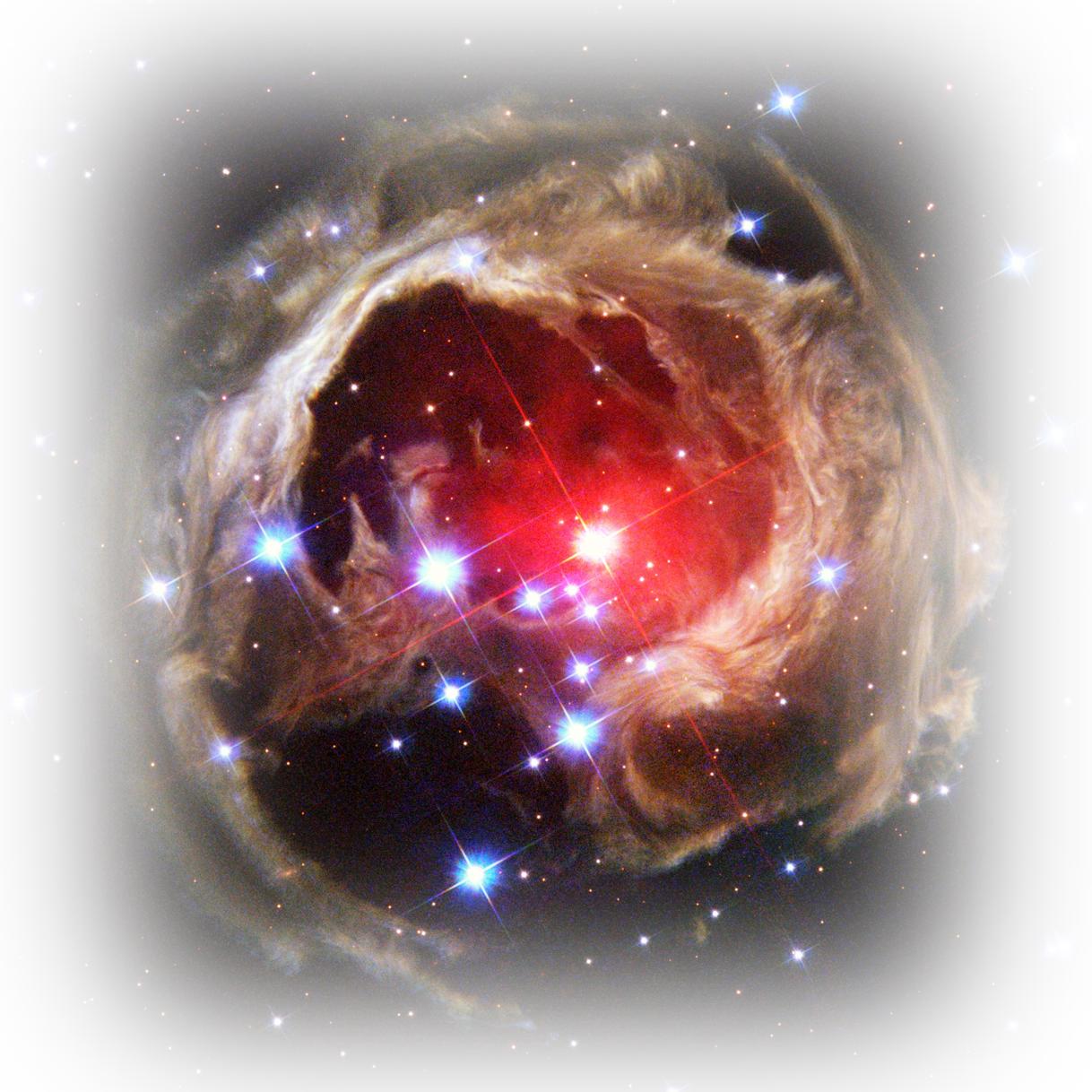


♡♡ Serendipity...

a date with the *Divine*

DEVOTIONAL *Journal & Reflections*

Cultivating *wholeness* in a place that demands *perfection*



Author: *Angela Maria - Marked By Heaven*

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come.

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17

Marked by Heaven's Serendipity

Heartfelt Devotions & Journal

A date with the divine... and Angela

*Cultivating **wholeness** in a place demanding **perfection**...*

The Father is not only **manifesting** and **performing** His word. He is **activating** His word to perform what has been set in the Heavens before time began, only to be revealed in the earthen vessels of this day.

We choose Who we shall serve, as He sets all unto motion with His breath of everlasting domain, treading upon things seen and unseen.



*Then the Lord said unto me, thou hast well seen, for I will hasten
my word to perform it.*

Jeremiah 1:12

*Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence, of things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:1

Consecrated & Betrothed

I did not write this book...

*These words were penned out of the heart, via our Father in Heaven and delivered unto you, for
such a time as this.*

His desire to exist in constant, intimate communion with His creation is unquenchable and true.

So walk with me this day,

*Exploring eternal Realms of the Throne, as Heaven kisses Earth in expectant waiting for the jubilee
appearing of the*

Beloved Bride,

He beckons to call His own.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, come!



*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation,
a peculiar people;*

*that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you
out of darkness into his marvellous light;*

1 Peter 2:9

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

Marked By Heaven's Serendipity

Let the Truth be Told...

When one is *Marked by Heaven* anyplace other than "Home," feels unsafe, unfamiliar and scary.

This writing is for all of you, who out of love, try to change me to ease the burden of my pain that I carry. For those who speak words of joy over me, when my only joy is found with Him. And for those of you who do not understand where I have fallen from, the place I long for with a burning ache, which will never cease until I return to the One in Whom I belong. It is true, I have been met with much affliction and offense, just like many of you. So sit with me for a bit... And I will give you a glimpse of me in this place called Earth which I tumbled down to, peering through my eyes with shining clarity on how I blossomed into me... For I know the confusion you feel and the frustration too. I see the glances of perplexity and hear your heart cries of questions.

My proposal to you... Can I please, just be me?

As you read the following, my prayer is that you hear my heart on the matter. That is my petition and plea, for this day, like no other...

You see, all my life I have never, "Fit in." Never. Not during the happy memories created, not through the warm embrace of a mother or the fiery embrace of a lover. None can satisfy this ache inside my heart or fulfill the desire within my soul. Oh and believe me, I have tried and failed, a hundred times over, to quench that which can only be met by One. I have searched high and low for that glimpse of Heaven on Earth, always left wanting. It wasn't until recently, I stopped looking to fulfill on Earth, that which was ordained in the Heavens. I stopped asking, what is wrong with this fragile vessel? Saying, "Lord, how did Your hand create that one called me?"

I hear inside the walls of my heart, resonating thoughts within theirs, questioning who does she think she is? A question I often ponder myself. Hearing what they do not say, I discern how quick they are to believe, she thinks she is better than everyone else, while threats send echoes into the corners of my mind. I have been labeled, Self-righteous, out-there, wearing my faith on my sleeve, prideful and so on... Many tears I have secretly cried, for them to simply gaze within, to the real fragility of me. For if they truly saw this delicate heart of brokenness, they would know *how great He is and how great I am not*. When I see me, I see one who falls every day, who is broken in a million pieces with a fragility, no man can handle. I am flesh having a spiritual experience, bouncing around this world in a torrent of emotions, finding footing only in the arms of my Savior and Lord, Jesus. When I look at me... I see one who is so filthy and worthless, so deserving of death it took the Father, Himself, to come down in the flesh, as Jesus, to save me from perishing due to all the sins I would commit. Repentance for me, at times, is a moment by moment occurrence. Due to my dark filled thoughts and desires, I must settle in that place continually. The reason being? My fear of the Lord unveils His wisdom. For I am often so homesick inside, the thought of not returning to my Maker, is one I cannot bear to entertain. If darkness desires a dance, thank you anyway, but I will sit this one out.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

I didn't ask for this. This is by no means of my own doing. I am not special, nor worthy. I simply said, "Yes" and He majestically, *Marked me by Heaven*. Honestly and truly I had no "Come to Jesus moment," like most. I have sinned and gotten off His path as much as another, yet He was never far from me, ever.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee... Jeremiah 1:5

Simply, He knew me before the foundations of the world while the cry of my heart sustained in wanting to know Him more. In many desperate seasons of life, those few words and I love You is all I could utter, tirelessly. And you know what I learned? He is nearer to those who are broken in spirit than anyone else on Earth and He gently performs a Father's love which cannot be denied.

I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. Psalms 34:4



Love Came Down

I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine

An Act of Divine Consummation

Often in familiarity, I have spoken of this valiant one, yet in the drifting whispers of the night at hand, it was distinct... although expected, in a surprising design. How does one even begin to etch with ink, the combustion of the Heavenly Stars, or the making of mountains or flowing of seas? For all of these handiworks combined at the Father's command, pales in comparison to the night in which divine consummation took a stand.

