

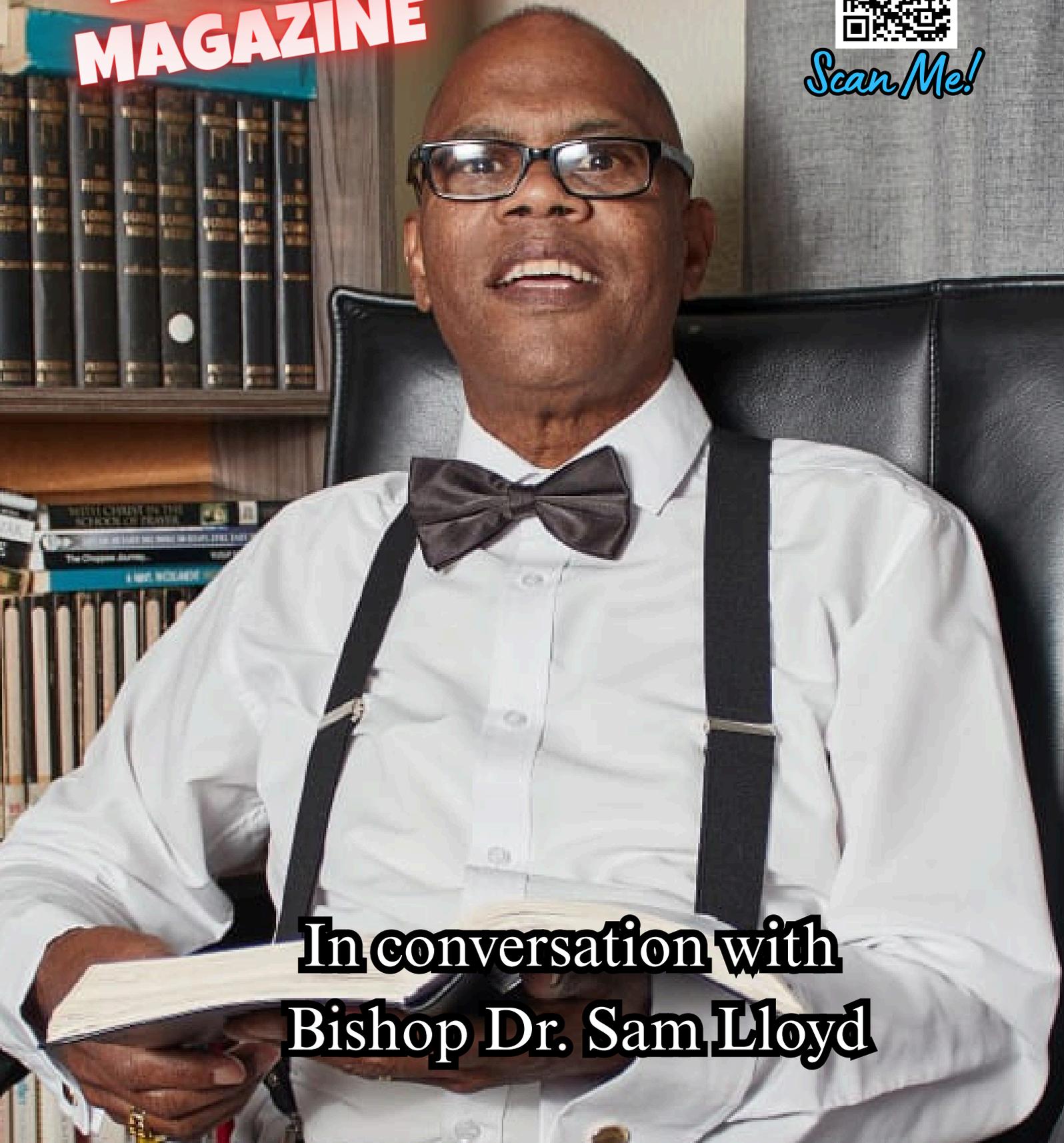
# TESTIFY

## MAGAZINE

July 2025



*Scan Me!*



**In conversation with  
Bishop Dr. Sam Lloyd**

**KEEPING JESUS BEFORE PEOPLE!**

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Issue 30  
July 2025

## COVER STORY: BISHOP DR SAM LLOYD



Bishop Dr. Sam Lloyd is a renowned Christian leader and prophetic voice, dedicated to sharing the Gospel and inspiring others to live out their faith. For 42 years, he has been walking this journey of faith alongside his wife, Pastor Maureen Lloyd, a pillar of strength and support in his ministry. Together, they have built a legacy of faith, love, and service to the community. In this interview, Bishop Lloyd shares his background, ministry, and vision for the future.

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## DISCLAIMER AND CONTACTS

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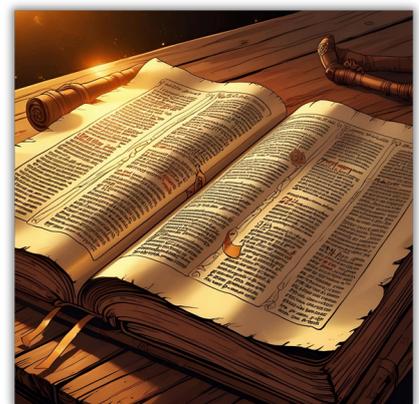
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# COVER STORY

## BISHOP DR SAM LLOYD

### In conversation with Bishop Dr. Sam Lloyd

Bishop Dr. Sam Lloyd is a renowned Christian leader and prophetic voice, dedicated to sharing the Gospel and inspiring others to live out their faith. For 42 years, he has been walking this journey of faith alongside his wife, Pastor Maureen Lloyd, a pillar of strength and support in his ministry. Together, they have built a legacy of faith, love, and service to the community. In this interview, Bishop Lloyd shares his background, ministry, and vision for the future.



