

The Praise Report

Significant Revelation

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A Word For Significant Revelation

ASHLEY PIERCE

A word that I received for Significant Revelation while praying over the transition to the new location:

"From my throne, I have seen your dedication. I have counted... the tears shed, the hours spent, the souls touched and changed. I have forgotten nothing. Lo, I have stored up the seeds sown.

For those that danced before me privately, for those that sang to me from a place of sacrifice... your worship, the aroma of it rose to me like incense. The smell of you is beautiful.

Do not fear the transition, for I must align. For you to be

seen. For your voice to be heard. You will carry my glory to the streets.

LET THEM DOUBT!

For there is darkness that you must touch. I will place you in places like street lamps. How children would play in the streets, and watch the street lights to know when it was time to go home, you will draw my children back home.”

After this, I continued to hear God say, “*Band of misfits...*” And I paused. Surely Lord, you don’t want me to stand up there and call these folks misfits. I asked over and over, and on the 5th or 6th time... He said, “*Ashley, Like David and His Army.*” I hopped unto Google and did a search: “David and his band of Misfits,” which led me to **1 Samuel 22: 1-2** in the MSG:

“So David got away and escaped to the Cave of Adullam. When his brothers and others associated with his family heard where he was, they came down and joined him. Not only that, but all who were down on their luck came around—losers and vagrants and misfits of all sorts. David became their leader. There were about four hundred in all.”

But what caught my attention is that I kept seeing writers ask, “How did David take the band of misfits mentioned in this verse, and lead them to become the group of ‘Mighty Men’ described in **2 Samuel 23**?” And as I pondered that question, the Voice of God continued:

“My Hand makes all the difference. The accolades will come. Do not despise this small beginning. Let me train you. This oil will flow to generations of Mighty Men. Look at the spear in your hand. Strike when I say. You must stand out. You must become comfortable with the uncomfortable. You will wash those covered in filth and create Mighty Men.”

At this point, I saw a map of the United States. All over the map, arrows were going out and landing in different places. Each arrow had a tiny fire with it. And I heard the Lord say, “*And send them out! Tiny fires of Significant Revelation will grow like Wildfire! I will make you known amongst nations,*” says the Lord. “*Do not doubt what you hold in your hand, for I have said it.*”

To Pastor Mark: “*What I have given you in the Secret Place, pressed, pressured, like a diamond. The oil from that is being released, and a mighty flow of God will hit those that follow you. They will prophesy! They will heal! And those will ask, ‘Can such a thing come from Atlanta? Can such a thing come from him?’*”

But I have placed a crown on your head, I have chosen you for this. You have the ability to hold back what was intended for Hawaii and make it a city on a hill. Conferences, services on the beach, baptisms in the ocean.

For I have grown weary with the water gods worshipped there. I will establish My Name. For I will write over it ‘For who is Like the Lord.’”

Power of Love

BILL VAUGHN

The bible has a lot to say about the power of love! God sends a message to followers of Jesus through His word.

Many believers in Jesus Christ are caught up in being busy for God, but they haven't learned how to treat their fellow man. **1 Corinthians 13** is a chapter that is devoted to a message to mankind about loving each other:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

“

Jesus Christ was the embodiment of God's perfect love for mankind.

”

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Jesus Christ was the embodiment of God's perfect love for mankind. As the Son of God, he was empowered to do amazing supernatural things as He loved others. He went to the Jewish temples (churches) of the day and taught the people about who God is and who He (Jesus) is. Many believed Him, and became His followers, but many hated Him as well. Jesus carried a level of authority that the world had never seen, and many felt threatened by it. Their fear brought them to a point of begging him to leave from the area:

Mark 5:1-20

“Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of

the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.'

For He said to him, 'Come out of the man, unclean spirit!' Then He asked him, 'What is your name?'

And he answered, saying, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, 'Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.' And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been



demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.' And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled."

Jesus made a habit of loving the unlovable. He met people where they were, healed them, set them free from demons, and restored them to the life that God had planned for them! The good news of the Bible is that He still does these things today! He never changes, and He still loves each of us unconditionally.

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

My prayer is that you read and learn from His

word in the Bible and come to know Him personally. I pray God's blessings, freedom, and healing over you and your family in Jesus' name!

Dear Mama

Q: *My daughter told me she's gay. I don't believe she's gay but that the girl took advantage of her loneliness. She doesn't come to church or read her bible anymore. I don't condone the relationship, but I want to be around my daughter and my grandson. What do you suggest?*

A: This is truly a loaded question and a good question to ask. The good thing is that you are willing to keep the communication open despite your beliefs about the relationship. With me, not so much. Let me share my story with you. The Lord made me aware when my youngest daughter was in the 5th grade that she had the spirit of homosexuality on her. I can't say that I was shocked because this spirit is a generational curse from my father's side. Because I knew this, I always prayed against that spirit attaching to my children.

