

TESTIFY

MAGAZINE

September 2025



Scan Me!

Riaan Swiegelaar

The most important aspect is intimacy with Jesus

KEEPING JESUS BEFORE PEOPLE!

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IN THIS EDITION

Issue 32
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COVER STORY: RIAAN SWIEGELAAR



I was first drawn into the occult through curiosity and a desire for answers. The occult is essentially any practice that seeks hidden knowledge, spiritual power, or supernatural experiences apart from God. It ranges from things people see as "harmless" like astrology, crystals, or energy healing, to deeper practices of witchcraft, ritual magic, and Satanism. My entry point was gradual, but it eventually pulled me deeper and deeper into a world of deception.

Growing up, I struggled with identity, rejection, and not fully understanding my worth. I faced emotional battles that left me feeling isolated and vulnerable. Like so many, I longed for belonging and for answers

to the deeper questions of life. That hunger, combined with pain, became fertile ground for deception to take root later on.

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COVER STORY

RIAAN SWIEGELAAR



RIAAN SWIEGELAAR

1. Tell us a little about where you were born and grew up?

I was born and raised in Oudtshoorn South Africa.

I was born in the early part of 1981. My birth carried its own sense of anticipation, and in an extraordinary way it spared my parents from tragedy. At the time, my expecting parents were preparing for my arrival when they needed to travel to the closest hospital in Oudtshoorn. Because of that timing and journey, they were not in Laingsburg during the devastating flood that struck. In a very real sense, my life began with God's hand of protection — even before I was born, circumstances around my arrival spared my family from disaster.



RIAA SWIEGELAAR

My upbringing was very ordinary in many ways, but beneath the surface there was always a deep spiritual hunger and a sense that life had to be about more than what I could see. My childhood experiences shaped much of my later journey — both the brokenness I walked through and the deep search for meaning that eventually led me into dark places.



2. What were some of the challenges you faced growing up?

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Growing up, I struggled with identity, rejection, and not fully understanding my worth. I faced emotional battles that left me feeling isolated and vulnerable. Like so many, I longed for belonging and for answers to the deeper questions of life. That hunger, combined with pain, became fertile ground for deception to take root later on.

3. How did you first get involved with the occult, and what is the occult?

I was first drawn into the occult through curiosity and a desire for answers. The occult is essentially any practice that seeks hidden knowledge, spiritual power, or supernatural experiences apart from God. It ranges from things people see as "harmless" like astrology, crystals, or energy healing, to deeper practices of witchcraft, ritual magic, and Satanism. My entry point was gradual, but it eventually pulled me deeper and deeper into a world of deception.

4. What attracted you to the occult?

The occult promised answers, empowerment, and control. It offered a sense of belonging and mystery, especially to someone who was hurting and searching. The attraction wasn't initially about darkness — it was presented as light, wisdom, and even "healing." That's how the enemy works: he dresses up lies to look like truth, and pain makes those lies appealing.

5. What would you have done differently in terms of the occult, knowing what you know now?

If I could go back, I would never have entertained curiosity or tried to

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find answers outside of God's Word. I would have run to Christ sooner instead of chasing experiences that only led to emptiness and bondage. But even in my regrets, I see God's mercy — because He turned my worst mistakes into a testimony of His grace and power.

6. What are the dangers and pitfalls of being involved in the occult?

The occult opens doors to demonic influence that people don't realize they are opening. It promises empowerment, but in reality it chains people spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. It creates a false sense of control while pulling people into deeper bondage. The biggest danger is separation from God — because the occult replaces truth with deception and keeps people from experiencing the freedom only Christ can give.

7. What got you out of the occult?

Only Jesus. After two decades of serving darkness, I had a radical encounter with Jesus Christ in May 2022. In one moment of His overwhelming love, every lie I believed was shattered. It wasn't my strength or my wisdom that got me out — it was God's grace, His pursuit of me, and His love that set me free.