# BISHOP DR SAM LLOYD

## **A Life of Purpose**

Bishop Lloyd's journey in ministry began with his Christian upbringing. Born into the Griqua church, he was influenced by his grandfather, a preacher and founder of the church in Kliptown. "I was always drawn to open-air preaching," he recalls. This calling has taken him on a path of sharing the Good News with others.

## **Sharing the Gospel**

When asked what motivates him to share his faith, Bishop Lloyd cites the mandatory call of Christ to go and be His witness to the world. "Hundreds of millions are lost, and I can make a spiritual calling, and I can make a difference," he emphasizes. His ministry and public speaking style are centered around preaching Christ and leading souls to the Lord.

## **The Power of Jesus**

Bishop Lloyd believes that the most important message to share with the world today is Jesus as Lord. "By following Paul's example of becoming all things to all people, I strive to effectively engage with culture and society," he explains. The church, he adds, should follow the last Commission of Christ and become more outdoors than indoors.

## **A Personal Testimony**

Bishop Lloyd's faith journey is marked by a personal testimony. "I was invited by the Youth to attend a 'braaivleis' event, and there was singing and preaching of the Word, and an invite altar call," he shares. "I accepted Jesus." This experience has shaped his commitment to spiritual growth and development through prayer.

# BISHOP DR SAM LLOYD



## **Impact and Legacy**

Through his ministry, Bishop Lloyd hopes to raise up sons and daughters who will carry the torch of the Gospel and make a positive impact in the world. He is also writing books to impart the Word and inspire others. "I measure the success of my ministry by the growth and development of Ministries of my sons and daughters," he says.

## **Challenges and Opportunities**

Bishop Lloyd identifies lack of sound teaching as one of the biggest challenges facing Christians today. "Equipping is key, yet Christians do not get enough of it," he notes. To overcome these challenges, he encourages Christians to become more hungry for the things of the Spirit.

# BISHOP DR SAM LLOYD

## **Advice and Encouragement**

For young Christians who want to make a difference, Bishop Lloyd advises becoming proactive and investing in yourself. "Testifying to God's work in our lives is crucial in supporting and encouraging one another in our faith," he emphasizes.

## **Looking to the Future**

Bishop Lloyd's vision for the future includes public speaking on his first book and introducing Christ as the Way, Truth, and Life into marriages and relationships. He also plans to set up a YouTube program to share Christ with Africa and beyond. "Through this book, thousands of marriages will be touched and transformed, bringing stability to homes," he says. As a prophetic voice, Bishop Doctor Sam Lloyd is committed to sharing the Gospel and inspiring others to live out their faith. His ministry and public speaking are a testament to his dedication to Christ and His message.



# PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

## SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



by Pastor Michael Gobel Associate  
Pastor of The Campus Church,  
Pietermaritzburg, KZN  
South Africa

### **The Process of Finding the Truth to Biblical Interpretation according to God’s Word (Part 2)**

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands,  
you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” – James 4:8  
(NKJV)*

### **The Process of getting to know God**

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Part of the *process* of getting to *know* God on a more personal level and wanting to be filled by His Spirit is to build on our *relationship* with Him. There is an element of *honesty* and *transparency* required between man and God that allows for us to get to know Him better and to be able to understand His Word in such a way that it not only makes biblical sense but *benefits* our spiritual walk with God. When we fall in love with someone, there is an element of *intimacy* that we experience before we know that this is the right person or that this is indeed the person you wish to spend the rest of your life with – “*in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer or poorer.*”

These words reflect the promise(vows) of unwavering commitment, support, devotion and love we make to our eternal partner through life’s challenges. It is not a commitment that should waiver or disappear at the first sign of trouble or trials. Yet, sadly, in today’s world we see marriages and relationships that can hardly get to the first year’s anniversary celebration. Why is that?

From years of counselling and mentoring couples in dealing with matrimonial issues, I am convinced that trouble occurs mainly because couples don’t allow for enough time in the preliminarily phase of a relationship to get to really know and understand each other. This is usually a critical period of any relationship, allowing for both parties to ‘get to know’ each other before diving into a more serious form of intimacy or commitment, that you might regret at a later stage.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Unfortunately, our human nature is to put our best foot forward during this time and as a result we don't really get to see or experience the *darker* (bad) side of that person's nature or character. Let's not fool ourselves or become all hyper-spiritual right now by thinking that this does not happen to the best of us, or that it does not happen to children of God—we all have a *darker* side to our nature and character and the only difference amongst true children of God and unbelievers, is that we hopefully trust God to suppress those darker parts to our human (sinful) nature and bring out the more godly side once we surrender our lives to Christ. No one is perfect and no one is exempt from these unfortunate sinful (fleshly) qualities that at times can get the better of us.

But in terms of choosing a life partner for yourself, it is important that you don't just be caught up in the emotional elements to the physical attraction towards the person but make sure that you know and understand who that person really is and what their nature and character would be like under pressure.

Ironically, the same applies to our *relationship* with God. Whether it's before or after we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, it is critical if not imperative that we begin a process of "getting to know God." Get to understand who He really is and what He is willing and able to do for you, not only in times of trouble but in times of loneliness, heartache, sorrow, pain and suffering. How many children of God today will go through life never really knowing who their heavenly Father is and what that sacrifice of Jesus Christ really means to them by receiving the gift of eternal life, and most importantly, how are you able to tap into the rich deposits of God's blessings and spiritual gifts He has in store for you while you are still on this earth.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Often, newborn believers get swept away by the *'emotional attachment'* to Christ because of the overwhelming gratitude towards Jesus for His love, mercy and grace, or because of the fear of death and of not wanting to go to hell or by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit knocking on the door of their heart as they submit to that call of God by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

But honestly speaking, how many Christians today have accepted Christ but beyond what they experienced at conversion or maybe in Sunday School, or from the *occasional* readings in the Bible during a Sunday service, their knowledge and understanding of the True God – His nature and character as our loving Father, merciful Son and intimate Holy Spirit is very *limited* and to some degree even distorted or misunderstood. This is not what God would call, 'having a relationship with Him.' God wants of His children to desire the need to draw nearer to Him and the more we do this, the more God begins the *'process of sanctification'*—of transforming, healing and restoring our lives by revealing more and more of Himself to us.

