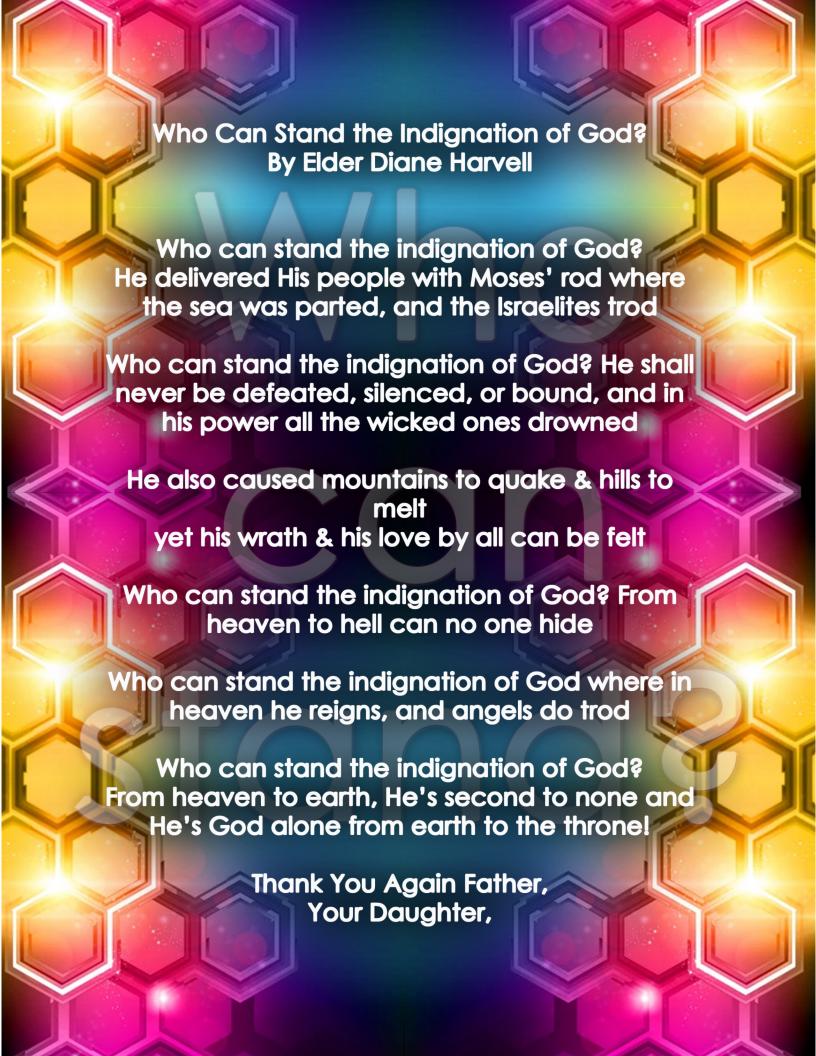
Be blessed and be a blessing.

<sup>\*</sup>Unless otherwise indicated, all biblical references are from the New Kings James Version (NKJV) - Public Domain.



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#### **Navigating Through Life**

Dr. C. Albert Dangerfield II

In most sports, you play to score points on offense. The real successful teams study the game and understand the art of and the moves of a conscious defense and learn how to counter and score on either side. My wife refers to that as paying attention to the details and reading situations correctly. Most good teams study their opponents so they understand their thought patterns, gestures and overall movement. They don't just come into play a game they truly come to win. Proving the scriptures when it says "In all thy getting get an understanding " ," Study to show thyself approved a workman that need not be ashamed but rightly divide the Word of Truth." For most this understanding comes late in life after many bumps, bruises, breaks, and cuts.

We tend to obtain an epiphany of knowledge as we stumble through life like a drunk person on a binge staggering around with near misses of destruction to ourselves until we sober up to reality and ask ourselves was it all worth it. As our head clears, we come to the reality of all the idiotic things we have done along the way of the path that we have chosen, because we were strong-minded to our own well and way. Looking backward we now see the carnage of our ill-fated ignorance. For some, it might be short-lived but for others, it may last decades and for the real stubborn there may be no recovery. Because we have chosen to be blinded by our society because of the need for fame and fortune as a reward.