8. What would your advice or encouragement be to those still involved?

My encouragement is this: you don't need to search any longer. Everything you're looking for — identity, love, power, healing — is only truly found in Jesus. The occult will promise you freedom but leave you empty. Jesus will give you life, peace, and love beyond anything you can

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imagine. No one is too far gone; if He could reach me, He can reach anyone.

9. What would your advice or encouragement be to Christians about the occult?

Don't take the occult lightly, but also don't give it more credit than it deserves. It is real and dangerous, and Christians need to be aware and discerning. But our focus should not be fear — it should be on Christ, who has already overcome. Christians must stay rooted in the Word, filled with the Spirit, and ready to minister in truth and love to those caught in deception.

10. What is the most important aspect of your Christian walk?

The most important aspect is intimacy with Jesus — knowing Him personally, not just knowing about Him. Relationship with Christ changes everything. Out of that relationship flows trust, obedience, freedom, and purpose. For me, it's no longer about religion or rules; it's about walking daily with the living God who loves me.

11. Does satan tempt and lure people to sin and fall?

Yes, satan does tempt and lure people, just as he has from the beginning. His strategy is always the same: to twist God's Word, offer shortcuts, and make sin look appealing. But we must also remember he cannot force anyone — temptation is not the same as sin. When we walk closely with Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, we have the power to resist and stand firm.

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12. How significant is satan's role in life today as a whole?

Satan's role is very real, but also very limited compared to God's sovereignty. The Bible says he prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. His strategy today is deception—keeping people blind to the truth of Jesus, distracting them with sin, counterfeit spirituality, or hopelessness. But we must remember: Jesus defeated him on the cross. So while satan's influence is visible in brokenness, lies, and destruction in the world, his power is not ultimate. Believers live from a place of victory in Christ, not fear of the enemy.

13. What should the church and Christians be doing about The Occult and satan?

The church should not obsess over the occult, but neither should it ignore it. Many people are searching for answers and stumble into dark practices because they are spiritually hungry. Christians should respond with love, prayer, and the truth of the Gospel. We are called to expose the works of darkness, yes, but more importantly to show the freedom and hope found in Jesus Christ. Practical discipleship, prayer covering, and equipping believers for spiritual warfare are essential, but always with the focus on Jesus, not satan.

14. Do you agree with the statement that Christians blame satan too often in their lives for failures etc? If yes or no elaborate a little for us.

Yes, I do agree. Sometimes Christians give satan too much credit. Not every setback is an attack—sometimes it's a result of our own choices, lack of discipline, or simply life in a fallen world. It is important to take

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responsibility and also to trust God's process in shaping us. That said, we should not ignore the reality of spiritual warfare, but we also should not use satan as a scapegoat for everything. Our focus should remain on Jesus, who empowers us to overcome.

15. What is the role and importance of the Bible for Christians today?

The Bible is the living Word of God—it is not just a rulebook or historical document. It is our guide, our anchor, and our revelation of God's heart. In a world full of confusion and lies, the Bible gives clarity and truth. It is through Scripture that we understand who Jesus is, who we are in Him, and how to live in victory. For Christians today, the Bible is more vital than ever—it shapes our worldview, strengthens our faith, and keeps us rooted in God's promises.

16. Is Evangelism and the Gospel message important and relevant in not only evangelizing but also winning over those caught in satan's clutches?

Absolutely. Evangelism is not outdated—it is the heartbeat of the church. The Gospel is the only true power that breaks chains and sets people free from satan's grip. Programs and debates may shift opinions, **but only the message of Jesus—His death, resurrection, and love—transforms hearts.** People in the occult or bound by lies are not beyond hope. The Gospel is as relevant today as it was in the early church: it brings light into darkness and offers the only true freedom.