One day, when my daughter was about 16-years-old, she built up the confidence to come out to me. In pure, reckless, black-momma behavior LOL, I LISTENED to everything she released just to put her in check; I wasn't trying to HEAR her. I began by saying "Oh, I am so sorry that you thought this is the kind of household that you can come out in. If you call yourself coming out the closet, you better take your butt (I didn't use butt) right back in there because we ain't doing this on any given Sunday." Then I threw at her every hypocritical

Good Medicine

When you have a pastor who doesn't sugarcoat anything...



**THIS LITTLE LIGHT ON MINE.
I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE.**





scripture concerning this spirit that the Church loves to use to condemn.

I'll admit that I wasn't mature in the Lord at this time at all. God waited some years for that maturity to come to have a real conversation with me about that moment. He began by saying, "You read all those bible scriptures out of context over OUR daughter, but you never gave her JESUS in the moment. You are supposed to love your daughter unconditionally, the way I love you. What if I condemned you every time you came to me about the things you have done. You walked with the spirit of fornication for many years, and I still loved and

blessed you in those moments, but you couldn't do the same for your daughter who is a blessing from me."

I repented to the Lord and my daughter, and God healed our hearts. To sum it all up, if I write bible scriptures and the name of Jesus on a bat and begin to hit you over the head with that bat, you will never notice the bible scriptures or the name of our Savior. All you will remember is the pain. God is not in that at all. We are to love with the love of Christ only and pray without ceasing concerning our children and God will do the rest.

My daughter is happily married with a daughter and is faithful to God and the Church. The devil thought he had her, BUT GOD had other plans.

-Mama Vee

Q: *How do I balance being a wife, mother, and full-time worker on top of having ministry responsibilities while still making time for reading, studying, and quiet-time with God? I feel like I'm failing, and my relationship with God is suffering.*

A: Whew, that's a loaded question and honestly, I do not have a one-shot remedy. This will change with time and responsibilities.

Paul said the unmarried are "concerned about the things of the Lord (**1 Cor. 7:32, 34**)," and thus the single person can concentrate on pleasing the Lord (**1 Cor. 7:32**)."

When we get married, your time is now consumed with other people. Not that we are making other people our God, but God knows we have responsibilities that come with marriage and a family; heck he outlined those responsibilities. When it is just you and hubby, you still

can set aside time for him and God, but when you add babies to the mix it definitely can become overwhelming.

If you have a full-time job, a husband, and a baby, I tell you to pray and ask God where he wants you to be. We as women get so caught up in trying to do and be everything for everybody that we neglect ourselves and give God half of our heart while we try to fill shoes He never told us to fill (especially during this season of our lives). **THIS IS A SEASON! IT IS TEMPORARY AND NOT PERMANENT!** This is a season where women really need to take a step back from full-time ministry and/or job to be able to effectively serve all parties and take care of self instead of burning yourself out. Become PRN, as needed or when I am available, your first duty is always home. This is God's setup, not mine or yours, so anyone with an issue can take it up with Him.

From experience, when my kids were babies, it was extremely hard for me because I was doing just that; being everything for everyone. I was so busy "trying" to be wife, mom, help at church, be in meetings, still be active in family functions, and not neglect my parents, siblings, and relatives that I began to fail at the most important roles in my life – wife and mother. I started neglecting my duties as wife mainly, and that was easy because my marriage was already on the rocks. How many of you know my actions definitely did not put us back on the straight and narrow?! I wore myself out mentally, physically, emotionally, and

spiritually to the point I ended up in the ER three times with migraines. The last time, the doctor told me that if I didn't make changes, I would end up with an aneurysm and neither my children nor my husband would have me (how do you like those cookies? Not so much...). I quickly took a step back from everything and had to learn how to trust God on every level.

I pretty much quit everything that was a stress to me and made my life simple: husband, children, God, and then whatever I chose to take on according to me. I didn't care who thought I was letting them down because now I was able to align myself with the will of God for my family and myself. Oh, by the way, I began to have plenty of time for God when the babies were down for a nap or in daycare/school. I was able to begin exercising, cooking good meals, reading and praying multiple times a day; my relationship with God grew leaps and bounds. What God showed me was that in this time he was able to train and nourish what he wanted to do in me, preparing me for where he was taking me. Once my children got older, the dynamics in my life changed and they didn't need me as much so I could take on other responsibilities, such as ministry work (and while I was there, I put them to work, and they were around other children).

Listen, being a wife is challenging; then we add parenting and this doubles the challenge (especially when the children are babies, and then again when they become teenagers).

But God is our Father and when we become more dedicated to listening to what he has to say and the strategy/instruction he gives us, things flow so much smoother. I apologize if you were looking for step-by-step advice or instructions. When it comes to being a wife, mother, daughter, sister, auntie, etc... it is all God. He has different ways of growing, building, and training each of us for our calling, purpose, and destiny, and it directly correlates to our family and their calling, purpose, and destiny. Therefore, how he instructs one may not be how he instructs another.