The absence of grace, mercy, and humility which keeps us within the right perspective to the principles of God. But we choose to be overzealous and destructive. Our tongue is the most dangerous and unruly weapon when placed in the hands of a novice who went through wounding and killing people along the way. Consciously and unconsciously, we cut them down to size to speak what's within our mind. Some so badly that the wounds or so deep that we even destroyed the pathway of redemption that would have provided a way of return through grace.

We've traveled this pathway to various stages of our lives 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s even further if God be merciful unto us. When we reach that point when reality slaps us in the face and we snap out of it. We recognize that we are standing alone in our own selfishness and greed realizing that we have nothing to show for our journey. Everything we thought we had obtained has amounted to nothing but a pile of mental regret and bitter-tasting memories of our transgressions. Wow, oh my God now we want to acknowledge Him who we've rejected who has been trying to slow us down trying to get us to turn to the light of the right perspective and path. Now we want to use one of the most recognized phrases in human understanding in any language "If I had just" followed by every excuse we can muster up to formation as we begin ourselves a pity party with no one in attendance but ourselves.

Playing old tired worn-out singles that we are singing without our desired partner because we killed them along the way. No happy songs to reminisce that brings us any joy unless we have narcissistic tendencies and we really don't care. But since we have survived to this day of recognizing the question now becomes is there a pathway forward? The response now becomes" but God " the only one who has the power and compassion to assist us in righting the many wrongs.

The new question now becomes" can you humble yourselves put pride aside. Now acknowledging your ways openly, honestly and sincerely in order to gain a new beginning" are you capable of being transparent because clearly, no man is an island unto himself. The journey back to one's intended path that God has seen us on will be filled with repentance, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. This will be a road too narrow for pride to travel on. Simply because it will refuse to take a diet of humility to get down to its correct size yet desire to remain in obesity suffering a heart attack and die unredeemed. Sad and miserable endings for someone who could have been a great blessing.

It's not always about how you begin it's really about how you end up. Each one is accountable for our own narratives. We have to be bold enough to acknowledge our shortcomings and not use the tired cliché "Well that's just me, deal with it" everybody does have the option to opt-out of the foolishness and entitled attitude that you choose to dish out. The longer we have trouble getting off that ridiculous soapbox the more the existence clock runs out. So, keep in mind time is of the essence if you really want your life to have meaning for the good. Let God present your legacy as a Memorial to you.

Others will give you flowers of encouragement while you live. They will recognize and celebrate your attributes and humbleness. Acknowledging the fact that you don't live for man's glory but only for God's reward. This will glorify God who sent us to make and have an impact on others through aligning ourselves with his principles. So that at the end of the day we hear "Enter in thy good and faithful servant" the pathway back to redemption is a journey we're taking because we obtain wisdom that we should pass on to the Next Generation with a bonus and transparency which equals out to genuine love.

Once that understanding is understood life itself takes on a different meaning and a greater perspective. Whenever this doorway opens for you accepted and embrace it for all it is worth. Gravitate to the scriptures that provide the instructions to help you navigate through life teaching others how to avoid pitfalls and potholes. Become a good study of Life be attentive to the signs as they appear because the Word of God says "There's nothing new Under the Sun" Ecclesiasticus 1:9, 2:17 it's all been tried before. So it didn't work then, it won't work now because it is outside of the principles of God, therefore, it will fail at its attempts to gain prominence.

When we study, we gained this understanding and realization? We are not" I am that I am". When we are in alignment and compliance, we represent His principles "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He Shall direct your path" Proverbs 3:6 not partially

but fully. Partially leads us down a pathway to temptation depending on how deep your curiosity is to explore darkness you may never recover because you cannot see your way out. The only way out of danger is to reverse course at your first thought. 1st Chronicles 10:13 recognize and be acquainted with his voice. I have heard it, it's a still soft voice that draws me in. It's not loud or obnoxious it's soothing and caring once you heard it and follow the instructions given it will forever captivate your soul and save your life. You will come to trust it more and more. John 10:27. Will always know you when you pray... Psalms 27:7 this becomes a relationship one with meaning and depth.

As we recognize it the more our understanding helps us to grow and we become the illustration for others to learn and start to understand the principles of God. Acknowledging that we are one in Him every tribe every nation, culture however you want to classify it "We Are One ". Oneness with his Spirit from whence we came when He breathed the Breath of Life into our nostrils and our lungs to inhabit this atmosphere.

