



GOD'S HURTING PEOPLE

REVISED EDITION

PASTOR VENDRIX HEADLEY

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Revised Edition

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Dedication


This book is dedicated to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I send it forth as an encouragement to all God's hurting people who have experienced pain and anguish in different ways. Consequentially, they have unique stories to tell of the struggles and difficulties encountered along life's pathway. There is no temptation common among men for which our omniscient and omnipotent God has not provided a means of deliverance. There is simply nothing new under the sun, so our blessed Lord will never be caught by surprise at any of our adversities.

As you read this book, may you be enlightened, encouraged, and inspired by its contents. Let your mind be renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit as He transforms you into the likeness of Christ. Wallow in the assurance that you are never alone, despite the many times you might experience loneliness on your life's journey. Jesus is with you all the way and your personal victory is guaranteed in Him. Since Jesus has prayed for you guaranteeing your victory, you have no reason to fear. You can endure trying circumstances and overcome them by His grace and blood that securely covers you. Be brave and strong in the Lord, knowing evil cannot


overcome you. Be excited about the crown of life that awaits you.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Reminders from Sacred Scripture	ix
Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Knowing the Facts	6
Chapter 2 Knowledge is Power	15
Chapter 3 God's Timing	21
Chapter 4 Peace in the Valley	27
Chapter 5 Don't Miss Your Destiny	32
Chapter 6 How to Run with Your Vision	40
Chapter 7 Jesus is Our Peace	56
Chapter 8 In Your Darkest Times	61
Chapter 9 Be Grateful and Give Thanks	70
Chapter 10 Let's Face Reality	80
Chapter 11 To Be Pure	83
Chapter 12 It's Amazing What Praise Can Do	96
Conclusion	104
About the Author	108
God's Hurting People Accountability Journal	112



*Give the enemy
the opposite of
what he is
expecting of you.*



Acknowledgments

My complete indebtedness is to my almighty Father who commissioned and empowered me to write this book to comfort His hurting people. On another level, I happily express gratitude to my husband, Venis, and my two sons, Aniel and Nashon, who stood by my side during this divine assignment. Deep gratitude is also due to a beautiful and precious pearl, my mom, Daphne Butler, who prayed for me through the challenges of this book and who has been a formidable powerhouse of influence on my spiritual development.

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who could not attend the conference because of sickness but shared his helpful insights. Thanks to the supporters and contributors to the first conference, particularly Nichole Gordon, who crossed borders to attend.

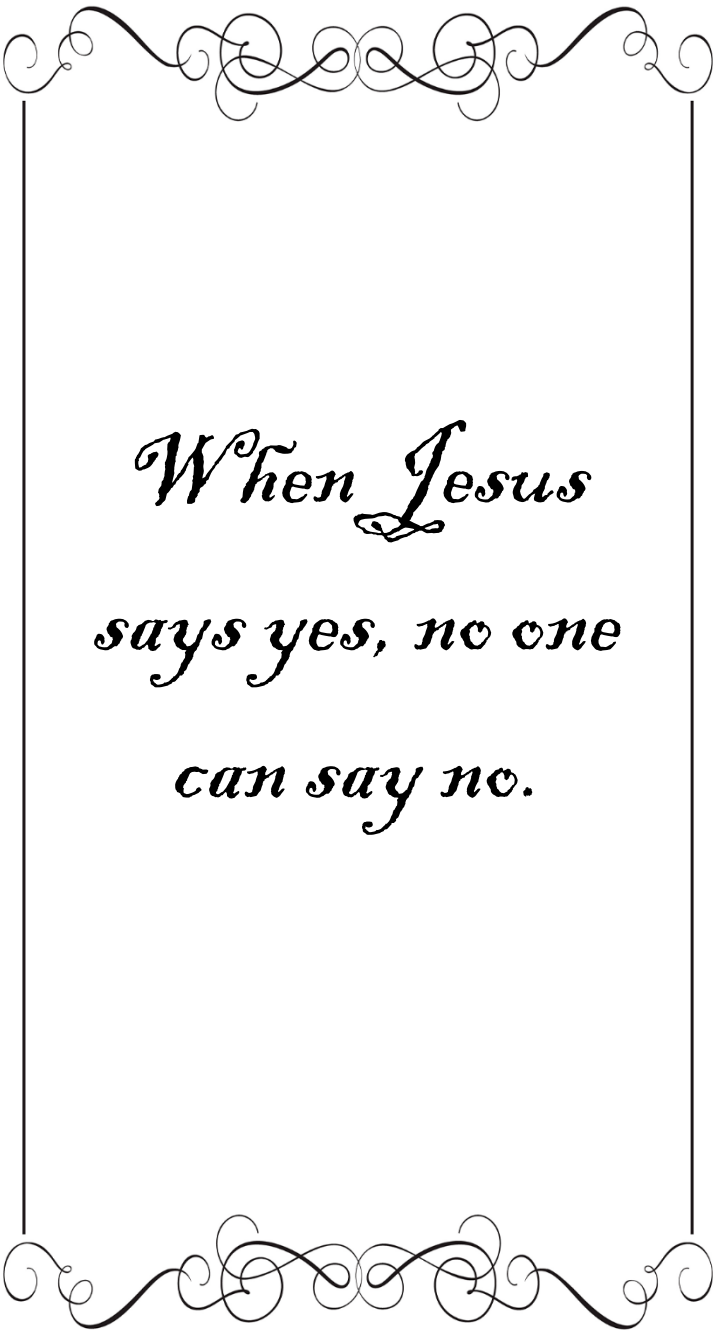
I am mindful of Merel Sterling, my aunt, who was a special influence on my early upbringing. With a sense of delight, I make mention of Pastors Sterling, Beckford, Smith, Campbell, and Taylor, who have been sources of encouragement and other forms of assistance. Finally, I would also like to thank Dian Moodie, Monica Walters, Millicent Smith, Devon Creighteny, and a host of other caring people, names too numerous to mention, for a variety of different kinds of support and influences, all of which contributed to bringing me to the completion of this book.