PASTOR MIKE GOBEL

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



by Pastor Michael Gobel Associate
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The ‘Theological Science’ verses the ‘Spiritual Intimacy’ of Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics) — (Part 4)

“...how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:” — Ephesians 3:3-5 (NKJV)

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Introduction

In our continued journey through the process of finding the truth in ‘Biblical interpretation,’ I invite you to reflect on a vital distinction: the difference between the intellectual discipline of ‘theological science’ (theory) and the deeper, Spirit-led ‘intimacy with God’ that is necessary for true understanding of His Word. Hermeneutics (Biblical interpretation) is often taught as a technical or academic exercise, yet without spiritual intimacy with the true Author of Scripture, as a result, our interpretations risk becoming nothing more than ‘human reasoning.’ The Apostle Paul reminds us that “the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV).

In this article, we will examine how both approaches—scholarly discipline and spiritual intimacy—must be weighed and balanced, with the Spirit of God always taking precedence. It is not enough to know the text; we must know the LORD of the text. Only then can biblical interpretation move from the pages of theology into the living reality of Spirit-filled soul transformation.

Before I move forward on this subject, allow me to recommend you visit the “Go Big Publications” website — if you haven’t done so already, where you will find a “free” historical collection of all the previous Testify Magazine and Testify Magazine PLUS publications. By going to www.gobigpublications.com you will have access to the full array of other amazing testimonies, articles, and Christian teachings by some great authors and content providers, which I am confident will be of blessing to you. I highly recommend that you like and share this monthly magazine with your family and friends. Now back to our teaching!

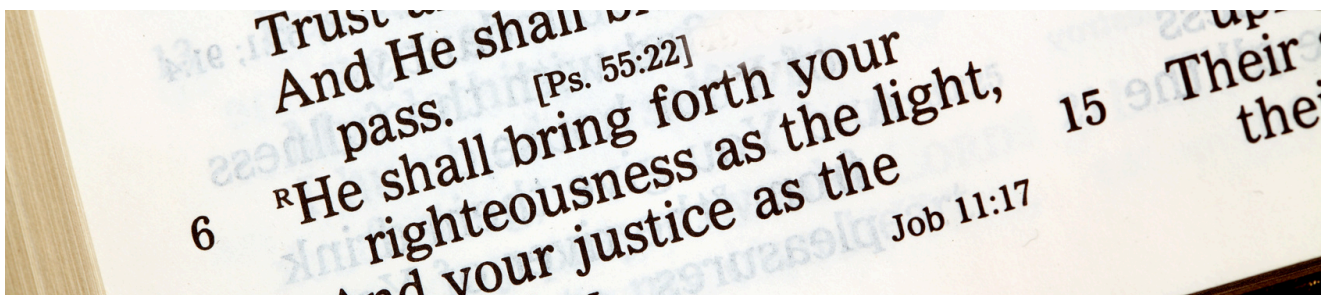
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The Sword of the Spirit: Theological Science verses Spiritual Intimacy

When it comes to Biblical interpretation, there are countless guidelines and countless opinions that have been written down through the ages. Yet the truth is this: the interpretation of Scripture should not begin with human intellect or academic theories, but with the Spirit of God.

The Bible is not just another book of literature; it is the living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). It is not meant to be interpreted solely through the ‘science of theology,’ where the human mind attempts to dissect, analyse, and define the things of God as though they were confined to academic categories (faculties). While the faculty of theology has its rightful place as a discipline, it cannot replace the divine intimacy of walking with God, hearing His voice, and being guided by His Spirit into all truth (John 16:13).

As previously noted, the problem with a purely ‘theological or scientific approach’ is that it often confines interpretation to human reasoning. This creates what Paul warns about when he says that “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” (1 Corinthians 8:1). When believers rely only on intellect, they run the risk of missing the very heart or true meaning and purpose of Scripture — a living encounter with the Author Himself. Biblical interpretation without intimacy with God becomes nothing more than information without transformation.



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Sadly, many Christians today live in that space, where their apparent relationship or decision to accept Christ has come down to a single encounter (or meeting if you will) with God on a Sunday and maybe (hopefully) a secondary visit to church for either Bible Study or a midweek Prayer Meeting. Beyond that, there is either no or very little ‘spiritual intimacy’ or visitation between the believer and God. Unfortunately, this is not the formula for a successful spiritual encounter or relationship building exercise with God. He deserves more and honestly speaking He demands more.