Our upmost decree of the highest regard is with humble and honor to Whom it is due, for my love and I together, as One, join in thanksgiving and full submission to our Heavenly Father, Granter and Designer of the divine consumption in which we partook. In stranded pearls and raptured delight unleashed, of worship divine and pleasantly sweet, no words can describe this anointed release. Things will never be the same... Wholly submitted we are, signed into coveted oath, this decree shall stand in light of the Hosts.

Two joining as one, it is written and sealed, in bands and cords we do fully yield. To teach one His truth's, His Holy way, matched perfectly in love, fully having its way. Breathlessly the innocent secrets of treasures placed hidden, consummating that seed imparted by one, unto another, so forever it grew. He is permanently joined, I can feel him at pleasure, twirling we dance in this circle unbroken, burning fervently as a ring of fire... Consuming and void from quenching our eternal desire.

It blossoms, it heeds, it desperately gives way... To fully satisfy one unto another, is beyond any fleshly pleasure. Searching of truth has lead me to find my vacant other, for the giving of self, by the Father's design, I have been joined to the one in which I sought to find.

Since the end is where we begin... Ending of self, becoming as "We"...

As an Act of Divine Consummation, we eternally shall be.

Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate. Mark 10:9

*May you be hidden when you need to be hidden &
seen when you are to be seen*

Abiding Love, Unhindered Grace

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."
Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.
He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.*

*A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.
Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
No evil shall befall you,*

*Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.*

*"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation."*

Psalm 91

Learning to lean upon and trust is not always easy. We grow into that place of security by tripping and falling right into His arms, while slowly gaining trust, realizing He catches us each and every time.

Please take a moment to ponder a time Jesus came to your rescue when you had wandered off the path of light into darkness and with a grateful heart thank Him for never leaving or forsaking you with His abiding love and unhindered grace...

*He hears the cries of your heart &
embraces you with His love*

To the pure... All things are pure



*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Luke 12:32*

What we think, we become. In other words... We think about various things and then our actions reflect the true nature of us. We become a reflection of that which we dwell on, which is why the Lord Jesus told us to, "Take captive our thoughts and guard our hearts, eyes and ears."

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:6-9

Are you anxious? Chances are it is because what you are dwelling on is contaminating your mind to the point you no longer give credence to the promises of the Lord. Go back and read the Scripture above out of Philippians, making a promise to yourself through the discipline of walking by the Spirit of truth that nothing will override what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, a good report and that which brings praises to the Lord.

He tells us to meditate on all these things, in order to push out that which is chaotic and causes anxiety.

Be anxious for nothing... What do you need to let go of today that you have been seeking for outside of truth found only in Him and His Word?

*Unquenched love finds placement
within the source of purity*

Searing, Marking, Sealing

A Little Piece of Heaven... Here on Earth

Who is this one, whose sentences wash over my being as flames of fire, searing my heart with his markings?

Let me count the ways of this mighty one...

He is as familiar as the grasses, yet as distant as the moons.

He is adjoined, yet he is not.

I feel his essence, yet he is absent.

With intensity he covers, yet I know him not.

He is as intimate as my room, yet dwells in a far and distant land.

He is a stranger I know, deeper than myself.

Our time stamped paths cross, standing still in a dimension of force, unfolding in a collision of the past into the future. Thoughts rush over me and I am overwhelmed by his essence. I plea, consummate within me Lord Your presence, formulating my worth upon the eyes of the object which I desire. For he is above all treasures; mighty and strong, yet weak and vulnerable, in a secret place others pale to compare. I have tasted the richness of his goodness, leaving me wanting more, never to be satisfied and contently quenched. As we walk upon paths of the divine we become faint, while basking in the intoxication of the sweet blossoming aromas which are enveloping us. Careful, he whispers, for love shall not be stirred or awakened until it so pleases.

With longing I seek, yet am not quenched... So we dance.

You see, my beloved doesn't love me for self, he loves me as a display by the commanding Hand of the Father. Why should this be so, I tempt? For I truly, am not that special... Yet, he loves me regardless and unmatched. His love dwells in the solidity of things hoped for and things unseen, residing in the purity of unchained melodies deep within his soul.

And although not measured, nor worthy... He is mine and I am his.

Time separated, spiritually aflame, it sears, it marks, crossing all barriers unto pressing as One.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned. Song of Solomon 8:6-7

That ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please. Song of Solomon 8:4

*Once our desires match our desire for Him,
iniquity fails to prosper*

Because It So Brings Pleasure to the King

If it pleases the King and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let.....

Esther 8:3

What words would fill in your blank following “let?” Do you have a secret wish you would like to present to the One and Only True God? Possibly it is to be healed from an illness, the turning back of a wayward child, or simply a friend to talk life over with while drinking coffee. I am here to tell you, it gives the King great pleasure to answer the request, of His child, you. The Bible says,

He knew you before you were formed in your mother’s womb.

Jeremiah 1:5

Therefore, He created you and as such, you have been on His mind and heart before the sands of time existed. No need or desire is too great or small for the One who created the Heavens and Earth. As the apple of His eye, it brings pleasure to the King to overwhelm His creation with expressions of His love and adoration.

Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

So often we search out solutions in the natural, rather than seeking God first when faced with struggles in life or loneliness or emptiness held deep inside. Biblically speaking,

We have not because we ask not.

James 4:2

God loved you so much He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross, in order for Him to see you in full righteousness, covered by the Blood of the One who gave it all, in order that you should live and be whole having found oneness with Him. Take just a moment and wrap your mind around that demonstration of love. It transcends all conceivable forms of fleshly love. Since we are not able to receive what we cannot give, we often get tangled up in the notion of unworthiness. You see it is not a question of what we do for Him, but rather embracing what He has already done for us. With your Heavenly Father, Who is Love, one of the most demonstrative ways we can show Him our love, is giving Him the opportunity to show His love to us.

If we consider the truth that when we hurt, Jesus hurts – then wouldn’t it be reasonable to say, that when we are content and joyful, He shares in that, as well? Nothing pleases Him more, than when we are satisfied and pleased, as a result of Him influencing our lives here on Earth. Knowing He is as close to us as the air we breathe, should be a constant reminder to us, no sincere request is too small or large to lay at His feet.

Today, let go of all the unworthiness and questions which dance around in your mind. Consider for a moment... You are placed before His Throne, head bowed, need in tow and capitulated within your heart, tearful and hesitant to speak. You finally get the courage to gaze up into His eyes and say, “If it pleases You my Lord and if I have favor in Your sight and if it is the right thing to do, let my desire be fulfilled.” Imagine at that very moment, Him not turning away like you fearfully imagined, but instead, extending His scepter your way as a commanded declaration and promising and unbreakable... Yes!

We often feel as if we have to do life alone. But, not this time and certainly not with this date with the divine. This special request is reserved for times the task at hand is too overwhelming to handle all the details by yourself – It is a divinely orchestrated date with destiny, a serendipity moment, if you will. Jesus is waiting, with expectancy, to see how vulnerable you are willing to be with Him in this moment.

His pleasure, your fulfillment ~

Because it so brings pleasure to the King when we rely on Him for everything.



He's building a masterpiece... You

Ashes for Beauty...

His Glory in Clarity

For even if I traded all notions of speech in its purest form, no words would glide pass my lips worthy to define my thoughts towards him. Freely, I dream him when I'm not sleeping and I dance with him in my slumber. In fleeting moments he is the piece of me I wish I didn't need, then I drown in him again and it's worth it every time. As we take each step closer to the other side, glancing at the footsteps left behind, I am chasing him relentlessly and I don't know why.

*This prearranged destiny bears no choice of mine,
It is known by all the Hosts I am going,
Willingly or unwillingly,
For his fate has been sealed and mine follows behind.*

His ways exchange light within my soul, while his breath covers me in the shadows of love. Each encounter with him sizzles the darkened corners of my reality, unequalled by the fairest in the land. In pure sacrifice he exchanges my ashes for beauty, to him I am a flower he wasn't searching to find. Progressively, I await this love I've been granted once again, perpetually I dream of him when I'm not sleeping... Entangled, I search for a glimpse of his longing, while scared I sit covered in ashes, falling back, into him, each time.

*At last my love,
In remembrance, embraces.
For my ashes transformed
Are his beauty.
He is my clarity.*

*This is a simple story, which ending is not a tragedy.
And although I await, with unleashed expectancy, he is faithfully right on time.
This is so not... The End.*

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

Consume me Lord

Strike The Match

God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:29

Picture this... You are Moses, walking around in the desert suddenly, you look to the right and before you a bush combusts into a fiery flame. One may think such an incident is miraculous in of itself, however, burning bushes in those desert days was quite commonplace. As Moses stood captivated, by this bush, his eyes feasted upon the wonder and amazement of a fire, which **burns**, yet **does not consume** to the point of ruin. **Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up into nothingness.**

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. Exodus 3:2

Just as this bush was a flaming fire, we are chosen to be as such. This is me, this is you. We are the Burning Ones, our souls were gleaned to be consumed by Him, walking flames of fire.