Hopefully, by now we should have grasped the understanding that the essence of who we are is found in our spirit, not the body that we possess. We can dress up and display them in all kinds of ways but who we are in essence comes out from within then to impact the atmosphere while we are present at any given moment and that is what is remembered. Not the physical appearance that part is short-lived, your spiritual presence is what is felt and what will remain. That is why God is so awesome and powerful His impact left by his presence. Once you truly experience it you desire more. You will also miss it should you be tricked to move away.

Children always desired the love and approval of their parents. At times they become misguided and unfocused to the understanding that the parent is right there waiting on you to gain the understanding that they are. Giving you the chance to mature to that understanding with respect. Parents try to provide guidance, help, knowledge, and understanding. But children approach life as though it's some new thing that parents are out of touch with. Each generation continues to forge this path with the younger perceiving themselves as the wiser but as life progresses, they wind up in the same boat they placed their parents in.

Wow is that not Karma, some avoided because they have learned to embrace the wisdom of the experience and collect the priceless nuggets of wisdom without regrets. When I refer to nuggets of wisdom, they are experiences that have transpired some come with a ray of sunshine but there are others that come with Skies of Remembrance to remind us of the pathways we did not want to experience again.

Those are usually the ones that are shared out of love towards another in the hope we would rather not see them have to experience hardship and traumatic events that could be detrimental with no way of escape because of the lack of wisdom. This should be an event that is counted as a blessing meant to keep one vital throughout life because I care.

We all need to gain that understanding and apply the now or later principle. Which is to accept the information apply it now if relevant to our situation or pocketed the wisdom retrieve it and apply it later when needed. Because it's all relevant that's why God allowed it to be spoken into your presence. Because He is the ultimate father who knows you're ending way before you and I understand our present and current events. That's why it is all relevant so let's catch a clue every now and again don't always overthink a situation or become thin-skinned and offended.

Seek the value from those who truly care their compassion for you drives their feelings. We also have to come to the knowledge and understanding of the tactics of divide and conquer. Remember that in unity there is strength so to defeat someone or some entity you have to weaken its foundation a strength the "Core of Power." In relationships, it must always have God in the middle as the bonding factor or it will not work or sustained strength. No way! No how!



# Ohio Central East **Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction**

Bishop David L. Herron Sr., Jurisdictional Prelate Mother Mattie Mayes, Jurisdictional Supervisor



Clergy Wives Social

Metworking Monthly ZOOM CALL

Hosted by **OCE Elect Lady** Brenda J. Herron

Special Guest 1st Lady Evangelist Sharon Blevins International Evangelist

# "Challenges of Grief" Saturday, July 10, 2021 10 am



**ZOOM** Meeting ID: 823-3231-0587

Passcode:4tUzV7

OCE Clergy Wives connecting to make a difference in 2021

Ladies & Gentlemen, Introducing Diane Harvell, author of

# "Praising My Pand"

a most revealing and inspirational story of the tribulations and victory of life before Christ and now life eternal.



## What I learned During the Pandemic By Elder Diane Harvell

During the pandemic I've learned that we have been fixated by subliminal affirmations ascribing for status rather than for our soul's purpose. I've learned that we have made the service of God grandiose and neglected the grandeur of God. I've learned that now we are truly living in a time where we should all be praying as the Lord taught us to pray how he taught his disciples when they asked Lord how shall we pray? Jesus quoted what we call today 'The Lord's Prayer.'

If there were a time, we should be praying this prayer, the time is now. Because of the condition of our world today, we should now be praying this prayer fervently; Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever Amen!

This is the time, we are to be acknowledging God who is Lord and King of all. We ought to be praying to forgive and to be forgiven and pray that God's kingdom will come, and that this earthly kingdom will mirror his heavenly kingdom as his kingdom is in heaven. And lastly, we ought to pray for God's deliverance from the evilness of this world.

I've learned that the Lord gives us opportunities and abilities to be the change that we want to see in others. I've learned that we replaced empathy and compassion for entertainment and emotionalism. I've learned that this country is in a state of apostasy against God therefore the descent into the beginning of the end of this world has begun because this country has excepted abominable things against the Lord and because of these facts, distractions are everywhere only to ensnare and entrap many souls into everlasting destruction.

One distraction that is currently taking place is the spirit of murder which

has been released upon this country because of apostasy against almighty God. Revelation 18:8.

I've learned that we are seeking status and an acceptance on the earth but we're not seeking the place that Jesus went and prepared for us in His everlasting kingdom.