Real spiritual intimacy with God, produces understanding and Godly wisdom that no classroom, sermon, Christian conference or Bible Study can offer. Jesus made this clear when He thanked the Father for hiding divine truths from “the wise and learned” and revealing them to “little children” (Matthew 11:25). Revelation comes not from intellectual status but from humble dependence upon God. For this reason, biblical interpretation cannot be reduced to theological science alone. Proper interpretation requires a marriage between ‘disciplined study,’ ‘prayer and meditation of the Word’ and a ‘intimate relationship building’ in fellowship and worship with God and with the body of Christ.

On one hand, Paul exhorts Timothy to “study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). But on the other hand, as previous denoted, he reminds the Corinthians that the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).

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This balance is crucial. A person can earn degrees in theology and yet remain blind to the spiritual truths of Scripture, while another who walks closely with God in humility and prayer can discern truths far deeper than scholars. This does not mean we should reject study, but it does mean that our study must remain submitted to the Spirit. Without Him, interpretation becomes lifeless and empty.

This form of devotional obedience applies not only to Biblical interpretation but to our entire walk of faith. If we truly mean business with God and not merely depend on God's grace, even though it is the only way unto salvation, then our walk with God needs to reflect the collective body of the apostolic, prophetic and evangelical elements of faith.

Throughout history, we have seen the dangers of interpretation divorced from intimacy. False doctrines, denominational splits, and even spiritual abuse have often arisen from those who approached Scripture as a singular science of control rather than a revelation of God's heart. Jesus warned the Pharisees, *"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life"* (John 5:39–40). Knowledge without intimacy leads to spiritual blindness.

Therefore, the key question for us today is this: Are we interpreting the Bible only through the lens of theological science, or are we cultivating a Spirit-led intimacy that allows God Himself to unveil His Word to us? The two must work hand in hand, but intimacy with God must always take precedence. The Spirit who inspired the Word is the only One who can fully interpret it to our hearts.

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Let us hold fast therefore to disciplined study but never allow it to replace our personal walk with God. Theology may build frameworks, but intimacy with the Lord builds faith, character, trust and transformation. True hermeneutics is not about mastering the Bible as a subject, but about being mastered by the God of the Bible. Is the journey of knowing and reading the Bible easy? Yes, of course. But is the journey of understanding and applying the Word of God to our everyday lives easy? Hell no! Will your life suddenly turn out to be perfect when you begin to apply these principles to your life? No, but I promise you it will be far more rewarding.

Our lives will always be filled with challenges, natural obstacles or even some self-inflicted, shortcomings, and sadly even failures because we live in a fallen world, but know this, when you begin to cultivate a more personal relationship with God by devoting more of your time and energy to walking in unity with the will of God and by applying the principles of truth (faith and trust) which comes from reading God's Word and staying connected to His Spirit, you will find that the journey to our final destination (Glorification) will become less of a struggle and more of a blessing.

How to Apply the 'Sword of the Spirit' to defeat the enemy

The only challenge we really have is to understand how to turn God's Word into a weapon against the attacks of the devil in our lives. The "Sword of the Spirit" is a metaphorical term found in the New Testament, specifically in the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. It is part of the "Armour of God" passage, symbolizing the power and authority of God's Word. While not a physical weapon, it serves as a "spiritual tool" for discernment, cutting through deception, false teaching and misinterpretations and bringing about soul transformation and spiritual maturity for the true believer.

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The Sword of the Spirit is mentioned in Ephesians 6:17 in which it says, “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;...” The Word of God being the only offensive weapon in the “Armour of God.” So often we hear in the modern-day church or teachings that the best weapon against the attacks of the devil is the “armour of God” but in truth, do we even understand what this “armour” represents or how we can practically access this armour when going into battle against this enemy, that wishes to steal and destroy our lives or derail our plans and purposes of wanting to be a devoted, righteous child of God?