Reminders from Sacred Scripture

“...Count it all joy when you fall into various trials,”
(James 1:2 NKJV).

*“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time
are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall
be revealed in us”* (Romans 8:18).

*“...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the
violent take it by force”* (Matthew 11:12 NKJV).



*When Jesus
says yes, no one
can say no.*

Introduction

After eight months in which I specifically experienced the presence of the Lord, I felt impressed that He was calling me to counsel His hurting people. Although what I experienced moved me to uncontrollable tears, I soon forgot the spiritual encounter. After a few months, the Spirit of the Lord came to me a second time, but this time in a vision where I saw myself teaching counseling in a college. The dream awakened me with a troubled spirit. I again treated the matter callously until the Lord shook me up for a third time during my personal devotions. This was a traumatizing experience of the overwhelming presence of God. It instilled the fear of God in me. I do not ever want to experience anything like that again.

In this third instance, the Lord forcefully reminded me of the urgency with which I should begin counseling His hurting people. Let me assure you that when the Lord shows up with His overwhelming presence, you don't want to be on the wrong side of God's matters or be dragging

your feet on the missions He has directed you to undertake.

This third encounter was so powerful, I was breathless and could not even finish my devotions. I was struck with the sense that the Lord was communicating to me the futility of my prayers if I refuse to submit to His commands. It was as if He was saying, “Why are you praying to Me if you will not listen to what I tell you to do?”

I made haste to communicate with my elder, Rev. Dr. Joe Samuel, who encouraged me to do just what God was asking. He offered his help in finding the appropriate place where I could study the subject more.

Let me pause to ask this question: Have you ever experienced the mighty presence of God? Has He ever given you a task? When the Lord gives you an assignment to carry out, He will equip you and, as He says in the Scripture, out of your belly shall flow fountains of living water (John 7:38).

The experience I had was like a fire shut up in my bones. Having a passion to be a mentor and being mentored has become more and a priority in my life. I understand why the Lord would lead me in this direction. While I am studying Christian counseling, I am receiving counseling myself.

Many answers to questions I had about life's trials began to unfold right before my eyes.

As you read this book, you will find answers to questions you have struggled with for years. You will be strengthened and encouraged in difficult times and understand God is the answer to all your problems. Moreover, you will find comforting words to remind yourself to put your trust only in God, the One who never fails.

Also included in this book are many poems and poetic expressions I composed. I listened to God and wrote only what He instructed me to. Therefore, I am confident you will be inspired and blessed by what you read.

A Personal Request

Will you agree with me in prayer? This is a personal request. Between each chapter throughout this book, I want to come in agreement with you. Please allow me to be your journeying partner, the reason being that according to the scripture, “if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19-20).

Prayer has no distance or boundaries. It breaks all barriers, leaps and bounds. This means that you and I have entered in a faith, kindred, and kingdom covenant. I will be your prayer partner. Don't worry about how far you are across the nation or world. Let your faith become stronger. All you have to do is believe.