## **Start by 'evaluating' your own relationship with God**

Last month, I ended Part 1 of this series by stating that for us to acquire a better understanding of God's Word, that we might be able to Biblically and spiritually interpret the Word of God more accurately and effectively, we need to *first* evaluate our *personal* relationship with God.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I then said that we need to unfortunately ask ourselves some tough questions which will give us a pretty good idea of where we stand in relation to our connection, intimacy, and personal association with God. So, let's address some of these questions right now by asking the following questions: What is my *current* relationship with God? What does that relationship look and feel like? And what does it consist of in terms of my communication, visitation, intimacy, prayer, worship, fasting, communion and fellowship with God? From the get-go, I can already confess to you, that if your relationship with God is not costing you anything then it is not much of a relationship to even speak of. There must be a cost *factor* involved!

Secondly, a very important question that we need to ask ourselves is, does my relationship with God consist more of a 'monologue' rather than a 'dialogue' form of communication? ('Monologue' referring to a speech or expression of thoughts and feelings where you get little or no response or feedback from the other person. A 'dialogue' on the other hand refers to a *conversation* between two or more persons.) In a dialogue you are willing and able to build a rapport, develop a relationship by finding common ground on certain topics or matters of interest.

In a dialogue you can relate better to the other person/s because there is a mutual understanding, it is more than simply an 'emotional attachment' or feeling towards the other person. There is an element of respect, courtesy and rapport. You cannot build a relationship with someone when you are doing all the talking or when the giving or sharing is a one-sided affair.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you don't have a reciprocal response, not only in the sharing but in the *listening* to God then that relationship or communication usually becomes unbalanced and later totally unhinged and before you know it, it has gone completely *silent* and non-existent. This is when we refer to the body of Christ or a congregation as a bunch of dry bones, meaning, you might be present in church (in the physical sense of the word) but there is no spiritual connection between your human spirit and God. As a result, the Holy Spirit has left the *house*, and the body of Church (the church) becomes merely an 'assembly of dry bones' or an empty vessel.

If, however, you are indeed having a dialogue with God, whether that is in a corporate sense or as individual children of God—meaning, you or the church is allowing God to communicate back to the body, then the question needs to be asked—how exactly are you allowing Him to communicate back to you? What does that *conversation or communication* consist of and how are you interpreting such dialogue?

These are the tough yet important questions that we sometimes overlook or even try to avoid because in attempting to answer them we soon realise that we don't really *know* God as much as we would like to admit. Or sadly, we might not even know Him at all on a more *personal* level, and to our absolute shock we might even find out, that we are not really spending enough *quality* time in communication with Him other than our weekly *routine* (ceremonial ritual) of going to church and as I've previous denoted, hopefully going to Bible study or a mid-week prayer meeting or Home Cell gathering of the saints.

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This lack of communication and continuous prayer and devotion to God is detrimental to our relationship with God but it is also the biggest contributor to not been able to biblically interpret the Word of God in a more accurate and effective way.

The Gospel of Mark, more than the other Gospels, highlights the ignorance, weakness, and selfishness of the disciples. This comes despite the many good things Mark has to say about them, including their response to Jesus' initial call (Mark 1:16-20) and to his commissioning of them (Mark 6:7-13). One of the historical events portraying the lack of trust and devotion between Jesus and the disciples is the repetition of 'boat scenes' (Mark 4:35-41; 6:45-52; 8:14-21), which parallel one another in emphasizing the disciples' inability to truly comprehend Jesus' power and authority

The disciples' limited grasp of Jesus' identity is matched by their limited grasp of his message of salvation. They continued to desire power and status (Mark 9:33-37; 10:13-16; and 10:35-45). Jesus challenges them several times for their failure to recognize that following him requires a fundamental attitude of self-sacrifice. Most obviously, of course, the disciples desert Jesus at the time of his arrest and trial (Mark 14:50-51). The juxtaposition of Peter's threefold denial (Mark 14:66-72) with the death of Jesus throws the cowardice and courage of the two men, respectively, into sharper relief.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

You see, it's easy for a Christian to say, 'I love God,' or 'I believe in God' but how often can we confess that we truly know Him and trust Him as our Lord and Saviour? Or that we are continuously being filled by the Spirit of the Lord? We know from the teachings of the Bible in John 17:3 (NKJV) in which it says, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*" So clearly, knowing God is directly linked to our salvation, as is also indicated by our keynote passage of Scripture from James 4:8 (NKJV) in which it says, "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*"

Part of getting to *know* God is not simply accepting His Son Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, that's the *easy* part! The difficult part of "drawing near to God" requires an element of sacrifice, devotion, trust, obedience and commitment. These are spiritual duties, routines, functions and applications that a backslider or *lukewarm* Christian seems to want to avoid or ignore. It's the part that requires opening yourself up to the vulnerabilities of being human, of exposing or revealing to God your failures, weaknesses and shortcomings, of being transparent and honest to Him about who you really are? It requires acknowledging the need to place God first in your life and to make the walk with God not a weekly obligation but a daily lifestyle.



# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

So, my question is, what precisely are you doing to better yourself as a committed child of God? How are you coping with the stresses of life and the attacks of the devil? Have you even gone as far as to equip yourself with the armour of God? And, how much of your holistic life (your mind, body and spirit) are you willing to sacrifice and submit to God's authority and will in order that He might move into those secret corridors of your life to have His way? Once again, these are often questions and complexities we don't seem to want to deal with when it comes to our relationship with God. Again, I must note, having a relationship with God must cost us something. Don't always equate cost with some monetary value, it does not necessarily mean that—it could be your time, effort, your talents or gifts, or it could be all those addictions or strongholds that we tend to want to hold on to.