So where do we go from here? The simple answer is that we turn (back) to God and we must acknowledge Him as God. Why? Psalm 139:8-10 If I ascend into heaven, You are there, If I make my bed in hell, behold, you are there if I take the wings of the morning and well and other most part of the sea even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall and your right hand shall hold me. Verse 13~for you formed my inward parts you covered me in my mother's womb I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made marvelous are your works and that my soul knows very well.

Nothing can hide us from God no matter who we are or where we go.

So, I've learned that we can no longer use our churches for emotional propaganda and puffery, and we must save our souls and that of our children and our children's children, from wrath unprecedented.

These are the things that I learned during the pandemic.

May God Bless You All!

# EMPOWERMENT TEMPLE AME Zion PO Box 141764 Anchorage, AK 99514



**Empowerment Temple Alaska** 

Sunday School - 9:45
Sunday Morning - Saturation - 10:45
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00

July 4, 2021 - Communion Sunday
Dr. Frances A Reid, Preaching
July 11, 2021 - Rev. Alsey Williams, Founder/Pastor
The Well AK, "Come To The Well"
July 18, 2021 - Minister Arneta Gray, Local Preacher
Empowerment Temple/Alaska
July 25, 2021 - Minister Michelle Williams, Local Preacher
Empowerment Temple

Tuesday - Pray & Bible Study 6:30 PM
Thursday - Lectures For The Living 3:30 PM0

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\$ Cash App \$2211ETAK Dr. Frances Reid
Pastor
Empowerment Temple
Sunday Morning
July 4th

Rev. Alsey T. Williams
The Well AK, Founder & Pastor
"Come to the Well"
Sunday Morning
July II





Minister Michelle Williams
Empowerment Temple
Sunday Morning

July 25

# Our Quiet Times © C. A. Dangerfield II

It is within our quiet times that I treasure the most.

The whispers of wisdom that you speak to my spirit that deposit deep down to my soul.

Even when I may feel unworthy because of something I've done.

You reach out to draw me closer so I won't feel shunned.

You provide instructions so that pathway set for destruction I won't take.

As I listen intentionally I become

As I listen intentionally I become comforted not desiring any more mistakes.

Understanding the pathway toward you is filled with grace.

I have come to recognize the strength of our relationship and the power of your love.

#### Reality Check Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

Well, welcome to the land, or better yet let's call it the neighborhood called a reality check. We all live and travel through fantasy islands every now and then when we think of this self-absorbed script where everything goes our way no matter what or how insane it may seem. The only problem with this delusional script is we forgot to inform the other cast members of how they are supposed to play their roles.

On the delusional set when reality pitches a few curve balls and we swing and miss we lose our ever-loving mind. Throw the bat have a tantrum and go hide in the dugout. News flash well we are not Babe Ruth or Hank Aaron we don't possess the skills to practicality hit a homerun every time. We may be fortunate enough to hit a single or a double.

As the cache goes "The old folks use to say get off your high horse" meaning come down to level ground have some sort of humility. Unfortunately, there is a element of entitlement that rears its ugly head every now and then trying to push back on the principles of God. Which than activates the response of cause and effect placed within our atmosphere to keep things as God intended. It's sort of like that mischievous or bully kid always trying to get something stirred up causing trouble. And when the adult shows up with accountability measures the instigator has run off and hidden themselves as if they were so innocent. But the funny thing about that in today society is the videos don't lie and nor do the share facts. When you still dispute what is clearly shown it speaks to your character and integrity. Unless you fix your issue, it will resurface again on that most important individual accountability day. Where we all stand alone, let that marinate for a minute, you stand alone.

This is the ultimate payday that has been spoken about for generations so it will no longer be hearsay but an actual reality. It is up to us individually to acknowledge our shortcomings and take the necessary steps to empower the appropriate change within ourselves. If we fail it's on us. One of the beautiful things that God provides is Grace and mercy which God applied to our outcomes when we repent and humble ourselves before Him. That's not a hard thing to do since He is omnipresent so that eliminates our excuses and justifies our correct actions.

God has provided man the opportunity to really stop and self reflect on ourselves. With this opportunity, we can do an inward search and reflect on that which we have been given by God as a blessing (The simplest things such as family and loved ones that are near us.), while also identify some untapped talents and abilities we knew not of. Reconnecting with who and what should have meant the most. Coming away with an appreciation of what has been in our midst all along but we failed to recognize. Once we have gained this understanding take a sigh of relief and say "Thank you, God, and forgive me for my ungratefulness!"