Thanks for accepting the request.

Hush! No Rush!

Just let me communicate that which I
anticipate.

There is much more to manifest that has not
yet surfaced.

Pregnant with the promise of possibilities, you
might even laugh at my tranquility.

Let me indulge in that which I feel long awaits.

I can feel my baby leaping.

Oh, I cried, "Leap! Baby, leap!"

As the urges get stronger and stronger,

I can't help but push, push, push!

It's time to give birth to that which long awaits.

Even though it may hurt, you must give birth.

By Pastor Vendrix Headley

CHAPTER 1

Knowing the Facts

Life's problems can only destroy us when we are ignorant of the truth of God's Words and not in union with Him. You may ask, what is the truth and what is false. The dictionary defines the word "truth" as "in accordance with the fact or reality, rightly so, real or accurate." The word "false" is defined as "not in accordance with the truth or facts, fake, seeming but not actually, disloyal."

Knowing the truth will empower you to differentiate between falsehood and authenticity. You will become adept at filtering the lies that contaminate reality. Knowing the truth puts you in a strategic position to overcome every obstacle that is laid in the path before you by the enemy whose plans are to discourage, derail, distract, and stop you from reaching your destiny.

When you are hurting, you experience pain, discouragement, and demotivation. As a result, stagnation occurs, which can eventually lead to

death. Do not abort your pregnancy because of pain. These labor pains push you into action to give birth to God's purpose in you. Don't die in the fire of adversity and tribulation. Instead, know that such fire is meant to purify you and produce pure gold. It will bring out the precious gems in you. Jesus encourages us by saying, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29 NKJV). I declare you shall not die in the fires of purification but live to proclaim the name of the Lord.

The moment you entered this world, you embarked upon the journey of life. The truth is you were not placed here coincidentally but for a purpose. Perhaps someone is busy trying to abort your purpose and stop your destiny, but the choice will always be yours to fulfill your assignment here on the earth regardless of obstacles. Your successful journeying through this life is contingent upon your union with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bear in mind that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13). You can accomplish all things only through faith. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will move mountains (Luke 17:6). Do you believe

this? Remember, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Scripture says the Words of God are true, and you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free. God's Words set you free, and whom the Son sets free is free indeed (John 8:31-36). What does this really mean? It doesn't mean you will not be tested and tried. It simply means no matter what may come your way, you already know who you are and your position.

Your position is that you are free (right) indeed; once free, always free. So, it is not the difficulties, trials, or the ills of life that define you. Knowing what defines you puts you at an advantage to win. You must know that only what God says about you should define you. Therefore, bondage, depression, pain, hurt, being despised, rejection, disrespect, deception, disappointment, abandonment, invisibility, stagnation, or death do not have any dominion over you. Do you believe this?

My friend, these are tools of the enemy, but you are not controlled by the enemy. You belong to God; therefore, you have power over the tools of Satan. You also have weapons. Use them effectively.

Remember, one of the most effective weapons is the Word of God. It is the road map to your destination. It is equipped with everything you need to overcome. Do not underestimate worship, fasting, prayer, silence, discernment of spirits, heavenly language, and wisdom (just to name a few). You must know when to take advantage of these weapons and which ones to use given the situation. Without these weapons, surely, you will be defeated. The Word of God must be the tour guide for everything you do if you want a safe journey. Don't be fooled; you must know how to use these weapons.

Let's examine one of the weapons you have: prayer. It is a very powerful tool, but if you are not equipped with the Word, you will not be effective or efficient. It is not only about saying prayers. Rather, your prayers are to be effectual and fervent, and you must be in the right standing with God (James 5:16). Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in Luke 11:2.

Two Facts Everyone Must Know

- Fact #1 – The devil is the father of all lies and he comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 8:44 and 10:10).

- Fact # 2 – Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

So, whose report do you believe?

Taking Your Rightful Place

First things first, if you want to be in your rightful place, you must know the truth and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32). Jesus said that He is the truth and the life and if any man believes in Him, though he may die, he shall live (John 14:6 and 11:25). When you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you are set free. You will receive new life in Christ, and He will place you in your rightful position as a son or daughter, meaning you are a child of God. You have access to everything your Father has so you must act as a privileged child and take a firm stand. Once you have accepted Him, it means you belong to Him. You are no longer wandering around, not knowing what direction to take or where you are heading.

Now that you have a clear picture of where you are going, you must know where you came from. Coming or going suggests you have embarked on