Here are a few tips and they explain why it is so important to be around for your family in the children's early years. These tips are old skool, but they work:

1) **Create structure and routines** – starting this early will make your life 100% easier. Get baby on feeding and sleeping routine; as they get older, adjust accordingly.

2) **Be mom and teacher**; do not depend on school or others to do what God has assigned you to do. As a woman of God, there are things you want to instill and things you want to protect your children from.

3) **Discipline your children**. Children are not supposed to run your house. You set the rules and when you start this early it makes for well-balanced children who respect God and you. There is an old saying that I have seen and experienced to be true:

"If you don't beat them now,
they will beat you later."

Simply put, discipline instills respect for you and themselves. It teaches children boundaries and how to "treat others just as you want to be treated." Children must learn many things from infancy to adulthood and most of those lessons are solidified by 8-years-of-age. You discipline them early and you will not have to do a lot of discipling as they get older; you just make adjustments.

4) **Don't expect all your children (if you have multiple) to be the same**; they are NOT! Treat them according to who they are, not according to their siblings or who you want them to be (but who God has created them to be).

These last two are for you and the hubby and they are IMPORTANT!!!

5) **Date your husband**; make time for him. When you create routines, this gives you time alone for you and him when the children are down for the night or for a nap. It is imperative that

“
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”

you create time for the two of you. This ensures no one feels or gets neglected; this is usually something that happens with new fathers especially. Also, this keeps the connection in communication and the intimacy in the relationship. The best thing children can be raised to see is loving parents who show affection to one another and the children. It creates a sense of protection and love for the children, as well as the parents.

6) **You and your husband should always be on the same page when it comes to discipline and decisions for your family.** Never let your children see you divided; they will try to ease their way in and take advantage. They should never be able to play one parent against the other.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, I end with this: Marriage and parenting do not come with manuals. The Bible is our instructional foundation, but life in general is trial and error. You ARE going to make mistakes and it is absolutely okay. You just correct it and keep moving. As long as we keep God in the midst of everything, He will lead, guide, and instruct you, and you will find the balance that works for you. Because honestly, what I have found is there is no such thing as balance, only adjustments to find what works for you and your family.

As always,
Love You!

-Mama Q

Testing of Your Faith

SHAUNA WILLIAMS

James 1:2-4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

The testing of your faith develops perseverance, patience, steadfastness, and endurance within you.

- **perseverance-** persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
- **patience-** the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset
- **steadfastness-** the quality of being resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering
- **endurance-** the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way

Looking at these definitions, can you see the common theme?: standing and being unwavering despite difficulty and trouble. I know first-hand that trials have the ability to strengthen your foundation and bring out the *rock-solidness* of Christ within you.



Matthew 7:24-25

“So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, will be like a wise man [a far-sighted, practical, and sensible man] who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods and torrents came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

They also prepare you for your future! Once you’ve jumped over a 50-foot building, any 10, 15, or 30-footers you encounter from here on out are nothing! And you’re also better prepared for the 60+ foot one that’s likely around the corner. Consider David’s defeat of the lion and bear before conquering Goliath (1 Samuel 17:34-36). He conquered his Goliath and changed the trajectory of his whole life. What are you being prepped to overcome that will launch you into your destiny?!

So the faith of James that encourages us

to “count it all joy” is completely legit. Because it will ultimately work for our good and spiritual development.

2 Corinthians 4:17

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

No, the trials never feel good, and embracing them is usually the last thing we want to hear (if you only knew how many times I’ve done an internal eye roll at people). But that’s why he says “joy” and not “happy.” Joy has the ability to look beyond the current circumstances. Joy, unlike happiness, runs on the fuel of faith (the very thing being tested).

So, while it’s uncomfortable now, maybe even feels like it’s going to kill you, while the storm is raging and things are shaking: count it all joy.

Romans 10:17

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Feed on the Word because faith (what’s being tested) comes by hearing. Rehearse truth and not the problem! Allow others to encourage you and cast your cares upon God.

Know it’s *temporary*. **The warrior within you is simply learning to stand**, and you shall come forth as gold!

Hebrews 10:36

“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.”

Do You Have a Critical Spirit?

PASTOR NOE

Question: Is it easy for you to criticize others?

These days it seems everybody has an opinion that they want others to know. For instance, more than likely you have experienced this after reading an online article where comments are allowed. Sure, some of those comments are funny, but by and large most of it is very negative, hateful, and even slanderous.

Now, for those that call themselves disciples or followers of Yeshua's/Jesus' teachings, I want us to really think about this - because it's very easy to call oneself a 'believer/disciple.' It's much harder to actually live the Bible.

In my family, we will banter [good, humored ridicule or teasing] with each other, but we'll also many times call you out in a nice, loving, firm way - even if we have some fun with you at your expense, lol. What we are trying to do is help you and love you in a way that isn't totally demeaning. Now, if that family relative does not receive the counsel, that is up to them. I understand that everybody's family is a little bit different, but we generally try to help one another out.