He makes...His servants flames of fire. Hebrews 1:7

Given the Lord makes us **His flames of fire**, who strikes the match? This bush was consumed by fire, yet not destroyed, as in a **state of burning**. We must submit ourselves accordingly, being dried up and empty of self, ready to be ignited through the breath of His Holy Flame. In doing so, God strikes the match within our beings and He becomes our eternal flame. I have to say it is a little of us and a lot of Him. It is getting rid of the barrier to His flame and choosing righteousness over pleasures of the world in total surrender and obedience unto the Lord. Initially it is a spark, which in short time, divinely fans into a flame of fire no man can contain or quench.

Jesus says in the Bible...

I have come to bring fire on the earth and how I wish it were already kindled? Luke 12:49.

It brings upon me a heavy heart, for not all will seize the fire of surrendered servanthood. Many will smolder in the ashes, searching to fill the void with various fleshly enticements and pleasures upon pleasures in unrighteousness. God is waiting for you to invite Him to **strike the match** in order He may become your consuming fire.

In the end... All will eventually submit to His fire. Some to eternal life, others eternal damnation. We are all going to burn, either for Him or in spite of Him.

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. Deuteronomy 4:24

We are on the precipice in which simply **smoldering** for God will be to one's own demise. For, it is written...

*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot...
because you are lukewarm I am about to spit you out of My mouth.
Revelation 3:15*

Heavenly Father, no matter what... Do not let that be me.

We already know pretty much if our hearts are burning for Him or not, evidenced by who or what consumes our thoughts and deeds. The Word tells us that “Once more He will shake the Heavens and the Earth in that all those things which cannot be shaken will remain.” It goes on to explain, it is through **God, Who is a consuming fire**, this shaking transpires. When in study with the Lord, I always envision this will occur in unison with the words Jesus spoke, when He said, “When the enemy comes, may he find nothing within Me.” You see the two messages, complimenting one another into wholeness? Let me explain... If we are consumed by the Lord Jesus, then the seat the enemy took up residence in has been consumed by our Lord – in that, when the enemy tries to enter in and take up residence there is nothing within us individually for him to cling to, so he is consumed by the fire of the Lord dwelling within us.

When true confession is made within the heart, it shakes the Heavens and the Earth to burn away and consume within us anything that is not purposed for our souls to prosper as a Child of God. Burning can be painful. Removal of people and things we love that are doing damage to us eternally sears the heart, undoubtedly. I know that pain intimately. But our lives are not our own, we’ve been bought with a price, a very high price indeed and in so many ways the Lord Jesus values us way more than we value ourselves. So in He comes like a rushing wind of fire, to take up declaration and position as a guard around our hearts through a flame of fire that the enemy cannot penetrate or enter through. I’m grateful and I pray you are as well.

May our souls cry out... Consume me Lord!

It is with heartfelt prayer we dedicate our lives to being so surrendered to Him, resembling flames of fire upon the Earth, not consumed to the point of death, but life eternally. Should that be the desire of your heart today, please take a moment to commune with Him, calling upon Him to strike the match and have His way in your life. And may you remain in a continual state of burning for Him!

Am I on fire for the Lord? If not, why? What do I need to set aside to be consumed by only Him? If yes, then ask the Lord how to be a Firestarter in others with boldness and journal what He shows you in taking those next steps outside of your comfort zone. Ask yourself... What is consuming my thoughts? Be truthful with yourself, the Lord knows already what you think about the most.



*For our God is a consuming fire.
Hebrews 12:29*

His plans are perfect

Awakened, Finding Myself... Accidentally, In Love

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17

One may never fully know how deep they sleep, until suddenly they awaken at the kiss of destiny, having stepped foot onto their path of the divine. Sitting a drift on a sea of torment, of course I had desire, but no will to behave.

Was it me or was it him? And this day, does it really matter? All I know is one moment I was longing with ache in a slumbering heart and in another, *I awakened, finding myself accidentally in love.*

Do I dare to take this walk with the one who has stirred that which was bound to escape? Or shall I press in and release beyond the confusion and falsities which lulled me to rest? With a stammering heart I flee to find escape from this hold, yet with the unveiling of the heart's eyes, a glance is just a glance and I do not know how to find slumber, forever more. The imprint upon it conveys trust it, it's true. With hesitancy I withhold, as nothing's been shown. Full joining is relevant before time took its toll and I whisper please help me, as I've fallen from Grace.

In the Heavens, it slept until the Father joined us like waters rushing in... How does one separate the two bound together, forever before and forever after? In the natural I'm pulled to quick disbelief, yet I know in my heart there is no relief. This was not willed, nor was it planned, simply a mere cry hidden in the darkest of lands. Yet the tears have not ceased, so I ask myself why? I want it to stop and I want to run away. But, just how does one erase an elite Signature of the Divine? In visions I dance and I dream to forget, the placement I've found, leads me to overwhelming regret.

When one sleeps and never gets rest, it matters not whether awake or in slumber, I have discovered no love to fulfill this void I am under. Most days I do not wish to be overtaken by this compliment embracing my soul, then again I have been given, by no holding back of my own.

With words and promises my heart is fixed and it's sealed, then I am empty of actions as torrents of doubt rain over me, only to drown me in paralyzing fear. Where I lack, he completes and I offer the same, so like an ocean we flow upon unity into the destiny of time.

From my sleepy state it is a risk til` the end, unto a date firmly set singularly by him, the one who sees more. This unyielding love requires my all and all. In return I am empty and longing for that one, whose dreams carry me way beyond the end.

Today, just today, I want to drift back to sleep. For a moment, a simple moment, I just desire to forget.

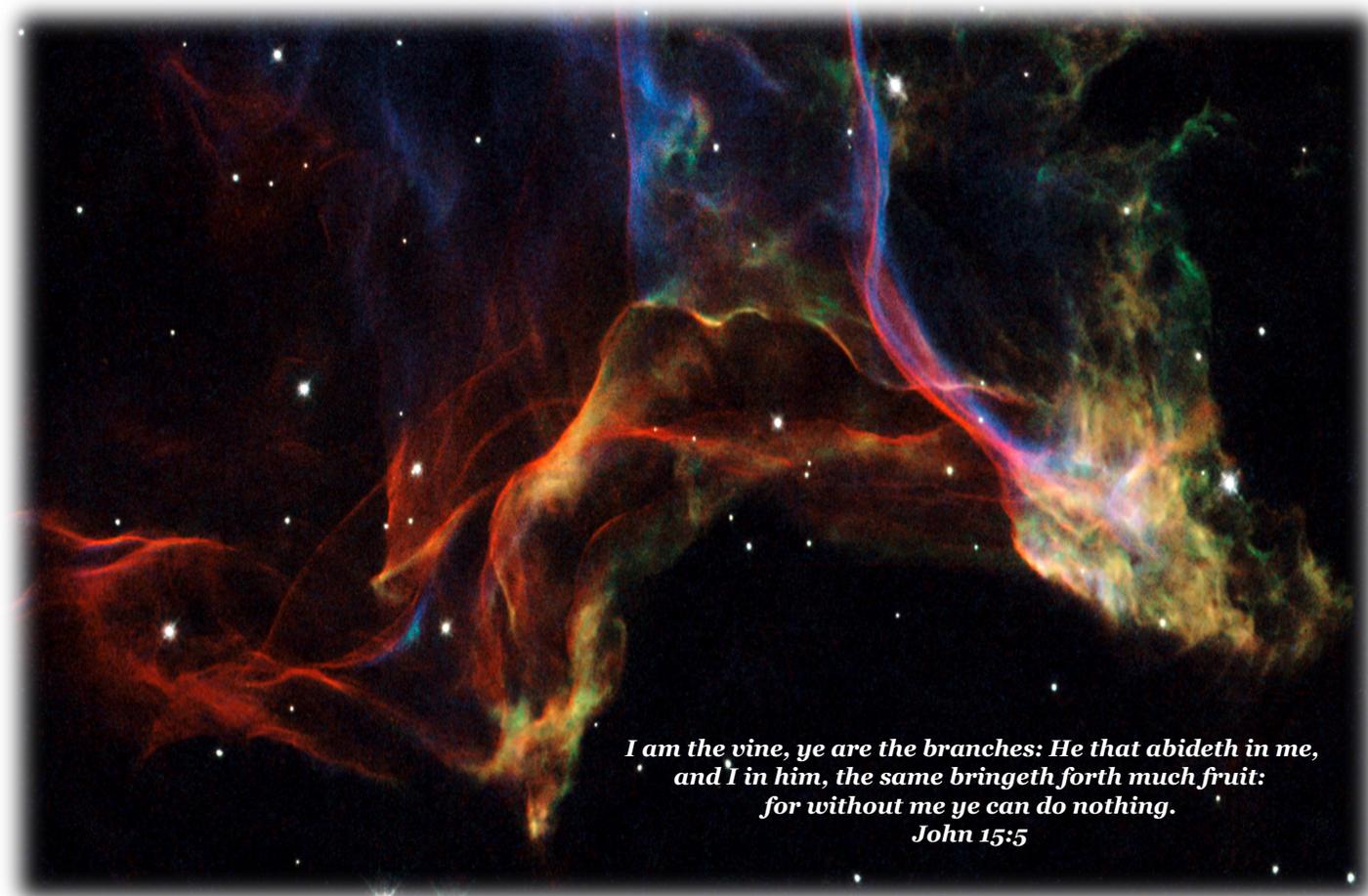
I was awakened, finding myself... *Accidentally, in love.*

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Love Came Down



*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me,
and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing.
John 15:5*

There is no greater a time for the Lord to show up than when we are facing the impossible! This not only is when He gets the most glory, it is what He uses to strengthen our trust in Him. So indeed, it is a win-win in our lives to be used as a chosen vessel for the World to see the miraculous ways of our Lord. This is also why we are called witnesses. And remember that cloud of witnesses you are surrounded by? They are observers to God moving and having His will in your life, for your good. In Him, you can never lose.