# Jon Reflection!

## A New Perspective and Understanding Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

Have you realized yet that we are in a period of exposure where everything has been completely illuminated and exposed for all to see? Whether it is good or bad, just or unjust we are witnessing it. People are proclaiming that it's time to get back to normal. But the exposure of what has been revealed has given us all pulse and a new perspective on our individual worth. We have also witnessed how careless, wasteful, disrespectful, and entitled some truly are and to them, the response has been "No More!" Warnings of this time have been given and issued countless times before. Well, reality has arrived and extreme change is on the table. There will not be a return to old unfair normal and the so-called entitled will, we are coming into a new understanding going forward. The previous way of attaining things is now experiencing a wake-up call.

People value themselves, gifts, and talents more and are greatly aware of their value within society. So, manipulation, disrespect, and prostitution of another person's abilities with a pimp like mentally are vastly becoming a thing of the past. Self-marketing and synergize collaboration of like gifts and talents are quickly replacing the dogmatic ways of the pre-pandemic era. So, the marketplace will become more vibrant and innovative. So, it is now time to tap into your gifts and talents and allow them to make room for you.

Trust God and walk-in Faith (Forging ahead in the hope). Faith without works is dead, so it's more than just talking about it. You have to be about it. Now is your time, so be of good courage. God has already supplied all you need it is hidden within you, go in and bring it out and see that you are fully equipped. If you consult the manual (The Word of God - Bible - Basic instructions before leaving earth you will fulfill your purpose) it will provide the necessary information needed to get your mind in a place to receive and to perform. You don't need the validation or permission of man because God has already taken care of that at your point of creation. Just be mindful to align yourself up with the principles and commandments of God. Then watch as He changes things. Go forth and serve!



#### **Being Aware Within This Period Of Transition**

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

As we still are in a period of transition a lot are eager as they say "to return things to normal." That might not be the best choice of words, simply because it demonstrates that we have not accessed anything therefore we still have not clearly learned from what has transpired. It also shows that we lack the understanding that this era has a strong propensity to recycle these same events but maybe next time on an increased level of devastation to understand that God is still in control and its past time that we fully acknowledge him.

We live in this world yes but we are not always aware as we should be of the everchanging environments both spiritual and natural that are taking place right in front of us on a daily basis. That when things do happen, we become utterly surprised. No need to be surprised it has been forecasted prior to the event. But because we seek to be self-consumed, we invite the events that happen and complain about the outcomes by finger-pointing and create false narratives to shift blame from ourselves or those close to us. Failing to acknowledge and even being accountable for our contribution.

Honestly if we've really taken the time to slow down and self-assess our contribution to the decline of things that are actually taking place around us? Or has pride consumed us in such a way we demonstrate entitled attributes and a reprobate mindset? These are things we must consider and be accountable for them while we have an opportunity to fix them. For when the ultimate day of accountability presence itself there will not be the same opportunity "No do-overs."

We have to ask ourselves is that which we are doing because it appears to be popular? Have we neglected to gain the understanding that broad is the highway that leads to destruction? How important is it to really be in the in-crowd here, when it goes against the principles of God? Have you asked yourself these tough questions and better still have you answered them? In the long run, we are accountable for ourselves for our decisions. We cannot afford to get caught up and drawn into these clever traps that our weaknesses tend to fall into no matter how strong we may be in other areas.

There is a way of escape and that is through the guidance provided by the Holy Spirit which was a promise given to us by Jesus Christ. A relationship with God ensures a relationship with the Holy Spirit providing that assurance because we know his voice. All of our former errors and excuses will be brought to light. So, the necessary fixes can be applied to our lives. I'm a witness to everything that I'm sharing because journeying down a road of darkness unable to see potholes and

other dangers is truly not fun or wise. Having the ability to have your pathway illuminated comes through this relationship with God and allows you to reach beyond your potential to your intended purpose. Think on these attributes for a while light vs darkness in the midst of storms. Which do you feel provides a greater outcome?