Calling other people out for their shortcomings is very easy to do. If you think about it, there's really no accountability or growth going on when all a person is doing is trying to condemn somebody else. It's a very narcissistic and prideful behavior - but that's where our world today has been headed

“
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”

for a while.

Galatians 6:1-4

“Brothers, if a man is overtaken in some trespass, you the spiritual ones, set such a one straight in a spirit of meekness, looking at yourself lest you be tried too. Bear one another's burdens, and so complete the Torah of Messiah. For if anyone thinks himself to be somebody, when he is not, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he shall have boasting in himself alone, and not in another.”

It's basically being childish rather than childlike. I don't think anybody wants to be on the center stage being heckled and creating fodder/raw material for the demons to use- such as feelings of bitterness, anger, hate, etcetera. How many of us have been hurt by somebody trying to gain some type of emotional, mental, or physical superiority over us?

The Bible speaks to us about being a

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hypocrite [having a double-set of standards, one for ourselves and then one for everybody else] as a behavior Yah/God hates.

Proverbs 6:16-19

“These six matters יהוה hates, And seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, And hands shedding innocent blood, A heart devising wicked schemes, Feet quick to run to evil, A false witness breathing out lies, And one who causes strife among brothers.”

We have to look not only at our own interests, but also to the interests of others - because in the long run we are only making the world a worse place by harming our brothers, which will many times come back to us.

Matthew 7:4-5

“Or how is it that you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the splinter out of your eye,’ and see, a plank is in your own eye? “Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you shall see clearly to remove the splinter out of your brother’s eye.”

1 Corinthians 12:24-27

“whereas our seemly members have no need. But Elohim blended together the body, having given greater respect to that member which lacks it, that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same concern one for another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is esteemed, all the members rejoice with it. And you are a body of Messiah, and members individually.”

Philippians 2:3-4

“doing none at all through selfishness or self-conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each one should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

I heard recently that Love is like a circle. Yah/God sends His Love to us and then we in turn are created to love Him back; however, the enemy has learned how to hack the system and re-route that 'energy' to 'feed' their demon armies.

In the book of James, it states our tongue can easily defile us and many others.

James 3:6, 8

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell... but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

Hell is a very real place by the way. Having a critical spirit can easily turn into cursing. Cursing other people can easily turn into creating ungodly soul-ties (if you're into that kind of thing, but I strongly advise against it).

Proverbs 25:18

“A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.”

Proverbs 26:18 -19

“Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, ‘I am only joking!’”

It’s bad enough that the Accuser of the Brethren (Rev 12:10) shoots fiery darts against us (Eph 6:16), but when we do it towards others we are doing the enemy’s job and being used as a tool. Oh, the number of times that deliverance ministers have had to pull the darts out of people’s backs and hearts. It’s saddening.

Words are very powerful (yep, that’s another teaching).

So, I just want to encourage everyone to think about what comes out of their mouth and to think about others that are hurting and may need an encouraging word towards life. The Bible says:

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

We need to help each other and not tear each other apart - like animals in a sense. Anybody can be critical, but when you are



filled with The Spirit (even if you don’t speak in tongues) you should be more empowered to do good and righteous works. If we live in a divided family, nation, or even world, just tearing at one another, who really wins? The enemy.

If you feel that you have a hard time letting things go or have a critical spirit, it may be a good time to set up an appointment for a deliverance session. There could be something going on internally that could be driving that.

So as witnesses, it helps if we can show others the joy within us to draw them to the hope of the glory that we have in Yeshua/Jesus. That doesn’t mean putting on a fake plastic smile in terms of adversity - it means still being able to praise Him in times of adversity knowing Yeshua/Jesus is your healer and deliverer.

I leave you with this last verse: **John 13:34-35**

“A renewed command I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all know that you are My taught ones, if you have love for one another.”

Shalom,

Noe www.WalkwithYah.com

About Last Night

MAMA VEE

- makeup bag ✓
- back-up makeup bag ✓
- toiletries bag ✓
- luggage bags 1-8 ✓
- bag of shoes ✓
- breakfast bag ✓
- lunch bag ✓
- dinner bag ✓
- bag of snacks ✓

“Victorious, why do you always pack all that stuff for your road trips? You act like you ain’t coming back home.”

Victorious turns around with a big ole Kool-Aid smile like Celie from *The Color Purple*.

“Momma, why you got to be yelling about my bags? You don’t see me coming for you about the rollers in your head in the middle of the day. Momma, I promise you look like the old lady from the Tom and Jerry cartoon by the ankles. Put some Crisco and holy oil on them thangs.”

Victorious and her momma burst out laughing for 20 minutes.

Victorious’ mother chimes in, “Vee, seriously, it is not good to carry all that stuff. It’s wearing your car down and you know Grandma and Momma say it ain’t good for a young lady to carry heavy things because it will make you sterile. You can’t be doing that because I need me some grandbabies as soon as you meet your BOAZ. You will meet your BOAZ if you get

YOAZ out the way.”