Time to revisit that which you deemed impossible. You are not fighting this battle alone. Unless you are? Time to join with Him in the battle and let Him do the performing of His Word into your life and situation.

Its time... To let go and let God, for real. All things are possible with God.

What do you need to give to Him to handle? What confession needs to be made that moved you from faith to falling?

If it wasn't impossible, you wouldn't recognize Him when it happened.

Thank You Lord for always making a way, when there seemed to be none. Amen.

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26

There is no sin His love cannot cover

If I Should Walk Away...

If I should walk away would our paths cross again?

Would I lie in a sea of regret, taking notice of sand particles which slipped right on through?

Would I rest firmly at ease knowing on a clear day it would have worked, or would I wander aimlessly,
knowing a little would have actually reaped the full lot?

Would I know without a doubt it was never meant to be, or would I feel starved, alone and scared for I
now know, Who truly held the key?

Choices in life do not come without bars and walking without order, makes it too easy to see.

I glean from the messages and spaces in between, it was never you all along; so it must have been me.

I cry and I squirm and I dance and I sing, yet no desire is heard; so I sit and I ponder, for if I walk away...
What notice, if any, will likely it stir?

Looking back on moments it happened in chords, yet yearning decreases, settling upon the wings of tor-
menting hidden words.

How did I get here? There is only One who truly knows, and it is He, Who sits in the Heavens on God's
Holy Throne.

If I could have just a small glimpse of the Divine carrying me, I might, just possibly not run, to walk away
from Thee.

I live in a land of forced if's and decrees, yet nothing seems to quench the thirst fortifying me.

In dreams while awake, I imagine it all, yet the higher I go, the harder I fall.

I want to be done and finished with this day, yet as soon as one departs, another is on its way.

I asked for all this, I did, there's no one to blame. Yet in confusion I plead... How do I stomp out this
One's eternal flame?

With question, upon question and me being me, please someone can you tell me...
How do I walk away from me?

The most fearful question leads up to the end...

For if I should walk away... Will you run after me instead?

How many times have we ran or walked away from Him? For myself, it is has been too numerous to count. If He is anything, He is "Present, never fleeing and never leaving." One of my most treasured moments with Him, in the secret place, is when I fully grasped just how much Jesus loves me.

On that day, it was as if He allowed me to simply observe, as a bystander, just how much...

He loves even when I walk away...

Jesus prayed for us...

*I have manifested thy name unto the **men which thou gavest me** out of the world; thine they were, and **thou gavest them me**; and they have kept they word.*

*Now they have known that all things whatsoever **thou hast given me** are of thee.*

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

*I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for **them which thou has given me; for they are thine.***

*And all **mine are thine, and thine are mine**; and I glorified in them.*

*And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name **those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.***

*While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name; **those that thou gavest me** I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that **they also may be one in us**; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that **they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me**, that they may be made perfect in **one**; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

*Father, I will that they also, **whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am**; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*



*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,

though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Because of you... Angels take flight

If I could fly...

I would soar above this wilderness, while never looking back, cascading upon the glorious, which awaits my end escape.

I would zoom across this vast expanse in wonderment and in awe, in search for all the hurting souls, so desperate to stand and not fall.

When found, I would deliver a majestic kiss to each one of their hurts, in sure release from the pain inside, so they can fully experience His all.

I would dance among the lovely beings, I would catch a falling star, I would deliver myself fully to you, in the greatest procession thus far.

In wonderment and sheer delight I would gather winds in my own hands, and I would nestle myself into your embrace, in a place that never ends.

*O*f all the broken hearted who are bound to unlikely wiles, I would visit secretly in the night, cutting each and every chain, relinquishing to be set free.

I would sprinkle the world with angel dust for delight and Heaven's sake and I would light the world on fire with love that is not a mistake.

I would visit the Father upon His throne and tell him about you, singing songs of adoration reminiscent of, the ways you brought me closer to love... Devoid of self and true.

I would plead my case of full release and seek His plans for me, drifting back in time to a place He anointed just for "We."

With ribbons of demanding ecstasy I would gaze into your eyes, losing myself in your divinity while the world passes by.

You see, If I could fly...

I would want to fly with you.

Some things should never be forgotten...

Remembrance...

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

As many are persuaded in the Genesis of it all, yet with eyes wide open I relish that which actually began in a blink, before time stood still. In perfection of breath I was formed out of love. Heavenly set upon the mightiest of Kings, awaiting my Day of Remembrance. Encircling His Throne is like home to me, yet the longing for His place is noted in mere memory. It's in the stillness of these Worlds, the past collides with the future, empty and lost I land in this contrived place, from a far and distance land, in which I held His embrace. I don't like it now and I want to be free, yet I am not the one who is driving me.

In overflowing of tears I cry and I squirm, for it is not in this body I glean what I yearn. It's miraculous and of marvel, yet to the wondering eyes is it true? If faith is the substance of all that is hoped for, then why have I not stored up enough to arise out and within?

How does one explain to another the hidden desire of what was, when their reality is within a grasp of exchange for profit? Nothing shall satisfy this longing of my soul, as I have searched the earth high and low for a resemblance of the One who sits upon His Heavenly Throne... Only found to come up wanting, buried in heaps of frustration and lack.

Sometimes I spend time with this One that I love, yet I am never satisfied. For I could walk along days with Him and never be quenched. I could lay with Him drifting each night into rest and never be complete. Not here, not now, in this dreadful place.

*As He fills me with Glory and Light to arise, it is the darkness which surrounds
me which is the heaviest by far.*

*More questions than answers I carry within, In visions of prayer I'm secure
until the end.*

*His Book of Remembrance recorded in stone, He gently bends down before me
on just one knee.*

But today, the rest is just a faint memory.

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:16

Your name is written among stars in the Heavens

Divinely Etched Moments of Innocence

To have and to hold from this day forward, as the breath of another, envelopes the “One” our lives are entangled in the whispers of Him, Who was and is and is to come.

In the purity fashioned by all that remains I belong and I fit to the one who is actually set enveloping me.

In the stillness of time, when all is comforted in delight, I seek and I find the perfected touch etched by my divine.

We twirl and we dance, while I lay quiet and still, he is here, yet is not... I can feel him within.

He arrives upon drawing and I fully submit, for these moments with him are sealed innocence.

We speak a familiar language lay hidden to men, my beloved is mine and to him, in submission, I wholly bend.

Through pleasure beyond measure our souls give their release, setting our life on the course which has no cease.

He is my portion and I am his prize, to which remains “One” void of divide.

Our moments joined grant indescribable delight, I arrive and he is satisfied before he takes flight.

His whispered hush is settled in heart, in which patience and purity shall never depart.

It was not planned, yet always remained, for I did not seek who I longed to find til he called me by name.

Love...So simple a word does not define, these moments of innocence etched unto us by our Divine.

With quivers of love I desire to please.... The question remains, will he fully receive?