To better understand the “sword of the Spirit” (the Word of God) and to interpret God’s Word is the correct way, I have noted three principles that will help lead and guide you on this path to understanding how to use the Sword (God’s Word) to defeat the enemy:

1. We must remember that the Bible, in its entirety, is the Holy Word of God. Every word, every phrase, is God-breathed. 2 Peter 1:21 reminds us: “...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” It’s imperative that we remember that the Old Testament is just as holy and important as the New Testament.

Because the Bible is God’s Book (revelation), only God can open the believer’s eyes to see the truth set forth in its pages. Sometimes the truth or revelations are very clearly seen; sometimes they are revealed only by diligent searching, praying, and meditating over the Scriptures; and sometimes they remain hidden, regardless of our desire to know everything God has revealed. We must approach the Scriptures with humility, reverence, and an earnest desire to obey what God reveals.

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2. The Bible is its own interpreter. We compare spiritual things with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2). To understand a word or a phrase or a concept in the Bible, we must determine how that same word, phrase, or concept is used everywhere else in the Bible. Thus, the Bible becomes its own dictionary; it becomes its own commentary.

3. The Bible normally displays more than one level of meaning or significance. The first level is historical, recounting events as they occurred. The second is moral or spiritual, providing lessons in obedience and righteousness. The third is redemptive, pointing to the Gospel of salvation, the ultimate truth of Christ.

We must be careful when listening to sermons, reading books or watching YouTube content, or other platforms, especially if we do not know the spiritual background or theological reference of the author or content provider. The enemy comes in all shapes and forms and without you even realising it, you can very easily be drawn into a complete misguided lie on the principle or doctrine of the Christian faith.

The Bible Alone in its Entirety is the ‘Word of God’ and the only Authority of Christ unto Salvation

The true Gospel is centred on the Lord Jesus Christ. As 1 John 4:2-3 declares, “Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God....” Yet even Satan and demons acknowledge Christ in the flesh, illustrating that mere acknowledgment is insufficient. True belief requires obedience, submission, and alignment with God’s Word.

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2 Timothy 3:16 confirms: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Every word of the Old and New Testaments is vital to understanding the Gospel. 1 Peter 1:10-12 emphasizes that the Old Testament continues to minister truth to believers today as it did to God’s people in Israel in the old. The Bible is the only authority by which we can know what to believe about Christ. This principle is clearly presented in the Bible. We read about the nature of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Verses 3 and 4 say:

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,”

In the phrase “*according to the Scriptures*,” God declares that the Bible is the authority of the Gospel.

In Luke 24:13-48 Jesus discusses His resurrection with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Significantly, He indicates to them that the authority for His actions is the Scriptures. In verses 44- 46 we read:

Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”

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Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things."

If and when you take your eyes off this FACT that our source and understanding of the Word of God is and must be directed from the Bible and not from the interpretation of man, we can easily be led astray or waiver in our belief that God is the Almighty God of heaven and earth, especially when a Pastor or spiritual leader goes astray or falls from grace.

But when you and I have our eyes focused on God and Him alone, then no matter what happens to the person (messenger), be it the Pastor, teacher, elder or prophet the Word will forever be our foundation to believing in and trusting the God that we serve. And as a result, our faith and trust in the true Biblical interpretation and revelation of God can never be swayed because it's based on God's Word and on your intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit and not on man's human iniquities, weaknesses, flaws or failures.



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If or when it is the other way round, you will find yourself in a pool of quicksand, questioning the leadership or Pastor of the church every time you disapprove of his actions, or worse, you will stop paying your tithes and offerings simply because the Pastor never greeted you on Sunday. God forbid the Pastor makes a serious mistake and does something that is against any law or principle of God. Usually in such instances, I have witnessed from experience that many within the body of Christ will suddenly decide not to come to church and will sadly stay away completely and before you know it, these believers have dropped out of the spiritual race and have backslidden into a life of sin and unbelief.

