

Here I share with you the kind, strong words from my close friend Phil Garner as I struggled with Karen's death and a belief, and a reassurance Karen made it to heaven. Karen was baptized on 5 June 2023 by my close friends Will and Danile Aldridge, just before surgery on her brain tumor for cancer.

For months I prayed to God that He would send me a messenger, a dream, even an angel that would assure me Karen was in heaven. I came to believe that Phil was that messenger.

Here are Phil's words –

Peter

Believe and have faith that she is – that's the test. It will be revealed to you in time. In the meantime, He gave you a task – to guide other souls through the website you're building and the knowledge that you have.

God and the future

God can't predict our exact future - because of free will; however, He knows every single path and every outcome of said paths.

Some outcomes are better than others.

This is where Jesus comes into play.

God has already revealed to Christ the path that He wants you to take i.e. a person's purpose.

Because you walk with Christ

Because you talk with Christ every single day of your life and you seek God – you seek Him until you can't seek Him anymore, by way of Christ.

You will be taken along the RIGHT path and the things that you experience will be the miracles that we pray for.

These miracles will be experienced because you have trusted God to allow Christ to take you on this journey.

Then the Holy Spirit enters our body and provides protection through this journey with Christ along this path that we have chosen with Faith and Belief that this is God's will.

Belief and Faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior is absolutely necessary, even when things aren't going the way we want them. Just know that the earth is not our final destination. Our spirit leaves these bodies and goes to heaven, where Karen is waiting for you.

Continue to seek salvation and to repent for your sins – thoughts, words and acts that happen throughout the day, repent and then repent some more.

Pray out to Jesus Christ to save your soul and to continue to protect you and your loved ones.

Believe that God sent you down the RIGHT path and that your faith in that path is unwavering. Believe and keep faith and put the work in to know Christ.

It is worth it – because you too will be in heaven one day with your beautiful soul mate, Karen.

Karen gained her salvation by becoming baptized and through that, she repented for all of her sins – she was saved. She is with our Father in heaven. She is. I believe she is.

Don't let the enemy, the demon, in your ear allow you to think otherwise and doubt that God would go back on His word and not greet her into the kingdom of our God. She earned her salvation.

The Bible was full of messed up people who our Lord still blessed. He already knows we are sinners. That's why Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Our job is to repent and become disciples to the word of God.

Time to work on ourselves, you and I, Peter. It's time to gain and maintain our salvation.

You have a purpose and your passion for your wife Karen – move forward and He will let you accomplish this mission along this path that Christ is leading you down – Karen's heavenly spirit is part of this path too.

You will find her on it and as you walk with Christ, you will be walking with Karen too.

I think the foundation is an outstanding way to spend your time after your mornings of picking up every single piece of manure in the stalls.

So, as we both know, our earthly flesh/bodies have an expiration date on them. God our Father knows us best – he knew that you wouldn't want this hurt, pain emotional agony, and heartbroken stress to fall upon your beloved wife, Karen.

The story behind these words.

In 2009 I joined 1st IO Command and shortly thereafter Phil Garner joined the command. We were both soldiers in the Army reserves and developed a solid friendship.

Phil was an outstanding instructor, but his entrepreneurial efforts led him to start Garner's Garden. I used his all-natural products he developed in GG and we remained close friends despite our different paths. The years passed, we had an occasional call or email or card, but the friendship remained.

In 2023 my wife Karen passed on 11 August and Phil, true to our friendship honored Karen by attending the wake and supported me in my grief over the next several months. As 2024 opened we exchanged emails working on setting a date and time for a bite to eat and "tell stories and lies" but January passed quickly. Phil in MD and me in VA made a rendezvous difficult with the beltway traffic and its uncertainty at any given hour. Phil kept his weekends dedicated to his wife and child and for me the weekends were full of ranch work and house tasks. We finally found a common day to visit, and we met at Silver Diner in Springfield for lunch on February 5th.

That day Phil confided in me he recently became a Christian and had sought repentance and brought God into his life. His disclosure to me as I too had become a Christian in 2023 after Karen passed, was important point in our friendship. I was honored Phil would share his conversion with me. His is a powerful story, one that is his to tell. During the lunch we exchanged family updates, job endeavors and how life was for both of us and some of the things I had learned about honoring a wife, after reading the Word and realizing all husbands can be better husbands. I confided in Phil I had been praying for months to Jesus to answer a simple request, "Please Jesus send me an angel, a dream, a messenger, that reassures me Karen is in heaven." For months that request went unanswered, until



February 5th. After we departed the diner, Phil took the time to write several text messages to me in support of my grief and my prayer! As I said above, I came to believe that God's messenger was Phil.

If you think of the series of events that had to occur beginning in 2009/2020 and continue a friendship given different paths and lots of highway between us, for us to arrive together on February 5th, is incredible and truly a path set by God. Had I not become a Christina in 2023 and Phil in 2024, that spiritual connection would have never happened. Also, we could have continued to postpone the lunch, but that lunch was the time God set aside for Phil to reveal to me his conversion and to be God's messenger to me.

I still carry the text message on my phone to lift my spirits and shore up my faith, when I miss my hunny, Karen, and wonder why God came for her in 2023. I came to believe there is a heaven, but one's entrance into the Kingdom is not the destiny for everyone.

Eventually several days after God's messenger delivered the answer I prayed for, I had a picture develop in my mind, not a vision per say, but more like a daydream, and I saw Karen walking towards Jesus with His arms welcoming her to heaven.