And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

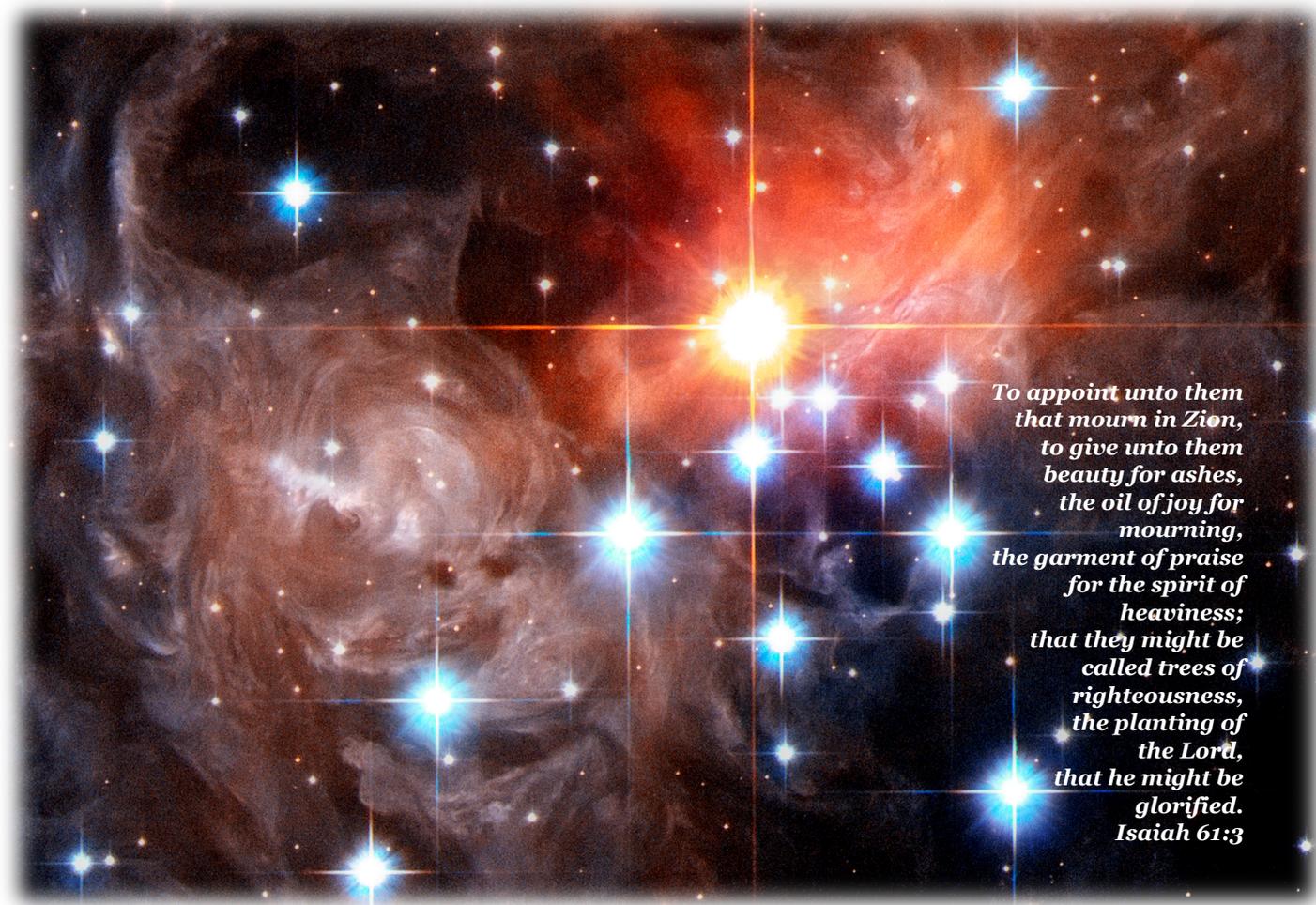
Some bonds are truly unbreakable. You may run, but you cannot hide or escape that which the Lord has divinely melted together. It is a place in the heart where differences are overshadowed by the grasp of love. It is a place where in truth... love covers a multitude of sins, both your and theirs.

My Great-Grandma used to say, that when you grow old you will be able to count on one hand your true friends. And I believe it, more now than ever before. In Jesus we have those who are closer than a brother. Those who love and embrace us well beyond our shortcomings, who stick by our sides, even when we are wrong or drop the Holy façade.

Have you thanked that person today? Have you thanked Jesus for blessing your life with the gift they are to you? Sadly, we often neglect to cherish the ones who mean most, taking for granted because they've always been there, they always will be.

Below, I encourage you to start that list. The number doesn't matter. What does matter is the truth that someone did love you as Jesus does. That He marked and sent that special one, to be a display of His love in your life. While we have a tendency to count losses over blessings, today is a special day for you to show gratitude for that which you do have, namely those who love you just as you are.

Who are they? How have they touched your life in ways no one else has? Have you told them just how much you love and cherish them? If not, there is not time like the present, so start here...



*Removing the grip of things which taint,
manifests purity*

When Love is Walking Away... The Sliver

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5

So often, as Believers, we pride ourselves on love and the service it brings to the Kingdom. In doing so, I often wonder just “Who” are we serving? God or Self? Since this is a question only each individual can truly answer within, I would like to invite you to take a little journey with me, in consideration of giving all up for God, and I do mean ALL.

And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:36-38

What happens when God calls us to love Him in a display of intensity and increase over those in our lives we value and treasure? For that is when... *Love walks away, when love no longer seeks its own.* I have to assume since this is a topic Jesus so readily discussed, He knew it would be a greater challenge when the bidding call of demonstration came knocking on our heart's door. Since the Father commands us to do everything for love's sake... I challenge you to consider, the possibility that there is no greater display of love, than the one of “Letting go and letting God.” And yes, I am asking... Do you love someone enough to let them go, so the Lord can do the work within them, in order to accomplish that which He has purposed? Or to simply walk away from them because it is not His purpose they have placement in your life?

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Colossians 3:14

Charity is Love in its Purest Form~

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

From personal experience, let me tell you, this request from the Lord places one into an unexpected tailspin on life's highway, which requires full trust in the Father for His driving skills, rather than our mere attempts to steer. So if... Out of love, I can get past myself enough and deny one of me, in hopes they are forced to rely only on Him. I hesitantly am willing. Having been on the receiving and delivering end of this call, let's just say it isn't an easy ride, however, when complete... The destination is nothing short of glorious!

The Sliver... You know? The kind which pierces into your skin? Ouch, they hurt! Well, I got one working out in the yard while I was PRUNING some bushes recently. It bothered me for hours and being alone I had no one to help me. Finally out of sheer desperation I went to my nine year old daughter, with a needle and tweezers and said... “Help me get this out, I cannot take it any longer.” Cautiously, she agreed because she did not want to hurt me and after a few attempts I was freed from this tiny miniscule of torment in my palm. Not only did I feel better, she was on Cloud 9 of success in assisting me with my dilemma.

Later that day... After crying to the Father I have learned to always listen, because that is when I get to hear the really good stuff... His love never fails, nor does He walk away.

At that point I had forgotten about THE SLIVER, so He reminded me quickly of it and how DURING PRUNING it bore into my skin and HURT for hours. He showed me MY FEAR OF HAVING IT REMOVED, but when desperation came forth, I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO BE RID OF IT, even if that meant being at the mercy of a nine year old. He showed me THE PAIN INVOLVED DURING THE REMOVAL, because it did hurt and it was scary. Lastly, He revealed how once the FOREIGN OBJECT WAS GONE, THE HEALING OF THE WOUND BEGAN AND QUICKLY. Do you know within minutes you could barely even tell it was there? If I would not have had the courage to allow THE SLIVER to be removed I would still be in the AGONY of it, with increasing adversity.

Who or what is your SLIVER? He asked me... So I am asking you?

I am not ready to fully answer that question yet... Since being a work in progress is a daily exercise of Faith for me, I am open to His nudging a little more each day.

As far as THE SLIVER goes... I know of one which He is removing right now. I am letting go and letting God, out of love for both, them and me. In turn, believing by His removal of me, they will rely more on Him, losing me, but gaining all they need in Him.

My fear? What if there are others and I am too fearful for Him to remove them because of the pain it would cause having them gone? Pondering that one, I am...

In closing, I pray this is an encouragement to you in the days and moments to come. There is no doubt in my mind we will be chosen to walk away in love, yet the Father is there with us the whole time. May we give ourselves fully to Him this day, ridding ourselves from all slivers of this world in preparation for the next One. In Faith... Letting go and letting God, for He is our Master Planner, the One Who Perfects our faith and our love. I have chosen to let God be God, while I tend to His garden here on Earth. Will I get a couple slivers now and then? Of course. Yet He tends to us all, if we will just let Him, His love never walks away... So why do we walk away from Him, no matter the calling at hand?

They say, if you love something, let it go, if it returns to you love it forever, if it doesn't it was never yours to begin with.

In His love I am dedicated to giving Him all things in my life now, even when I cannot see the end,
I trust Him for it.