“Momma, you ain’t got no chill, but I love you though. You will forever be my Day One.”

“Vee, I love you too, but your “Day One” better be Jesus.”

Victorious looks at her mother- making sure to choose her words wisely because her mother is deadly with her shoe throwing game from long distance; Mack Ryan ain’t got nothing on her. “Momma, here you go with your Jesus-freak self, but I hear you. I must make sure that I am well prepared for the road. The bags ain’t heavy to me because I carry them all the time. I am about to leave. I will call you once I get on the highway.”

Victorious kisses her Momma and heads out for a much-needed road trip. She turns on her favorite YouTube playlist

“

“Vee, I love you too, but your “Day One” better be Jesus.”

”

of Mary J. Blige’s Heartbreak Hits while doing 80mph on the highway. Victorious’ phone rings playing the song, “Try Jesus.” She picks up the phone with excitement knowing that this is her BFF, her sister from another mister, ShaMonica.

“Hey sis!,” Victorious says with that same Celie smile.

ShaMonica responds with, “I am calling to remind you about our spa date when you get back. Don’t even think about canceling on me again with your “see-what-had-happened-was” excuses. You my sis and I love you, but I will cut you about messing up my me-time. David is watching the kids so we can be OUTSIDE for a day.” They both cracked up laughing at the latest slang.

Victorious knows that ShaMonica is about that life (hint to the ring tone). ShaMonica will cut you and pray that the Good Lawd sews you up. Victorious rolls her eyes at the phone knowing that “Little Miss Crazy for Jesus,” who will also be sho-nuff crazy at the same time, can’t see the faces she is making.

Victorious says, “Gurl ain’t nobody tryna cancel on you. I promise on baby Jesus that I will be there. Kiss David Jr. and Kellie for me. I will see you when I get back.”

Before hanging up the phone, ShaMonica becomes silent for a moment (this is something she does when she has a word from the Lord to give). She continues, saying, “Hey sis, be careful on the road because I had a

vision that you picked up this weird guy on the side of the road. Please don’t do that because you know you always trying to save the world.” She yells, “JESUS ALREADY DID THAT!!! I love you and I will call you back later.”

After traveling for some time, she notices a man on the side of the road needing a ride. Her mind is blown because this is what ShaMonica said would happen. She is curious now. As she slows down the car, she can hear her mom saying, “*Vee you better not pick up any hitchhikers because sex trafficking and serial killers are real and you know you got your cute genes and apple-bottom shape from me. If you get in any trouble, you better call Jesus and not Saul because he only exists on the TV.*”

She decides that she will help the guy out anyway because he looks harmless. Victorious lets down her passenger window. “Hey, Sir, do you need some help?”

“Yes, I do,” the man replies. “Will you give me a ride? I am on my way to a party with some old friends of mine.”

“Sure, get in,” Victorious replies while looking at all the tattoos on his face.

“I see you staring at my tattoos. These tattoos are of the names of my ‘little buddies’ that have passed away (he oddly has a smirk on his face).” The stranger asks, “What is your name, Little Lady?”

Glory Revealed

*"Arise and shine for the glory of the Lord rises upon you
Consider your suffering and pain not worth comparing
with the glory that will be revealed*

*The suffering and pain have been your labor pains
Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery
Watch what is birthed from suffering
Wait and see what I have developed in you
It comes forth for my praise and glory
Because you love me
Because you love me
I smile on you*

*Pay attention to what I am doing
Make no move without me, birth is a delicate process
Follow my lead and everything I placed inside of you will
come forth
It has been locked in your family line for generations
Waiting for an opportunity to give expression through a
vessel
So I have chosen you
What your ancestors could not do, you will do*

*Let daughter Zion rejoice in her King
It is a day of celebration
Behold, I present to you a new thing
Something you have never seen or even dreamed of
I place it into your capable hands
Because I have ordained you for such a time as this
Hold it in your arms
Embrace it
Nurture it, protect it and watch it grow
Arise and shine for the glory the Lord rises upon you*

-Kathleen Bryan 7/1/2022

Vee responds, "Victorious."

"We will see about that," the stranger says to himself.

The light in the car starts to flicker on and off as though the battery is draining. Victorious notices that her phone battery is at 47 percent; it was at 100 percent before tattoo-face got in the car. Victorious figures it is time for an upgrade. She has an iPhone (your phone will oddly start to having battery issues around upgrade time).

"What is your name again, Miiiiissteeerr..." Victorious asks, while waiting for an answer.

"I didn't give it; my name is Covah."

"Nice to meet you, Covah," Victorious says about the odd name.

After driving a short distance, Victorious hears a loud pop. Her car starts to shift off the road. She discovers that all four of her tires are flat.

"Unbelievable, I can't believe this. All my tires are flat. This has never happened before. This is starting to be the road trip from hell."

Covah lets out a weird laugh at her last statement. He says, “so you think?,” while continuing his weird laughter.