In such a case, my question is always, "Who were they serving?" Was it the Pastor, the church, or was it truly God? Because, if it was God then they would never have allowed such earthly failures to derail them from what they believed in and to whom they serve!! Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." This verse emphasizes the principle that undivided loyalty and devotion are required when serving God, and that prioritizing worldly possessions or desires (represented by "mammon") is incompatible with serving God.

All of the Bible is the Word of God

Having established the principle that the Bible is the authority of the Gospel unto salvation, the next obvious question is: "How much of the Bible must we trust to know that we are following the true Gospel?" More specifically, we might ask: Based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and 1 John 4:2-3, if we believe Christ has come in the flesh and we trust in His death and resurrection, can we be sure we are following the true Gospel? Can we have the true Gospel regardless of what we believe concerning creation, the end of the world, hell, predestination, etc?

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The answer to these questions is found in 2 Timothy 3:16. There we read: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”*

God indicates by this statement that the whole Bible is the Word of God. Therefore, it gives us, in its entirety, information concerning the Gospel. The whole Bible is the Word of God. The Bible, in its entirety, is the revelation of God’s will for man. Every doctrine taught in it is an essential part of the revelation of the Gospel.

The Old Testament is equal in importance to the New Testament. When Jesus declared in Luke 24:46 and Luke 4:4, “it is written,” He used as His authority that part of the Bible that today we call the Old Testament. God states in 2 Timothy 3:16 that, “All scripture is given by inspiration, . . . and is profitable for doctrine, . . .” He is speaking especially of the Old Testament because it was the only Bible available to the church at that time.

The importance of the relation between the Old Testament and the New Testament church is underscored by the language of 1 Peter 1:10-12.

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to [a]us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.”

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In this statement, God emphasizes the principle that the Old Testament was written to be as important to us today as it was to Old Testament Israel. Note in verse 12 the words, “not to themselves” (meaning the Old Testament believers), “but to us they did minister” (that is, to believers in this present day). The Old Testament must be read and studied as carefully as the New Testament.

We learned from 2 Timothy 3:16 and 1 Peter 1:10-12 that the whole Bible is the Word of God. We must not countenance the idea that we are to follow only the New Testament. Every word in the entire Bible is the Word of God.

Progressive Revelation

The Bible is the complete Revelation of God’s Word to the human race. We are not to add to it. We are not to take away from it. It alone and in its entirety is the Word of God. However, when we consider how we receive truth from the Bible, we have another matter altogether. God insists that there is a timetable known only to God by which He reveals the truths of the Bible to mankind.

For example, Jesus clearly told his disciples that the time would come when He would be killed and after three days, He would rise again. Mark 8:31 declares:

“And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”

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Even though this is a plain, clear statement, it was not understood at all by the disciples. It was only after His resurrection, as the disciples were reminded by the two men in shining garments, who stood outside the empty sepulcher (tomb), that they understood.

Luke 24:6 - 8 informs us:

“He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words.”

God had given them the revelation that Christ was to be killed and rise again, but it was not a revelation that became a part of their understanding until Christ had risen. Likewise, we read in Ephesians 3:3-5:

“...how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”

God is indicating that a mystery was made known to the Apostle Paul, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (verse 6). However, this truth was repeatedly written about in the Bible, for example, Abram’s name was changed to Abraham because he would be the father of many nations (Genesis 17:5-7).

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Many years earlier, Jesus had told the disciples in Matthew 28:19 (KJV):

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:...”

The truth that those whom God would save would include people from all nations of the world is taught in many places in the Bible. But while this truth was included in God’s revelation to mankind, only when Saul of Tarsus had become saved was it truly revealed to the minds of the apostles.

This principle of “progressive revelation” is especially emphasized in Daniel 12:8, 9 (KJV):

“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

In God’s revelation, which is the Bible, God has a great many things to say about the end of the world and the details that lead up to the end of the world. But God has a timetable for the giving of the understanding of those truths. God has a timetable for the giving of a fuller understanding of many of His truths.