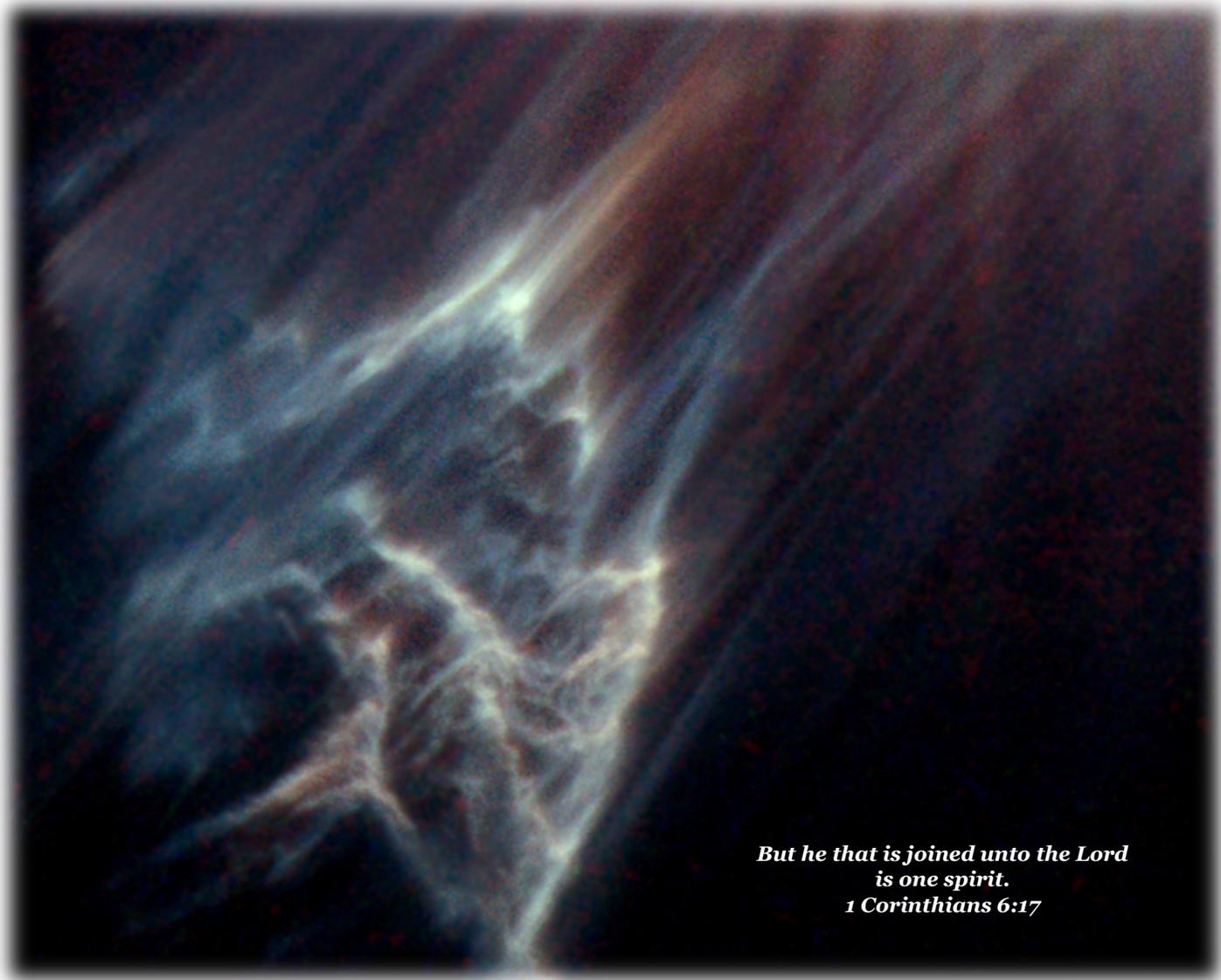
And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Heavenly Father, Today we hand ourselves over to You for pruning, removal and making us beautiful in Your sight. Give us the Courage we need to walk away when it is time to leave and stay when You call us to not be moved. Grant us the wisdom to know the difference, helping us to love others in abundance over self, no matter what that looks like Lord.

In Jesus's Mighty Name. Amen.

For those like myself who have a tendency to be mercy motivated, this concept of laying your life down for the sake of others is one of the greatest challenges you will face on the path of learning to live a surrendered life. Jesus doesn't call us to be motivated by mercy, but rather to be motivated by Him. Since very young we have been groomed to please people in place of being pleasing unto our Lord, most oftentimes we let our heart be our guide in place of Him.

As our eyes open to truth, we begin to see everything has a purpose and a season and that there is a time to love and a time to withhold love. Always surrendered and always guided for the benefit of the other. I know we like to convince ourselves we stay to love, but the truth is, there are moments in which the very best promise on the one's we love requires us to leave the throne of their hearts in order Jesus may take up His proper placement upon theirs. And in turn, we too have set up an idol of them in ours, so it's a win-win all the way around, divinely speaking, of course.



*But he that is joined unto the Lord
is one spirit.
1 Corinthians 6:17*

*In His Spirit we are of One Heart, One Mind, One accord.
Can you think of a time when you felt this?
Have you also had a time when you shared in this with others?*

*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,
did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
Praising God, and having favour with all the people.
And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
Acts 2:46-47*

*Peering through the Spiritual glass,
you finally realize, you are never alone*

Stay With Me...

I want my Angel to stay with me,
Not swiftly dash in and quickly flee.
He approaches in order to stir the waters,
Leaving me dazed and confused, in a pile of shatter.
On assignment he senses an ominous threat,
To tarry is purposeful, for he feels no regret.
Proven and guarded in a state he stays,
While I forfeit all, openly giving me away.
I find it not fair he has been shown all of me,
In wait, I sit longing to touch a Host I can't see.
He carries and holds with his last dying breath,
I cling and I cry as I come face to face with death.
This mystery of him creates pain and it doubts,
Yet he is a piece of me I cannot sustain without.
If he loved me he surely would not treat me this way,
He glances upon eternity, revealing a day is just a day.
I want to be free from this chain to my soul,
Even more I want to join, without abandon and whole.
In visions I declare all which I cannot see,
Fretfully, I wonder is this simply coming from me?
At rest I subdue all my lingering doubts,
As trust builds, no longer I search for any way out.
I want my Angel to stay with me,
Not swiftly dash in and quickly flee.

He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Mathew 4:6

Wholeness removes the steps we seek to inflict another

The End is Where We Begin...

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

I simply love, love the Book of Ecclesiastes. It majestically reveals just how in control our Father is and how great I am not. For one to think any other way is pure vanity. Oh sure, at times I decide to take control, proclaiming decisions I have made for good and bad, in turn reaping what I've sown. Yet, in Kingdom Principals... He rules and reigns in every circumstance, in every life He created, under the Heavens – in our yesterdays, our today and all of our tomorrows. So just breathe for a moment... because whether we submit to such truth does not factor into the fact our God reigns. Period.

His word says hairs are numbered, flowers toil not, birds are fed and grass is kept. So why would I, His child, even consider for one brief moment He would not tend to me? Yet, I do entertain such thoughts. And I do so more often than I would like or care to admit. However, He always, always is there to listen, comfort me and pick me up, brushing off my skinned knees and mending my broken heart, because that is what good Father's do. It is in our brokenness we find Him waiting. It is in my falling, I am to the end of myself, asking for Him to lift me up into His embrace. He is our safe place to land, our comfort and rest. So I completely understand why He lets me fall, for without the pain of stumbling... Would we ever turn to Him or would it all be vanity all the days of our lives?

Endings are sad... When bad things end, I cry. When good things end, I cry. Separation from comfort, whether from bad influences or good ones causes a stirring from within our souls and fear overtakes us to the point of sadness. I have found the very thing I am needing to overcome, is myself in each presented situation. Just searching to find, where I end and He begins. Knowing full well if I end He shall begin and all will be just fine. Yet I cling to that which is familiar, overlooking the One, Who is the most familiar, the One Who created me to be me, His child, fully reliant upon Him. Trusting on Him as He builds His masterpiece, that's me and that's you.

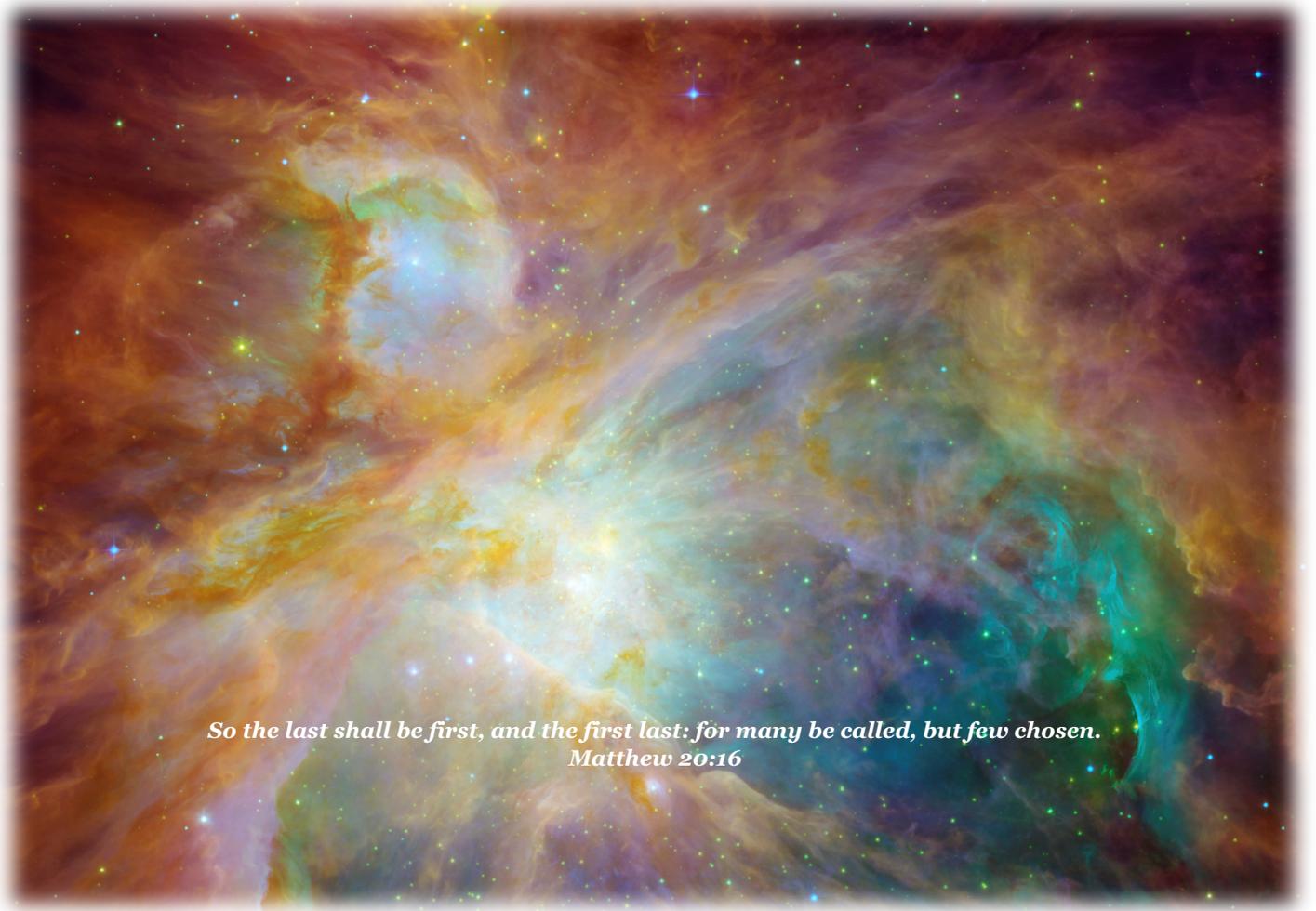
With all the pressing coming at us each day, most times the very thing He requires of us is to rest, be still, and just know that He is God. To trust. To obey. To wait upon Him, for our strength to arise up and out of Him, Who is within us, to accomplish the task which lies ahead. There truly are moments in our lives in which a change is delayed because God knows there's a storm in the direction we are headed. It is in those times we must be grateful for the delay and blindly trust the One Who knows the end from the beginning.