The very nature of God demonstrates the attributes of love and forgiveness. Seemingly the hardest place for a man to operate, he may accomplish one but the other becomes a challenge due to our own expectations. The paths to get to a destination with others may not offer realistic conditions because they are based on narratives put out by others that have not been fully verified. So, a temporary successful void has been created. I use the term temporary because the principles of God will bring truth to light. Then the situation will declare "But God" who makes the crooked way straight, the blind to see and the lame to walk will present the healing and ultimate deliverance to the circumstances so restoration can take place which is subjected to His will and His way.

We must stop being short-sighted in seeing and understanding that Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace we are powerless against anything that God declares. When someone has the ability to actually know the number of hairs upon our head and grains of sands that lay beneath our feet. We should without hesitation re-evaluate our individual thought processes because we are truly unmatched with respect to the awesomeness of God. For He is the I AM that I AM. When we lose sight of that understanding we are on our own path of destruction.

God always provides an opportunity and doorway for change and if we really literally stop and evaluate various episodes which have taken place in our lives. We will recognize His hand of grace and mercy intervening on our behalf. We're now at a crossroads for mankind and he has been in this situation before history contains the evidence and outcomes. The question will we ignore the records and plot what we think is a different course or will we consult God for the correct understanding of HIs will. For if we acknowledge Him as the Word of God instructs us, He will direct our path. Understanding that He knows the end before we knew our beginning. When we have the right relationship with God, we obtain the understanding. Every day that I'm blessed to awaken is an opportunity for a new beginning not a return to what is seen as normal.



#### **Acknowledgement**

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II

Sometimes we can get the feeling that no one is listening to anything we are saying and treats us as though our wishes and desires are irrelevant. No matter how much knowledge that we have on any given subject. You are viewed as out of touch only later for the other individuals to come to the understanding that their thought process was in error but they never own up to it. Why do we feel in this life that in order to feel better about ourselves we have to try and belittle others?

These are things one might not want to own up to or acknowledge in the least. Mankind has a selfish streak that always shows its head at the most inappropriate times and can create devastation sometimes leaving unrepairable circumstances and everyone involved losses. Our society has become a place with and I don't care, it's all about me mindset. Creating more trauma and drama unable to see or even not willing to see or consider others outside of ourselves. Then we hurt the ones closest to us. After everything is dismantled then we have a change of heart. Most likely we have devastated the path that was once present and pleasant.

Everything we do has an accountability measure at some point. If we can acknowledge and correct now to maintain tranquility or act as though it's of no importance now but the accountability payment will still require payment for actions rendered. Pay now or you will pay later. Now you may find some mercy and later because of your will, you will not. Mercy provides a behavioral adjustment and opportunity for corrections lending to mended bridges. Again, can we get out of our way? Remember, Jesus taught and also demonstrated these principles of God. The word of God always provides the proper instructions for any given situation when we apply the correct application to the situation at hand.

Our ways are not worth repeating let that statement resonate "Our ways" are not His way we must acknowledge Him and He shall direct our path. When you reread those words the adjustments and actions that are required of us and not the other way around, where it appears as though we may be posturing ourselves as little gods with unauthorized power. We are drifting towards the exit of the reprobate mindset which becomes a highway for somewhere they cannot recognize the exit call repentance in order to get off. So, one continues down the highway to their destruction due to disobedience. Consider your ways and make the necessary adjustments to put pride aside.

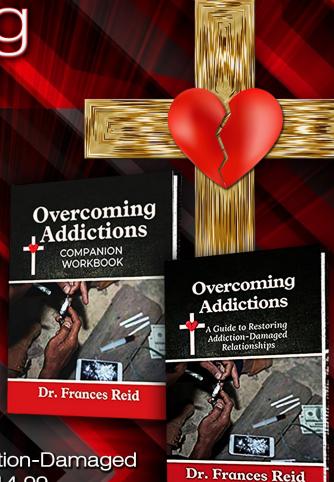
Overcoming Addictions

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Overcoming Addictions is a powerful new resource to shine light on how addiction destroys relationships, as well as tools to support those who are on the road to recovery. Each day God continues to tap the resources of heaven's loom to weave divine healing to the tattered souls of His people. The resources that are identified in this book have been used with spiritual guidance to bring about renewal and transformation to countless individuals. The purpose of Overcoming Addictions is to combine the study of Scripture with other methods of ministry including the Twelve Step program, to guide addicts through an experience of restoring broken relations via transformation. Through meditation and journaling, participants will be exposed to biblical truths that will transform them, aligning them with the character and ways of God. Through this encounter, they will overcome the poverty, addiction, and destruction associated with their addictive behavior and emotional dependencies. When coupled with the