Just over the hill on the highway, Victorious can see a H.E.R.O truck pulling up behind her car. *“Where did they come from?”* Victorious stated to herself.

She looks on the side of the truck and notices that this is a different type of H.E.R.O. truck. All the letters are bible scriptures. The "H" is for **Hebrews 11:1**, "E" is for **Ephesians 3:20**. The "R" is for **Romans 8:28-29**, and the "O" is for **Obadiah 1:17**.

“This is one crazy day I am having; I am so grateful to see this truck coming to fix my tires.”

The two strangers (a lady and a man) approach Victorious' car with tires on deck.



“Let us get these tires replaced for you so you can be on your merry way to your final destination,” says one of the strangers.

“Hey, I have never seen a H.E.R.O. truck quite like yours. Why did you choose bible scriptures as the logo?,” Victorious ask with curiosity on her face.

The lady responds with this stare like she was trying to get Victorious to really understand the WORDs that were about to come out of her mouth.

“Baby, the Lord is the logo for this truck. Bible scriptures are the word of GOD, he is the word. That is why the logo is on both sides, on the front hood, and on the back of the truck. He is omnipresent.” She looks at Covah like she knows him and continues speaking. “He is everywhere at the same time. He is the true HERO. She then looks at Victorious and says, “There is no other way to prepare for a road trip but through the Lord Almighty.”

Victorious thinks to herself that she just asked a question and got a whole sermon instead. Victorious says to the lady, “No disrespect, but I think yall Christians stay doing a lot.”

The lady looks up from changing the last tire and says, “No, Christians don’t do a lot at all, but Jesus does by way of the Holy Spirit. Well, we got you all done here. Be careful on these roads.”

Covah is looking like he is constipated and bothered by the presence of the strangers.

Victorious ask, “Do yall know each other because I am picking up some weird energy here.”

The Lady and the man said at the same time, “We see Covah on these roads all the time. He loves to hitchhike and camp out in the wilderness around here.”

Oddly, Covah is speechless and doesn’t say a word.

“What I owe yall for all your help?,” Victorious asks.

“Nothing at all, we are here to help whenever we are needed,” says the man as he puts all his tools away.

Victorious gives them her Celie smile and waves good-bye before starting the car to continue on this weird road trip.

“Am I in the Twilight Zone or what? My power on my phone and in my car is acting real kray-kray; and to top it all off, all my tires went flat. I don’t know what to think of the H.E.R.O truck... Wait a second (Victorious is in a blind stare as she thinks on today’s events thus far). All of this happen when Covah got in my car. Something ain’t right. I must be tripping because he seems harmless. He just wants a ride, that is all,” Victorious thinks to herself.

“You look exhausted, why don’t you just let me drive the rest of the way so you can get some sleep?,” Covah says with a smirk of deceit.

Victorious chimes in, “No, I am fine. Boy I’on know you enough to let you drive me anywhere while I am sleeping.” Victorious ponders, *“Why would he ask me that?”*

“Make a left turn and the club will be on your left-hand side,” Covah says with that same smirk on his face.

Victorious pulls into the parking lot noticing a big sign in black and red that reads, “CLUB MAYHEM.” Victorious thinks to herself. *“Who wants to hang in a place like this?”*

“You care to join me inside? We have so much fun. We cause all kinds of trouble. People come in and they are changed into one of our soldiers,” Covah says with that same old smirk on his face.

Victorious responds, “What do yall do in there?”

Covah responds, continuing with the smirk, “We cause all sorts of havoc like fighting, addictions, people meet up with somebody else’s significant other. We have a list of things that we like to do. We do it all while sitting in the dark.”

Victorious’ curiosity gets the best of her. She decided to take a look. She figures one look wouldn’t hurt. As she looks inside, she can’t believe the HOT MESS that is going on. She touches the door handle, but is shocked by a voice in her head shouting, *“DON’T GO INSIDE OR YOU WILL DIE!”* That was all she needed to hear. She runs to her car and

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She looks up and can't believe the name of the gas station: "God's Promise Marketplace..."

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starts the ignition. She realizes that she drove most her gas out to drop off Covah and her phone has a low signal.

“Dang, Covah is trifflin. He ain't give a sistah no gas. Oh, he a hot mess for real. My momma told me not to pick fools up with hot mess written on their foreheads. I should have listened to her and ShaMonica,” Victorious says as she tries to find the nearest gas station.

Because she went out of her intended route, the GPS was taking awhile to reroute. Finally, it resets and routes her to the nearest gas station.

After driving 40 miles in the wilderness, on the highway, Victorious approaches the gas station. She looks up and can't believe the name of the gas station.

“God's Promise Marketplace,” Victorious says, while scratching her scalp through her lace front wig with her manicured nails. She goes inside and is met by a clerk with the face of an angel and a

smile to match.

She says to Victorious, “Hey, we have been waiting for you.”

Victorious is really confused now, it's written all over her face.

The clerk continues, “H.E.R.O. told us to look out for you because anyone who gives that Covah a ride is always low on gas.”