## **Removing the Masks of Hypocrisy**

Most Christians these days, simply see their *relationship* as going to church on a Sunday and maybe going to a Prayer Meeting or Home Cell gathering during the week but beyond that many Christians don't really want to sacrifice more of their time to the workings of God in their lives. We seem to have a 'spiritual mask' for religious occasions and a 'worldly mask' for social, cultural, and family events and gatherings. Rarely are we witnessing families these days willing to sacrifice a time for daily devotions, let alone be willing to say grace before a meal or spend time with the children – praying and reading from God's Word.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

We've almost got to the point where we have *isolated* God to a geographical location of the church building but do not wish to follow those same biblical principles and precepts outside of such religious surroundings or authority. Rather than speak of our default "*sinful nature*" and the consequences of us living in sin we feel more comfortable preaching on the historical nature or biblical events of the past. It's less confrontational and intrusive to rather just focus on the goodness of God's love, mercy and grace than to deal with the issues of the heart –which, if you haven't already realised – matter the most to God. The condition of the heart is a central theme throughout Scripture, reflecting on one's *relationship* with God and others. The heart's state is crucial because it influences actions, thoughts, and our spiritual health. In Biblical terms, the heart is the seat of one's inner life, the core of our being.

Having to submit to God in spirit and in truth and dealing with the necessary sacrifices that need to be made in terms of our time, effort, commitment or wealth are all critical elements that need to be exposed to God if we really wish to call ourselves a child of God and not just a Christian because of our belief in Christ or our affiliation to the Christian faith. We cannot allow ourselves to get hot under the collar—temperamental—or try to find any feeble excuse not to come to church because the preacher or messenger is getting too personal for your liking, or the Pastor might have offended you by not greeting you on a Sunday, and as a result, you now don't wish to go back to church. If that is the level or strength of your devotion to your faith, then God help us when it comes to the Day of Judgment.

**What needs to change in your life?**

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whether we like it or not, the difficult part of getting to know God more intimately, requires of us to go that extra mile, to look beyond our circumstances, beyond our salvation, and beyond God's love, mercy, and grace. We can sometimes get so caught up in the things that are already guaranteed, that we miss some of the real valuable lessons that God wants to teach us for spiritual growth and maturity in and through His Word. We need to understand that God doesn't change, nor does His Word. God's Word is "*a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" — *Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)*

It is the Word of God (not a word) that is the same yesterday, today and forever more. It is consistent, accurate and is as solid as the Rock on which He continuous to build His Church—that being the rock of Christ. It is not dependent on the *works* of any saint, Pope, bishop, preacher, teacher, or believer. God is building His church to be the Bride of Christ irrespective of the current circumstances that we face.

The metaphor of the Church as the Bride of Christ is a profound and richly symbolic theme found throughout the New Testament. This imagery conveys the intimate and covenantal relationship between Christ and His Church, emphasizing love, unity, purity, and eschatological hope.

What does however change is our emotions, feelings, and our understanding of who God really is and of how we can develop a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Him. Therefore, to improve or help grow and deepen our relationship with God we need a better and more accurate '*Biblical interpretation*' or understanding of His Word.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The clearer and more accurate our Biblical interpretation and understanding is of God's Word the better change we have of drawing nearer to Him and of growing in the fullness of God's wisdom, glory and knowledge through His Word – so that we will not be led astray by false prophets or be swayed by the winds of false doctrine or wayward teachings, ideologies, misinterpretations, false indoctrination or inaccurate revelations.

Our constant concern as a *true* child of God who dearly loves the Lord must be to want to do our heavenly Fathers' will. To do that we need to firstly recognise that the Bible is the *only* Source of Truth. It is the only authority that discloses the will of God for our lives. Naturally, the Bible is not always easy to understand or interpret.

## **How to determine who and what is 'Truth'?**

One might sometimes want to ask, "How can I, as a follower of Christ, reach into the treasures (oracles) of truth that consist of the Holy Bible? Many verses seem irrelevant; many seem impossible to understand. Learned theologians frequently have great differences of opinion concerning what the Bible teaches. How much more would we as Pastor, teachers, elders and ordinary children of God be able to accurately translate or interpret the Word of God?"

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

How can the ordinary believer determine which teacher, preacher, or theologian is leading you correctly or possibly leading you astray? Must we be limited to blindly follow a teacher or preacher, knowing that he is a fallible human being and therefore subject to error? What about the problems that arise from the different translations of the Bible or different denominational doctrines? How can I know which ones are trustworthy? Do I dare trust paraphrases, which seem to make the Bible easier to understand?

This series of articles and teachings was written to answer many of these questions and present a few basic principles and guidelines of biblical truth that should be helpful in our analyses, interpretation and understanding of the Bible. May it be that we have a fresh appreciation and anointing after completing this series of the wonderful revelations of God's Word. This Word being the Holy Bible. In next month's article I will be evaluating a rather controversial subject in the church today, that of speaking in tongues and the *interpretation* of such message or word.



**If you wish to support my ministry to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost or in helping the efforts of my registered 'non-profit,' public-benefit organisation called Planting Hope Foundation NPC to offer humanitarian aid and relief to many struggling widows, orphans and vulnerable families and individuals suffering in our community, as a result of poverty, unemployment, or various addictions, fell free to contact me on the details below.**

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I urgently require the assistance of the public to help me fund a rehabilitation and transformational initiative from which I will be implementing and facilitating an Advance Restorative Justice Programme called 'The Honour Programme' in various prisons across South Africa. I wrote this programme with the primary objective to assist in reducing the high level of 'recidivism' (meaning, reoffending after rehabilitation and reintegration) in South Africa and to implement a rehabilitation intervention that will bring long-term, effective "transformation" to those offenders that have been led astray or negatively influenced and effective by wrongful association to lack of proper education, gangsterism, corruption, lack of moral principles, drug addiction, violent behaviour or mental disorders. We thank you in advance for your sincere consideration to donate and support these efforts for our prison ministry.