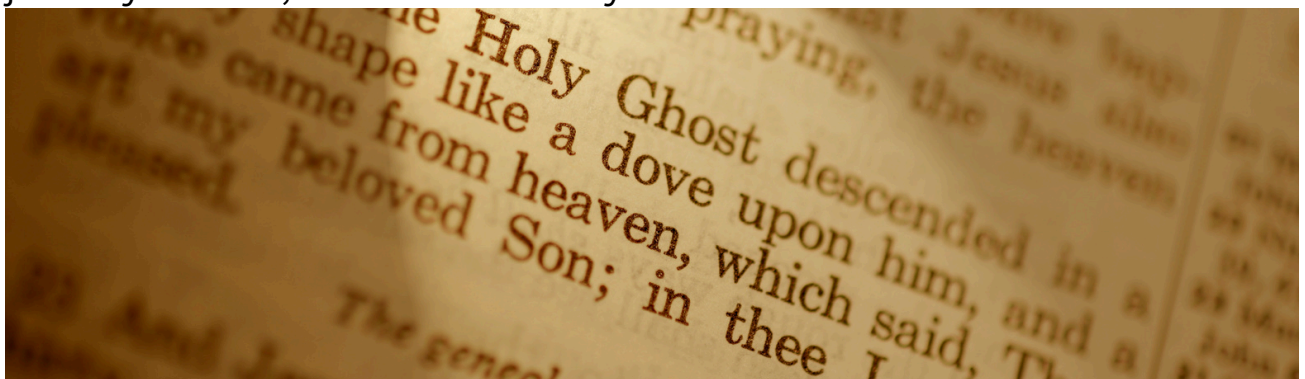
The true meaning of these statements is not to be revealed to the minds of men until the time determined by God. This is why many devout, God-fearing theologians of the past have endeavoured to explain the meaning of biblical end-time passages, but they have not even come close to the truth. This was not a failure on their part. Its simply because God will reveal the real truth to His people at the right time, the rest is simply either human speculation or misguided human interpretation.

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Thus, we can expect that in our day, when the signs are showing that we must be close to the end of time, the meaning of a great many Biblical passages should become revealed to the minds of diligent Biblical students of theology, and obedient, devoted, committed believers and follower of Christ. The very fact that we can find great harmony in our understanding of Biblical passages of Scripture that heretofore have been very obscure greatly encourages us that God has placed us on the right track. We can expect, therefore, that many passages of the Bible which in earlier times have been somewhat mysterious, can now be better understood.

In Closing

Let us hold fast to the truth that the Bible is not just history, or a collection of historical facts or even books, letters, prophecies or principles of doctrine—it is God's living Word, meant to guide, convict, and transform us—mind, body, soul and spirit. Study it with reverence, obey it with humility, and allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate its truths in the corridors of your mind, soul, heart and in the belly of your spirit. Equip yourself with the Word, guard against deception, and let Christ's presence shape every step of your life. Walk in His wisdom, stand firm in His truth, and may His peace and power be your constant guide on this journey of faith, trust and life. May God bless His Word.



SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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, feel free to contact me on the details below.

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May God bless you and keep you, may God make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

In God's love and service,

Pastor Mike Gobel

Associate Pastor of 'The Campus Church'

Co-founder/CEO of 'Planting Hope Foundation'

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GERDA POTGIETER

EXCLUSIVE: RESTORATION



Gerda Potgiter is Editor of Devoted Magazine.

From Rogue Individual to Respected Farmhand: Keegan Pillay's Journey of Transformation.

By Gerda Potgieter

I enjoy sharing inspiring stories because they offer numerous benefits on both personal and societal levels. These stories foster hope and optimism by reminding people that positive change is indeed possible, even in the most challenging circumstances. They uplift the spirit and encourage others to believe in their ability to overcome challenges.