Victorious asks for a fill up on pump number 8. She looks around the store, and to her shock, they have the same bible scriptures from the H.E.R.O. truck.

Vee hears that voice again saying, *“you really should read what the scriptures are saying.”*

She does exactly what she hears. Once she starts to read, tears began to roll down her face smearing her MAC makeup. She reads out loud for a better understanding:

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

Ephesians 3:20: *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*

Romans 8:28-29: *“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. For whom he did foreknow, he also did*

predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Obadiah 1:17: “But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.”

Victorious is left speechless. All she can muster up to say is, “How much I owe for the fill up?”

The lady smiles at Victorious and says, “Everything in this store, including the gas, has already been paid for. We don’t charge anybody anything here. Babygirl, be safe on the road and get back home to your Momma who has been praying for you since you left.”

Victorious looks at the clerk and gives the biggest Celie smile and exits the store. When she gets to her car, there is a flyer with affirmations from a local church’s Women’s ministry. As she reads the affirmations, she feels like she is in a SECRET PLACE.

She rolls into the sunset, thinking of the adventure she has had, doing 80mph to get home to her Momma.



First Baptist Episode 5

ANONYMOUS

After closely scrutinizing the documents, Shay was quite shocked to see a booking photo of Myron. Myron was apparently known by several aliases:

- Myron Bloath
- Miron Bloath
- Meyeron Bloath
- M. S. Bloath
- Miron Blaothe
- My-Ron Bloat
- “Stich”

The eccentric old woman shared that Myron “Stich” Bloath had criminal records in CA, WA, TX, KS, MS, and Puerto Rico. Shay was lost for words and searched for info about his female accomplice. However, there was no picture or relative information for his accomplice because the back pages of the newspaper were absent. Shay attempted to access Wi-Fi to determine more, but Bea’s place was too remote. She decided to leave, and though not absolutely certain, thinks that the roaches actually moved her purse closer to the door and even pulled her keys out of it.

Regardless, Shay immediately made her way to town to garner some firsthand info, but the Satartia Scoop offices were closed. The Satartia Scoop offices sat catty-corner to Smithfield's Feed Store and Nail Place on Thompkins Pike near Hurt Creek.

At Smithfield's, a man can buy feed for his hogs from Mr. Kim, while Ms. Kim gives his wife a mani/pedi. This month, their special is that should you buy the Feed-Nails-Nails \$69.95 Family Pack, you will get 20lbs of sow meal, a mani/pedi, and receive a coupon for a dozen hot-dipped galvanized or stainless-steel nails for the price of aluminum ones!

Additional inquiries about the close-knit neighborhood resulted in Shay learning that the company's owner/editor/publisher, Bubba McFarland, was away on a fishing and hunting expedition and not expected back until late Monday morning.

It was Friday, and there was just no way the weary choir director was going to miss the opportunity to discover all the pieces to this rather convoluted puzzle. She contacted the rental company and school to extend her stay in Yazoo County, MS.

Shay then traveled to the closest place of lodging, Miller's Motel and Diner, on route 66, next to Barney's Biscuits, Bolts, and Bubbles. Barney's serves you breakfast while you get your tractor washed or repaired.

Shay used the motel's website to determine that the Satartia Scoop possessed absolutely

no online presence. After offering her identification, and prior to tendering payment, the innkeeper told Shay her room was already paid for. "Your room, 112, is the nicest one we have; it even has a window. In there, we always use 2-ply!"

Mr. Patel added, "Your room is located next to Mr. Spade's room, 114." Shay's eyes opened widely and before she could say anything, the motel's proprietor stated, "Mr. Spade insisted that there should be no connecting door."

Maybe Shay should have been upset about the obvious intrusion, but she appeared most excited about having someone familiar to talk to that she could trust. She hurried to his room, but saw a sticky note on the door which read, "Back soon my love."

She opened the door to room 112, but could barely maneuver around because of all the roses. She saw her bedspread, sheets, and "My Pillow" from home and several boxes of new outfits, jewelry, and French perfumes. Her sooter had drawn a smiley face on another sticky note sprayed with his cologne and attached it to a box of Gobstoppers, her favorite childhood candy.

Officer Spade returned armed with a personal pan pizza with anchovies on one side, pepperoni on the other, and mushrooms down the middle and a chilled glass of Loganberry. In the motel's mini-fridge, Shay found scallops over a bed of rice pilaf, grilled asparagus stalks, pan-seared

broccoli, and fresh apricots. She felt so fortunate to have a man who cared for her so deeply and covered every single detail. The voice said, *“total package.”* He kissed her and without emitting a single word, he let it be known that he has been aching for her.

He sat her on the bed, lowered himself to one knee, and presented these words to her:

“I am without if I am without you.
I die every time you depart from me.
I am reborn when you are near.
Though I fear no man, I fear breathing
when I cannot see you,
I barely exist when we are apart, and I
endure when we are together.
Shay, will you...”