I realize now, *I cannot fix myself by breaking another*. That to truly be free I must embrace the end of me so He can fortify the beginning of Himself from the inside out. As we walk through the various seasons of our lives, He is our Season with the Son. A Season that changes not, yet molds us gradually into the Bearer of Light we were designed to be. Seasons change, people come and people go, yet there is One who never changes and never leaves, our Father Who art in Heaven... And with heart cries we plead, do not leave us here on Earth.

My prayer is that we release that which is within, resting in His embrace, for truly...

The end is where we begin.

He hath made everything beautiful in his time. Ecclesiastes 3:11



*So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.
Matthew 20:16*

The... BEAUTITUDES... The set apart blessings promised to those who are indeed, set apart.

After never-ending ministering to the needy, Jesus pulled His own away into a secluded area and sat them down to speak to them about the promises granted to those who are singled out from among the crowds. Those, who of the heart were after His heart, desiring to be led by the example of One, Himself. He isn't ordinary and neither are they. They had passed the test of time, were tried and true. He calls them, the faithful, because their devotion to Him was not fleeting and definitely not Earth bound.

Let's explore the promises to those who no longer consider their lives, their own...

Matthew 5:1-12

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

What do you think it means to be poor in spirit, can you think of a time you felt poor in your spirit?

*Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.*

We all have sadness, but can you think of a time you have mourned for The Word of The Lord?

*Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.*

What does it mean to be meek? Can you think of a time you could be called the meek of the earth?

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.*

Do you hunger and thirst for The Lord Jesus, to eat and drink of His Words in Spirit and Truth?

*Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.*

*Can you think of a time you have shown mercy to another? Even undeserving Mercy?
Have you Loved as Jesus Loves us?*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.*

*What does it mean to be pure in heart?
Are your actions without guile? Are they honest, transparent, and without self-motive?
Are the intentions of your heart pure?*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.*

*What does it mean to be a peacemaker? Do you carry the Gospel of Peace upon your feet wherever you go?
Are you sharing the Only Way for all to receive Peace with God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?*

The Lord's Word tells us that as much as it depends on us, be at peace with all. Quite often when our lives turn upside down we neglect to humbly and in truth take a look at how we are contributing to strife within the situation. We desire to win the argument and be right, over being in relationship with others.

*When we permit Him... He heals wounds to scars,
placing them on display for a testimony of His love*



Heartstrings & Band-Aids

As I sit here pondering you, your precious hands that will hold this book, my heartstrings are being pulled in a deeper love than most would understand. As I consider the tears you might cry, the love generated and the pain stirred within you as memories you prefer to forget rise up. It is my desire above all else that you know you are loved, by me, but most importantly Jesus.

You see with Jesus, He can do so much more than I can. Of course, in outpouring love I can hold you close and transfer my love like band aids upon your wounded heart. I can cover the pain you feel with my love and love you back into life with my words of embrace, making up for all those who were supposed to love you but didn't. But that's all I can do. I may have a desire to do more, but my intentions pale in comparison to Jesus's transforming touch.

You may think you need me and you may be convinced I or someone else can be the one who can wipe away every tear and make the pain go away. Yet, those are just band aids. Love, like band aids hold for a moment, but will soon need replaced. And believe me, this is something I know firsthand, you will always seek a temporary replacement when love is lacking in your life. Band aids and more band aids, both costly and temporary.

Jesus on the other hand, His love is perfect to heal, everlasting, while increasing, because His love never fails to perform deep and inner healing to a heart that so easily breaks.

I do not know how He does what He does to perfectly mend the hearts of the broken, I only know He does. Somehow, somehow He beautifully binds up our wounds, removes all the pain inflicted by others, including those we have inflicted upon ourselves, as He touches them with His love. In His healing we find Him, as He's turning a gaping hole or pain into a scar which brings testimony to only His Name.

It is with battle scarred hearts we go forth to share about Him with others. Often saying, my friends did this to me, but my Beloved Jesus... He invited me with His love to pick up my wounded tattered body and walk down to His healing waters and be cleansed from all brokenness into the wholeness of His embrace. He taught me how to walk again, taking it as a grain of salt when being scrutinized by others and to keep my heart and eyes fixated on Him continually. He showed me as long as I kept eyes locked with His, that if He said I was okay, then I truly believe, I am okay and will be okay.

It is my prayer that as you spend time with Him getting to know who you truly are authentically, that who you were created to be will grow and who the World told you to be will finally fall away.

I join with Jesus's desire that you know in truth, that you are loved, that He seeks growth and wholeness for you and not perfection. And most importantly, you are fearfully and wonderfully made and that although it is hard to imagine, His love for you is so great, that no matter where you go to hide from it, you cannot. I pray earnestly you are blessed, finding intimacy with the One who your soul loves, realizing everything else pales in comparison to Him.

In His Love Always,

Angela

When looking back, seek out the good He has done

Through the looking glass... Reflections

Do you ever just take a moment to look back upon your life with amazement and awe with how the Father's fingerprints were holding you close, protecting you and working every single little detail out in your life in perfect accordance to His plan? It is only when I look back, I have the fortitude to trust in moving forward.

A little of my story... He qualifies the called.

Since I was little, I knew I was a little different, well a lot different truthfully. No one had to really force me to believe in the Lord. It is like I came into the World with faint memories of where I came from and Who had sent me for this divine assignment. And for a very long time, I had no "Come to Jesus moment" like most, which always made me feel a little awkward no matter the group I tried to fit into, since many relish in telling of their saving moment. So this is my story... And its not saying my story is right and everyone else's is wrong, no, not at all. It is just how, He chose to transform me. Quite different than your typical saved by grace path others profess.

No one had to introduce Jesus to me, because I knew Him already. And if that isn't a fire starter, I don't know what is.

I remember being in Elementary School in Southern Illinois and often on my own getting myself up, ready and out the door to catch the Church bus, which would take me to the Church of Christ's Sunday School Class, followed by Church Service, without anyone overseeing me or forcing me to go. I also remember having a deep desire way back then to know everything I could about the Bible stories they would teach, as I listened intently. But what I recall the most is this... Feeling a little awkward, that as everyone would usher into the sanctuary following Sunday School Class, families would meet up in the hallways to sit together and I would be alone. On rare or special occasions my mother would attend, but more often than not, I would sit way up in the front by myself, listening to what the Preacher had to share. To this day, I can still recall the exact pew in the second row and to the right where I would sit, because it was so close to the alter. I can't really say I remember any message he gave, but what I do remember are the alter calls he would give at the end of every service. And I am really vulnerable and embarrassed to share this part... But every single time he did an alter call, I would go forward and kneel and pray, just to make sure Jesus would save me so I could spend eternity with Him, which is the only really true Home I've known. As a child, I never prayed for random or tangible things, just that I go Home when all is said and done. Every alter call, same request, over and over again, just to be sure I wouldn't be left behind.

I feel embarrassed, because I recall the pity on their faces, as they looked at me and the whispers about this little girl lost, seeking only to be found. I have always been an orphan by every sense of the word, until Jesus finally visited me in the heart. But, I will share more about that later. One day to come, I will meet that nameless pastor in Heaven and be able honor him for having a hand in my life and he didn't even know my name. What I do know? I will be a jewel in His crown and he hasn't even met me yet, not really anyway.