May God bless His Word and may His children live in victory of the gift we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

In God's love, Pastor Mike Gobel Associate Pastor of 'The Campus Church'

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# GERDA POTGIETER

## EXCLUSIVE: RESTORATION



Gerda Potgiter is Editor of Devoted Magazine.

**The persecution of Christians can manifest in a variety of ways, each reflecting the challenges and struggles faced by believers around the world.**

**By Gerda Potgieter**

Napoleon Bonaparte is on record for having said, “The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the silence of good people”. There is truth in this comment. Raising awareness about the persecution faced by Christians is a crucial priority. Sharing their stories on social media, discussing them with friends and family, and educating

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church communities are all vital actions. The more people know about these issues, the more support persecuted individuals and Christian organisations can receive. After all, we are all one in the Body of Christ.

Sadly, most media outlets, when they indeed report on Christian persecution, tend to focus exclusively on the more overt atrocities, such as brutal murders and violent harassment. However, the attacks on Christians and their faith manifest in a multitude of less visible but equally damaging ways. These include insidious forms of harassment and intimidation, as well as the painful experience of being ostracised by friends and family who oppose the Gospel.

The persecution of Christians can be historically traced from the first century of the Christian era, and it continues in modern times. The oppression can take the form of blasphemy, where sacred beliefs are belittled, and mocking jests are hurled at believers and their practices. Some Christians have also persecuted other Christians due to differences in doctrine. Moreover, the media often perpetuates a distorted narrative, misrepresenting Christian organisations and disseminating articles filled with inaccuracies about individuals, groups, and the broader principles of Christianity. This subtle yet pervasive form of persecution leaves deep scars and fuels a harmful atmosphere of misunderstanding and discrimination.

Media bias is a real phenomenon, and so is digital persecution. A common stereotype in the media involves name-calling—labelling Christian organisations as cults and their leaders as cultists, for example. Christianity is also often portrayed as narrow-minded,

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outdated, and prejudiced. Beliefs and behaviours within Christianity are frequently presented as dramatic, unusual, and excessive, almost always in a negative context. This bombardment of negative media coverage regarding Christians and Christianity often stems from a misunderstanding of the religion or is entangled in the ideology of Christophobia.

There is considerable concern about how mainstream media generally portray religion and belief. The overall view is that the media should strive to promote greater religious literacy and foster a more comprehensive understanding and representation of all religions in their coverage. The media should take care that people who are in powerful positions don't abuse the platform to share their opinion about a religion rather than an informed, objective coverage of a story.

## **CONFIRMATORY BIAS**

People subconsciously search for arguments to endorse their own opinions. Some people believe only what they want to think, even sidelining other facts and counterarguments. There is a name for this kind of behaviour – it is called confirmatory or ideological bias.

In essence, it means that if someone holds a strong opinion against religion, their confirmatory bias might lead them to view Christianity as a cult, among other beliefs.

As an example of confirmatory bias, I can refer to an article title Religion is a mental virus, in which the writer referred to and quoted the atheist, Richard Dawkins, saying, 'Religion is a mental virus and one of the strongest memes transmitted from parents to vulnerable children who

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do not have any choice in whether their minds should be allowed to be exposed to this virus. '[1] It appears that the writer, George Claassen, holds a strong negative opinion regarding religion.

As the ombudsman of the digital news outlet News24, Claassen is responsible for investigating and objectively evaluating complaints about editorial content, including instances of false reporting about Christian organisations. I found many examples where his evaluation of Christian content was not unbiased. In this instance, it is also essential to determine how balanced News24's coverage of Christianity is in its reports. I stumbled on articles published by News24, which openly mocked the Christian faith. For instance, the article titled *Is it fair to ridicule what Christians believe?* Written by an anonymous writer, this is an argument for atheism. It also included blasphemy and mocked Christians and Christianity in general. The writer stated, inter alia:

Some of the insights I have about atheism only came as a result of reading these arguments (Christians' arguments for God). But I must admit, many times in debating Christians, I have to control myself from laughing out loud – especially when in discourse with Christian friends or watching Joseph Prince or Joyce Meyers with my family ...Someday in the future, people will treat Christianity just like all of the other dead gods and religions are treated today. We mock them. In the future, anyone who learns about Christianity in a history book will mock it like all the other dead religions.

## **SILENT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES**

What unsettled me most about the abovementioned articles is the glaring absence of voices from the Christian community—no individual

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or organisation willing to boldly and consistently condemn the blasphemy addressed in the piece above. How is it that we can stand silent in the face of such affronts? I've encountered numerous instances where individuals and media outlets faced severe backlash, even punishment, for daring to cast a negative light on the Muslim faith, often filled with regret for their words. Yet, when it comes to Christian beliefs being the target of scorn and derision, Christians seem to retreat into silence. Why do Christians allow their faith to be ridiculed without a fight?

I've noticed the same tendency to remain silent about important matters when researching the ongoing media onslaught against the Christian organisation, the KwaSizabantu Mission in KwaZulu-Natal. There was no evidence to support any of the serious allegations the media published. I found evidence that the media onslaught against the Christian organisation was based on a smear campaign for which people were offered R1 million and an apartment overseas, among other promises. The Mission was the target of a planned hostile takeover by family members of the late founder, Rev. Erlo Stegen, with contacts in mainstream media. The Mission was subsequently portrayed by News24 as a cult where people are abused to fit a personal agenda.

I watched videos featuring individuals who have been labelled as victims of KwaSizabantu. In these videos, they came forward to refute the lies and deceit surrounding the mission, stating clearly that they are not victims and were misrepresented by the media. Despite their testimonies, mainstream Christian media remained silent about the injustice of the situation and failed to report the truth of this case.