Shay, not allowing the Romantic to continue, interrupted him to share the story of this tangled web of confusion; she omitted any info about the millions and millions of inheritances, but mainly focused on the mystery surrounding

Myron. Spade expressed some degree of interest, but instantaneously received a text.

After digesting the texted message, his countenance was altered and without much notice, the man abruptly retired to his room for the night.

On Saturday and Sunday, the couple spent all their time together; they patronized three casinos in Biloxi, where Spade spent money like it was water, drove the Natchez Trace, ate steak and lobster, drank, laughed, and sight-saw. In case you are wondering, each night saw each person in their own separate beds.

Monday’s visit to the Satartia Scoop’s humble offices proved devastating. The building had been burned to the ground and Mr. McFarland had not returned from his rural outing. The local sheriff, his 3 sons, and half the town had been out looking for him.

Dejected, the two ventured back toward the tri-city area without knowing who the unidentified chick was that accompanied Bloath on his local crime spree.

Spade drove the entire way while Shay reclined. Some kind of way, 5.0. was capable of driving all the way home while massaging the First Baptist’s chorus leader’s feet with scented, warming oil.

On interstate 55, the two listened to an online version of Bishop Jinx’s most recent sermon entitled: “You Can’t be Fixed Unless you Been Broken.”

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“Shay, will you...”

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An excerpt of the sermon suggested: “many of you’s peoples are in a pit. Ya’ll worrying bout the sides of the pit, when you need to be axing why you there. Joseph’s brothers throwed him in the pit and he sat there until they got another idea. What I am saying? That ya’ll may need to be in a place where you just thank, not move all about, but just thank! Then, without you moving about and involving yoself in God bid-ness, it give him a chance to develop yo next step without yo help.

See, once Jo-Jo came up out of that pit, he got sold and ended up in Egypt. Ya’ll know the story, Pothead’s (Deacon Lester could be heard saying, “Potiphar, sir.”) wife tried to bump bellies, but look here, while singing he “saw something wrong with a little bump...” (Mother Sherell could be heard saying “alright Pastor.”) Look here, he did right and still ended up in jail. Ya’ll gonna do right and still be caught up in some stuff.”

Bishop could then be heard yelling “Read!” Mother Sherell could be heard saying, “This is from the NIV: **John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* Bishop went on to say, “Thanks Mother, I like the New Inspirational Version (no one said a word).

Ya’ll getting stuck in yall’s pits and yall’s cells, yall making yall’s pits and cells yall’s home, when as chill’n of God, you should know that ain’t yo place, or who you is... God must be

letting you, ‘chill-lax...’ young folks I got that from Charlamange and ne’m. He letting you chill-lax, and rather than fretting, pray to find out why you is where you is and then start praising him for what he gone do next! If you trust him, then trust him, always and forever. I feel a heatwave in here!... Ask Jonah, the Lawd will let you sit in some nasty places, fish guts and all, to teach you something. Amen?”

Next on the recording, Tiny, one of the Slattery twins, can be heard yelling, “Ouch!” Shay was told that one of the buttons from the Bishop’s vest popped off and caught the young women above her right eye. Rumor is that it left a scar.

By the end of the sermon, Shay and her sort-of-beau made it safely to their city. While at home, Shay sat on everything that she knew and tried to develop a plan of action to find out what she didn’t. She temporarily stopped going to First Baptist,



as she did not want to see the Deacon or his son until she understood all of the inner-workings of this profound mystery.

Before she knew it, she started repeating, “Holy Spirit activate, activate, activate!” Shay sat and pondered everything that occurred and thought that perhaps she may have recalled a vital clue and piece of the puzzle. She recounted hearing Bea say, “Your Granny told me to tell you to play your favorite game with her.” They actually had two favorite games: Parcheesi and Message Decoder.

Next, Shay tried to call Bea to get confirmation that she heard and understood her correctly, but there was no answer. She called, then called, and called again, but simply to no avail. She pondered that, of course, there would be no way to play either game by herself. Parcheesi cannot be effectively played solo, and as far as Message Decoder, Mae would have had to give her a note. The deal was that encoded in each note was a private message. They would only capitalize the letters of the words to relay a secret message.

Wait! It just dawned on Shay that Granny Mae left her that cryptic letter the day she was made aware of her inheritance. Before she could go to her filing cabinet to retrieve the correspondence from the lawyers, the Satartia, MS police called after seeing Shay’s telephone number on Bea’s caller I.D. multiple times. The policemen explained the old woman expired in her sleep the previous

night. Almost immediately after, Spade texted Shay and said, “I am coming right over, I have something for you; I am right around the corner.”

When he arrived, the Fuzz was wearing a tight muscle shirt and smelled of Shay’s favorite scent. The voice said something inappropriate and added, “*just do it and you can always repent later.*” Next, the beefy patrolman handed Shay the missing pages to the Satartia Scoop newspaper and a thick Manilla envelope.

Wait to see what happens on the next edition of First Baptist.

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