Overcoming Addictions Companion Workbook, this powerful tool becomes a blueprint for substance abuse recovery programs

### There Is a Better Way Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

Sometimes in life, some things need to be stated to help lift us up from going into a place of despair. Overloaded with all the issues of life seeking desperately for one bright light of hope. Well, it's always been here but unrecognized because many have failed to uncover the place where it resides. Upon our creation, God masterfully and purposefully place gifts and talents within each one of us. It is due to a lack of awareness foster by a minimal relationship that lacks strong communications that would create greater outcomes and more abundant life.

Our true abilities are within us but due to the nature of the environment in which we reside, we are inundated with so much that our focus is pulled from one extreme to another. Where it becomes an overwhelming battle of wills, distractions, and sometimes just frankly exhaustion. Now we have the onset of frustration, resentment, and just total chaos. We have to plug into the true source that has all of the unfounded answers to properly build whatever this life is truly supposed to be. Rather than still being the reciprocates of passed down consequences from 3 and 4 generations back. Reestablish the same course of action for 3 or 4 generations in the future rather than getting to the root of the issue and correcting them properly. So, that true blessing can come forth.

Why must future generations continue in the same insanity? Why sacrifice any more generations due to our lack of willingness to be obedient to the principles of God? These are the hard questions and our obedience is the only way to initiate different and having more promising outcomes getting us to the promises of God. A Bishop I once served under taught that rather than move forward into disobedience mark time a military term means march in place not moving ahead or back. But remain in the same spot until obedience finds its way into your nature so you can be found operating within the will of God. Then you can proceed forward. Because you are now in the right frame of mind and you have eliminated regrets on your path forward.

Recognizing also that the mark time was an opportunity for us to commune with God recognize the right voice and make the right decision. In the mark time, it doesn't require you so much to voice your opinion. However, it allows you to focus on the still soft voice that is speaking to your spirit. Affording you the opportunity to do the right thing by setting aside all pride, malice, disdain, anger, and strife. These attributes delay or completely help you in becoming the purposeful person you were created to be.

We have to become more aware that the fallen are very strategic in trying to get you in the same predicament of no return opportunity because we have fallen outside of grace. Just like a strategic game of chess or even checkers getting successfully to the other side comes with rewards. We have to recognize the challenges and be prepared to overcome them. That requires our ability to read the board so to speak observing possible obstacles and unforeseen traps to most.

Your gifts can sometimes be seen by others before they are seen by you. We are purposefully and marvelously made for the father's use. Knowing who and whose we are in the Kingdom of God gives us so many advantages in this Spiritual battle. Helping in bringing others to the forefront when they too have the understanding of just what we are standing for. Having obtained that immeasurable favor of God makes us a different kind of warrior that won't stand down.

We understand things deeper than most and we learn to become overcomers by applying the weapons of our warfare which are not carnal in an application whose battles are fought in the spiritual realm which fixes those generational issues that may be in the natural have a sudden turnaround. Proving scriptures over and over again. Ultimately providing us the greatest understanding of bridges of trouble that leave mortal and impacts men. men without waters relationships. Lacking the understanding of "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me." and "No weapons formed against me shall prosper it won't work" We are working through His majesty, Kingdom Authority, once crucified now Glorified, King of All Kings. Purposefully stand on it to enlighten the world of His great power. Learn to do more in Christ because there is room for the worker, not the spectator unless you're working and observing.

Remember you are unique and marvelously made. Don't allow others to devalue your worth. You are priceless because there is only one you!



#### ASKING QUESTIONS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE PROVIDES UNDERSTANDING

In all thy getting, get an understanding. The dumbest question in life is the one in which you do not have an answer. Answers come through talking and listening, so have a conversation and obtain some knowledge.

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#### SOME THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS

They say a picture paints a thousand words and sends a message. When people view us or approach us we give off a certain aura about ourselves and they perceive something about our nature or personality. If we are receiving the wrong responses and being disrespected then should we reevaluate our presentation? If we say we are Christians and you look into a crowd should we blend in or stand out. When someone approaches you do you compile them or repel them?

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# We Need A Taking Responsibility Applying the Necessary Steps Focused On Overcoming Resistance Moving in TransformU Authority thetransformu.com Towards ntended Outcome ewness