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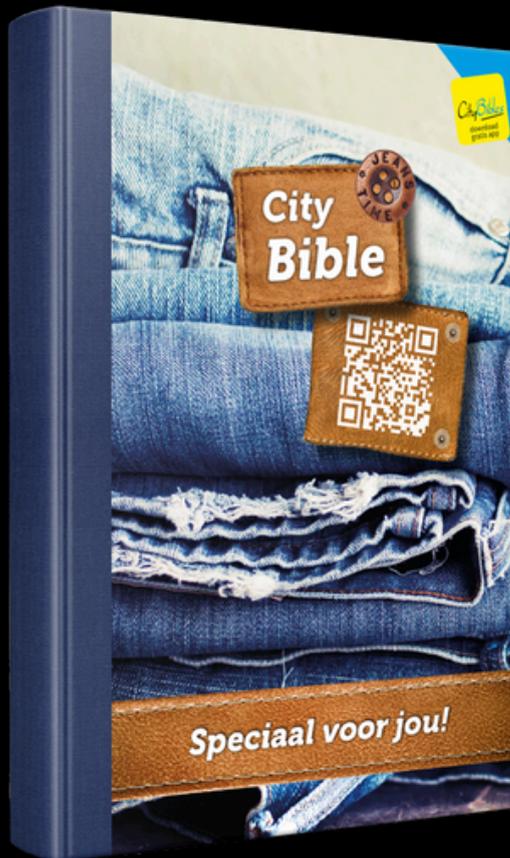
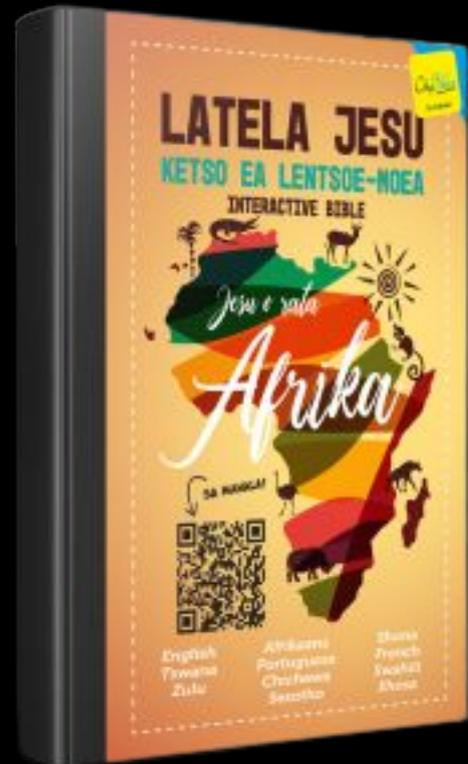
Furthermore, these outlets declined to share inspiring stories about the thousands of people who visit the mission each year, find the Lord, and transform their lives for the better.

On my very first day at the mission station, I realised that God was at work there. From my experience, I know that where God is active, Satan seeks to undermine that work. I decided to defend God's mission rather than the organisation itself. During the investigation, I had the privilege of meeting Christians who truly embody the essence of Christianity and exemplify what it means to care for others. My hope was restored, and I can honestly say that I became a better person throughout this journey. During my investigation into this case, I have learned several essential lessons. First, if you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything. Second, Christians and Christian organisations are all vulnerable to attacks from the secular world and the media.

Unfortunately, we cannot always rely on fellow Christians for support. It often feels like a dog-eat-dog world, where everyone looks out for themselves, which is truly a sad situation. Remaining silent or failing to act when one knows what is right can significantly contribute to the prevalence of evil in the world.

**(NOTE: Read the story about Mamazane Maphumulo's journey to forgiveness and restoration in Testify Magazine PLUS, the July edition. You will gain a better understanding of the content above and the extent of Christian persecution).**

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# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS  
CHRIST?

## THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

### Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thinking about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

### 2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

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This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

- = **Everlasting Punishment**
- = **Destruction**
- = **Shut Out**
- = **No Godly Presence**
- = **And no Glory at all**

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

[John 14:6](#)

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

**NASB**

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

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### John 1:12-13

**"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."**

**NASB**

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

### Romans 10 vs 9-10

**"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."**

**NASB**

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

**Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.**

# BELIEF

And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



---

ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

# PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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# HYBRE KIVEDO

## GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS



Hybre Kivedo is Writer and Author with an amazing insight and passion for Jesus!

### What Every Woman Needs to Hear: Manifesting Success

*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."*

— Matthew 5:14 (KJV)

There is a sound from heaven calling women back to their purpose, their identity, and truth. It is a clarion call echoing through the souls of women all over the earth, and the clarion sounding states, "Rise, daughter. It is your time".

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

We live in a world that constantly tries to define women by fleeting standards, by looks, by status, by productivity, and by performance. But the Lord is reminding His daughters that **their success is not defined by the world's applause but by heaven's assignment.** It is time to rise in clarity, rise in power, and rise in purity. You are the light, the city, the one appointed to stand and not shrink back. You were never meant to be hidden.

This month, God's heart is whispering loudly:

**"You are seen. You are heard. You are My beloved. And I have planted My fire within you for such a time as this."**

## ◆ You Are Valued and Deeply Loved

Before any achievement, before you were praised or criticized, before the world had an opinion about you, **Elohim, the creator of heaven and of earth, loved you.**

Psalm 139:13–14 declares:

"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Let that truth settle in your soul: **You were not mass-produced. You were handcrafted by Elohim, the Creator of the universe.**

The enemy would love for women to feel small, insignificant, or forgotten, but Heaven has never once turned its face from you.

Women of the Most High God, Daughter of Zion, know that;

You are loved without condition.

You are chosen without comparison.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

You are seen in every detail.

**You don't have to strive for what you already are; you are loved and valuable where you are standing right at this moment, reading this very word.**

## ◆ You Were Born with Purpose and Heaven's Potential

Your life is not random. You are not “just” a wife, “just” a mother, “just” a woman trying to survive.