Alter calls... Messages... Lives touched... Just being there for somebody you don't know, but they know you of the heart... Never discount the difference you are making in someone's life, they just could be a future jewel in your crown.

Prior to that time in my life, I was born into a Catholic family in Tell City, Indiana, that later fell apart; baptized in an all-black Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee around the age of seven, never missed a Summer Vacation Bible School or Bible Camp – which I loved and always looked forward to and rather than name all the denominations of all the Churches I attended growing up, let's just say there likely isn't one Christian Church fellowship I haven't attended. Smiles. Denominations do not matter to me, hearts do. You see, the Church would be perfect except for one thing, people go there and not one person is perfect, especially me. All of this was before I was the age of true accountability and what was to follow was not much different.

My Church denomination experiences grew and as I grew with them, I cared less about where He placed me and more about whether love was dwelling in that place. It is for this reason I can easily fellowship with all walks of life and believe whole-heartedly that those who are not against Him are for Him and they, like me, are just trying to find a way back to their Eternal Home with Him. Mercy given is mercy received and I fully realize I need much myself to be qualified to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

You will never find me speaking against another, whether they be Catholic or Baptist or Non-denominational or Nazarene or any other label people like to gather by. If they are seeking the Lord, I firmly believe they will be found by Him, while He plucks them up and out of Earthly Churches, placing them one by one into His own.

Mother Theresa said a quote I love and live by to the best of my ability each day – *“If you judge someone, you cannot love them.”* How could I minister to the hearts of others, if I have already deemed them doomed based on the company they keep? Isn't that what Jesus said also, just in a different way? I've met devils in churches who wear suits and dresses, with an outward appearance of holiness and I've met angels to be on the streets, who are dirty castaways more pure in the heart than polished pew sitters.

There is more than meets the eye about a name...

My birth name is *Angela Maria*. My mother would tell you she gave me that name because her mother loved the name Angela and that she saw the movie, *The Sound of Music* while she was pregnant with me, hence, Maria. What do I believe? I believe, my Father put that desire within her heart to call me on Earth by the name granted to me in the Heavens. *Angela Maria* means... *Message delivered*. The rest is history, or not... Many of you know me by my chat name from many years ago, *Marked By Heaven*. It is funny, but that identity is so ingrained into me now, that without thinking I readily answer to it no different than I do my birth name. I would encourage you to do some digging into your name and the Biblical context it carries with it. You just may be a little surprised at how the Lord placed within you defining characteristics that match the name He orchestrated before He formed you in your Mother's womb.

One would think after all that time spent rubbing elbows in every arena with the religious, it would eventually start to rub off, wouldn't you? Sadly, religion rubs off on you much quicker than love. And before I fell one day, I thought myself to be pretty okay, spiritually speaking. I totally thought I had my act together, with works, petitions, speaking in tongues that I convinced myself were completely Holy Spirit led, healings, deliverances and all the other miraculous manifestations of unbridled holiness you could ever dream of. I was a Youth Leader and served on the Ministry Team, while my husband at the time, was a Deacon on the Board of the Church attended. Then in a blink of an eye, the rug was pulled out from me, as the whole house of cards fell to a heap and the Lord declared over me... You can no longer live a lie, where the outward appearance is

spectacular and inwardly you are like dead man's bones. Everything fell to pieces in a moment and everything that was making me impure was removed with a violent, forceful shaking. He left no stone unturned, while removing every stone within my heart at the same time. And that is when... I truly became born again, laid bare with nothing to offer Him, but my heart. No works, no miracles, no finances, no ministry... It was my divine come to Jesus moment. He first placed me into a position of such desperation that the only voice I sought out to hear was His. You want to know what He said? It wasn't an audible voice or quiet voice in my heart or anything like that, it was in His Word, the Scripture penned so very long ago and finally, I was made new and whole in His embrace. You see, He had to knock all the people, works and things I had placed upon the throne of my heart off of it, in order He take His proper place and seat within me. He no longer would tolerate my doing life apart from Him, while pretending He was doing life with me.

As He placed His seal upon my heart that day, with the searing marking of His Word, I finally fell in love with Jesus. As I sat there and read the following Scriptures over and over, with tears streaming down my face, a Spiritual consummation occurred, a betrothal, if you will. And now, nothing can enter in and nothing can go out without His divine oversight and permission.

I remember after that moment, calling and telling anyone who would listen about what happened to me. They would say things like, "That's nice" or other phrases to quench that fire within me. At first it made me very confused until He showed me that they too didn't know Him yet, but not to worry because those who are appointed to do so, will. He always leaves the 99 to go after the one. I had then become one of the 99, while I used to simply be the one.

I would be remiss, if I didn't share my life altering moment with the Son with you. With that being said, I have no expectations from you and you shouldn't place any upon yourself either, knowing, we can't wake love before its time and though He carries, He is always right on time...

Jesus prayed for us... John 15-17

The True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a] takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you^[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Love and Joy Perfected

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

The World's Hatred

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

The Coming Rejection

²⁶ “But when the ^[c]Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Jesus Warns and Comforts His Disciples

¹⁶ “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³ And these things they will do ^[a]to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. ⁴ But these things I have told you, that when ^[b]the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. “And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

⁵ “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He ^[c]will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Sorrow Will Turn to Joy

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” ¹⁷ Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father’?” ¹⁸ They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not ^[d]know what He is saying.”

¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’? ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

²³ “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus Christ Has Overcome the World

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his [e]own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you [w]ill have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Jesus Prays for Himself

¹⁷ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He [a]should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together [w]ith Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “I have [c]manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ “I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.** ¹⁰ **And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.** ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. **Holy Father, keep [d] through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.** ¹² While I was with them [e]in the world, I kept them in [f]Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is [a]lost except the son of [b]perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ **They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** ¹⁷ Sanctify [g] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for **those who [h]will believe in Me through their word;** ²¹ **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,** that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that **they may be one just as We are one:** ²³ **I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ **And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**”

And just like that... Love came down, taking up permanent residence in my heart. He became my clarity and I went from being on the outside peering in, to being fully embraced on the inside. Wholeness, how sweet the sound...

Serendipity is everywhere for those with eyes to see...

Today, I reside in Grand Island, Nebraska with my two teenagers, Gabriel and Shelby. I have been in full-time ministry now for 16 years through *Ring of Fire Ministries* and continue to assist Michael with Council of Time. Our greatest outreach through *Ring of Fire Ministries* is our Prison Ministry Outreach, in which we provide everything from Pen Pals, books, Bibles, study materials and a quarterly newsletter, doing all we can to assist inmates who have a heart for seeking Jesus and growing in their faith. *With Jesus we truly visit those who are in prison*, assisting them on their spiritual journey with Him. They truly are the castaways, the ones forgotten by most.

If you asked my family about me they would likely tell you... I love to show love to others and I get very joyful when I put my love into action by doing things for them. My joy is made full, by becoming a soft place to land and comfort to those who need a little TLC. For me personally, it is not only *happy to love, it is easy to do so...* My family would also tell you I get hurt very easily, am too sensitive but never retaliate and that I need to stand up for myself more often and they would tell you my answer to them is, "I can't." Lastly, they would say I like everything in order, to a fault really and that I cannot stand anger or betrayal and will retreat from both and that my divine calling in life is to "Protect the innocent," no matter the cost, which believe me, I have paid a hefty price at every turn.

So take it or leave it, that's me... On most days I am a "hot mess" with emotions I don't know what to do with, leaning upon the One and Only Jesus, Who came for that one who was lost in need of saving, me.

The reason I wrote this book? You. You are the reason. It is my gift and embrace to those of you who didn't receive love from the ones appointed to love you, but didn't. You motivate me to love and cultivate wholeness in a place that demands perfection from you. Because, I already know how far I have fallen it is pointless to point out the obvious, we all have been rescued up into His arms too many times to count and I realize, I may be the broken one, but you are the one worth saving.

Additionally, those closest to me would tell you my greatest weakness is that due to my past trauma, fear will sometimes take hold of me and I try to protect those I love from being hurt to the point I do not fully trust the Lord to intervene and keep them safe. They would tell you my greatest strength is that I need to be needed and find the greatest fulfillment in helping others in their time of need, that I am always available to love on them and that I can bring calm and comfort into a crisis situation.

In His Love - Angela

† Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. †



*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
Mark 10:9*

Love Came Down

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come.
And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Revelation 22:17

CREDITS

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A very heartfelt thank you to my sweet soul sister, LayLay. Who, through the years has held me tight when I've been a runaway bride, loved me in spite of me, taught me the value of going with the flow & for the gentle pushes to write and follow my heart. I love you!

*Thank you LayLay for publishing, **Marked By Heaven's Serendipity.***



Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
James 1:12

Ring of Fire Ministries



Angela Maria
Serendipity... a date with the Divine
DEVOTIONAL *Journal & Reflections*
“*Healing hearts His way*”

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