You were created **on purpose and for a purpose.**

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." — Ephesians 2:10

There are assignments on your life, some of which are quiet, some of which are bold, but they are all powerful. Whether you're ministering at the pulpit, raising children, counselling a hurting soul, building a business, out in the field or the marketplace, or praying in secret, know this: **Heaven sees, Heaven reads, and Heaven moves.**

**"Heaven Sees" God watches all things.**

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV)

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

God sees everything every act, every motive, every injustice, every faith-filled step. Heaven is not blind or indifferent. It's attentive.

**"Heaven Reads"** God discerns and understands deeply.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Jeremiah 17:10 (ESV)

“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

Heaven reads not just actions, but intentions, desires, and thoughts. Heaven keeps record. Nothing goes unnoticed or misunderstood.

**"Heaven Moves"** God acts with power and purpose.

Isaiah 64:4 (NIV)

“Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.”

Heaven doesn't just observe, it responds. It moves mountains, topples giants, opens prison doors, and answers prayers. When God moves, it's undeniable.

Therefore, woman of the Most High God, you were created to shift atmospheres, carry glory, and birth breakthroughs. Every gift you carry was entrusted to you **to build, to bless, and to bring light.**

## ◆ Walk in the Footsteps of Faithful Women

The Bible is not just a book of old stories; it is a mirror showing you what's possible.

**Deborah** stood in leadership when men stood down. She judged a nation, prophesied, and led them to victory. (Judges 4–5)

**Esther** entered a palace of power not for prestige but for purpose. She

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

saved her people by risking it all. (Esther 1–10)

**Ruth** walked through grief, famine, and uncertainty. But her faithfulness led to a legacy of redemption. (Ruth 1–4)

Mary said yes to an angel's impossible word. Her womb carried the Savior of the world. (Luke 1)

**The woman at the well**, a woman with a past, became the first evangelist in her region after one encounter with Jesus. (John 4)

You, too, carry that same faith lineage. Their God is your God. Their legacy now rests in your hands.

## ◆ Manifesting Heaven's Definition of Success

What does success look like for a woman of God?

Not fame.

Not wealth.

Not being liked.

**True success is obedience.** It is doing the will of the Father, walking in step with His Spirit, and shining in the place where He has positioned you.

Here are the spiritual principles to walk in that success:

### ✔ Trust His Plan

"For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord... 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future.'" — Jeremiah 29:11

Your journey may not look like others', but it's perfectly tailored by the Master Planner, Jesus Himself, through the Power of His Holy Spirit.

### ✔ Walk by Faith

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." — Hebrews 11:1

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

When it's dark, believe. When it's quiet, keep trusting. Faith sees what eyes cannot.

## ✔ **Seek Godly Wisdom**

"She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her." — Proverbs 3:15

Success without wisdom is empty. Wisdom ensures you're building what God designed.

## ✔ **Be Strong and Courageous**

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

Your strength doesn't come from striving; it comes from knowing who walks with you.

## ✔ **Keep Your Light On**

"You are the light of the world." — Matthew 5:14

You don't light a lamp and hide it. So don't hide your anointing. Let your life preach.

## ◆ **Balancing Love for Others and Obedience to God**

So many women pour out for everyone else but have nothing left for their divine assignment. You can love deeply, give generously, and still prioritize your walk with the Lord.

Consider this:

**Mary and Martha** (Luke 10: 38 - 42): One chose busyness. One chose Jesus' feet. Only one was commended.

**Deborah** was a mother in Israel and a leader. She didn't neglect one to honour the other.

**Esther** served her people while walking out her calling in the palace.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

You can do both—but not in your strength. In His.

Here's how:

Set Healthy Boundaries: Not every need is your assignment.

Communicate Clearly: Be honest with your family and friends about your call.

Stay in the Secret Place: You can't pour out what you haven't received.

Let Go of Guilt: Pleasing people and pleasing God are not always the same.

Don't Apologize for Being Called: If God said it, He meant it. Walk in it.

## ◆ **You Are Not Alone, Heaven Walks with You**

When you feel invisible, He sees you.

When you feel unheard, He hears you.

When you feel tired, He carries you.

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles." — Isaiah 40:31

You are not weak. You are renewed.

"Carry each other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2

You don't walk this journey alone. You walk with Jesus, and you walk with sisters in the faith who are rising too.

## ◆ **Your Identity is Rooted in Christ**

Culture will always try to label you:

Too loud.

Too soft.

Too much.

Not enough.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

## **But God calls you by a different name:**

Redeemed.

Chosen.

Daughter.

Light Bearer.

Glory Carrier.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile... male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:28

You are not second-rate. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places.

## ◆ **Scriptures for Soaking and Standing**

Matthew 5:14 – You are light.

Psalms 139:13–14 – You are wonderfully made.

Proverbs 31 – You are noble, strong, wise, and blessed.

Isaiah 40:31 – You are renewed.

Galatians 6:2 – You are part of a body.

Ephesians 2:10 – You are made for good works.

Jeremiah 29:11 – You have a divine plan.

Joshua 1:9 – You are courageous.

Judges 4–5, Esther 1–10, Ruth 1–4, Luke 10:38–42, John 4 – Your spiritual sisters paved the way.

## ◆ **Final Encouragement**

Beautiful Daughter of Zion, you who are created by Elohim, the Most High,

Your life was never meant to be dimmed.

You were made to blaze.

To shake hell.

# GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

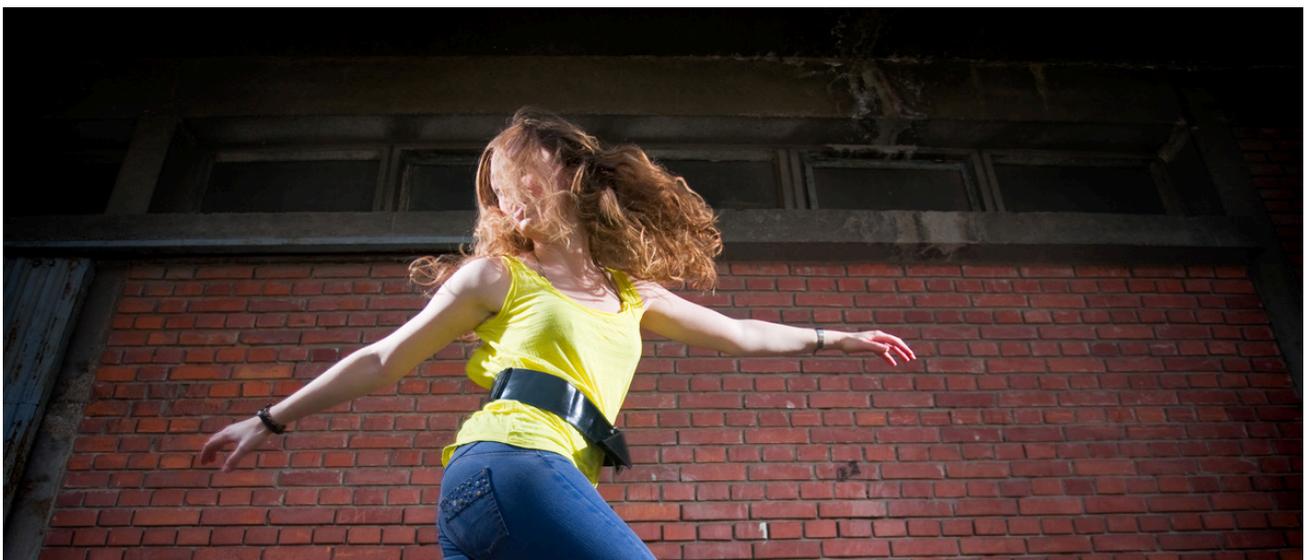
To birth hope.  
To manifest Kingdom.  
You are not too late.  
You are not too broken.  
You are not too small.  
This is your time.

Walk boldly. Shine brightly. Speak truthfully. Love fiercely. And above all, stay close to Jesus.

Let this article not just inspire, but ignite. Let the fire of God consume every lie that was told of you, as in, you couldn't, as in you shouldn't, or you weren't enough.

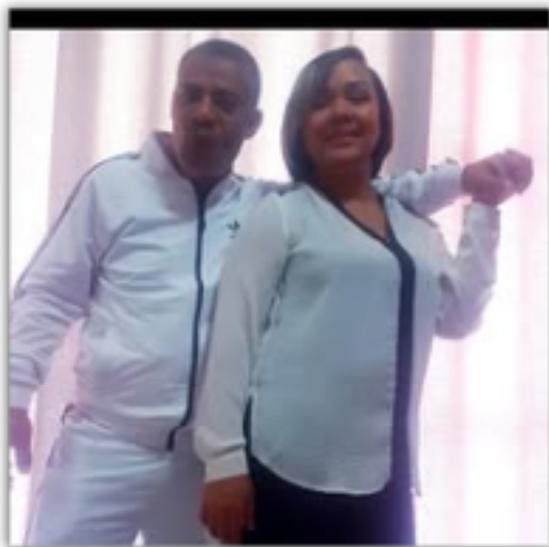
Heaven is watching. Earth is waiting. And you, yes, you, are the woman God chose to carry His glory into your generation.

Go manifest ***success, Kingdom style.***



# BISHOP OT WHITAKER

## FOR THIS CAUSE



Bishop OT Whitaker is Pastor of Rivers of Hope Ministries in Nigel, Gauteng, South Africa.

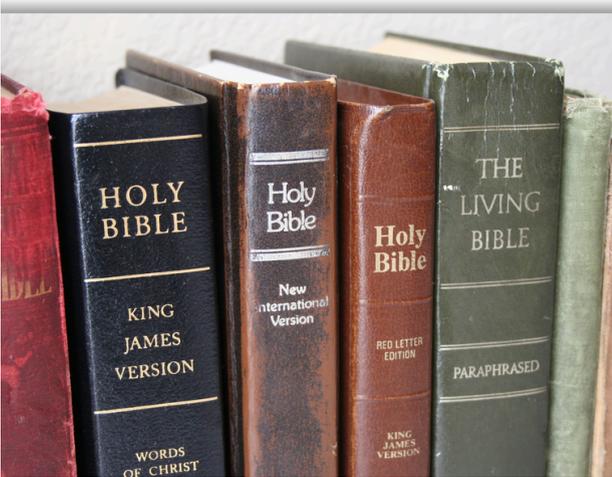
Next Month we await a brand new series by Bishop OT Whittaker called:

### For This Cause The 8 Prophetic Processes



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## What is ITI City Bibles all about?

- 1. Office:** Is located in Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa with Mark Page running the office full time with the title of ITI City Bibles Operations Manager.
- 2. Areas of Work:** Bible Translations (Including Childrens, Teen and Young Adult Bibles) - Book Projects like The Do Book, City Kids Combo etc and Special Projects for books that pertain and enhance the Bible and evangelism eg: Bible Wonders, Life Stories etc.
- 3. Aim:** Is to produce innovative and cost effective Bibles, books and products that bring the Gospel message to the world and those who do not have it.
- 4. Operations Method:** Translations, Audio and Visual means.
- 5. Operating Area:** Global



# ITI CITY BIBLES

6. Areas of importance in operating the ITI: Building a database of editors and proofreaders, Getting Funding streams on board for the ITI City Bibles by means of support, donations and Translations/Audio and Visual work.

7. Needs: We need Bible translation funding and donations, Proofreaders and Editors as well as and people to purchase our Bibles that can be found at [www.citybibles.co.za](http://www.citybibles.co.za)

**We are presently busy with a South African Translation Project of all the major languages of South Africa and also into Audio format, we ask your prayers in this regard!**





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