RESTORATION

When people read these stories, they are motivated to act, set goals, make changes, and help others when their lives are restored. For years, I have shared inspiring stories and testimonies with my readers, but Keegan Pillay's story remains remarkably close to my heart.

THE STORY OF KEEGAN PILLAY

Keegan has been through the trials of life several times, but has finally emerged on the other side. When you look into his soft eyes now, it is very hard to believe that he was once a hardened criminal who had no respect for another life. Although I have spoken to Keegan several times and shared his testimony with many, it remains difficult for me to believe that there was a time when he lived up to and even honoured the name his friends gave him, 'Lucifer'.

Keegan is well-acquainted with the life of a drug lord; he has associated with some of the country's most notorious criminals and even worked for several of them. He has also served as a drug smuggler for individuals from Nigeria. In his earlier years, before he dedicated his life to serving the Lord, his job involved recovering money for drug lords from addicts, sometimes using violence if necessary. His tumultuous childhood prepared him to carry out this role effectively in the drug trade. However, Keegan left that life behind over a decade ago. He is now a responsible and skilled farm worker, making a significant contribution to food security. His steady work at Emseni Farming not only brings him great joy but also allows him to care for his ageing mother.

Keegan shares that while he never lacked material possessions during childhood, his father struggled with a serious drinking problem that

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negatively impacted their family's lives. From a very young age, Keegan was also exposed to movies with violent themes. He began mimicking the violent scenes he saw in these films, which led him to practice aggression on other children. By the age of eight, he was taught how to fight and frequently engaged in street fights.

Additionally, Keegan started smoking cigarettes at a young age, and by the time he turned twelve, he was addicted to drugs. His initial drug of choice was Mandrax, but he eventually began abusing any substance he could find. Like many individuals grappling with addiction, Keegan resorted to stealing to support his habits and became involved in violent behaviour to obtain what he needed.

LIVING UP TO HIS NICKNAME

He revelled in the reputation he built as a 'bad boy' someone who inspired fear in others. His friends nicknamed him 'Lucifer' a name he embraced wholeheartedly. He worked hard to live up to this persona and showed no mercy to those around him. At the age of fourteen, his actions culminated in a prison sentence for attempted murder.

And so, the in-prison-out-of-prison, back-in-prison-out-of-prison spiral began, and Keegan learned how to get serious about drug dealing. Going to prison for his crimes didn't make him a better person at all – in fact, his crimes only increased. His mother finally had enough and sent him to live with his uncle in Durban, hoping he would get better there. At the time, his mother didn't know that his uncle was also a drug smuggler, and the visit there sent him further into the dark hole. His life spiralled out of control.

RESTORATION

THE TURNING POINT

“The turning point for me came in 2015,” Keegan says. “I was on the streets then, and my health was failing. I realised that I had lost control, and although I was educated in the Hindu faith, it was to God that I cried out the day I hit rock bottom. By then, I was homeless and would stay with my brother from time to time but mostly sleep on his doorstep without him knowing. I would slip out early in the morning and continue my path of self-destruction.

“It was my brother who told me about the KwaSizabantu Mission Station in KwaZulu-Natal. He told me that he was going to take me there to follow the CYPISA restoration program. He had heard that the program was successful somewhere. I didn’t know much about it, but I didn’t have any other choice. Because my brother had promised me R5,000 if I went, it was a big motivation for me to comply with his request. However, I planned to use the money afterwards to buy and then sell drugs and thus get my ‘business’ going again. I had a lot of knowledge and extensive experience in that.”

October 16, 2015, will always be a very special day for Keegan. It was the day his brother loaded him into his car and took him to the mission station to start the restoration program. It is the day that marks the beginning of his new life, even though he was suffering badly from heroin withdrawal symptoms at the time. Under the impression that it was a rehabilitation centre, he volunteered to go along. He only realised later, when he was already busy with the restoration program, that it was not a rehabilitation centre, but a place of spiritual restoration. But it made all the difference.

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It was at the mission station that Keegan was treated like a real person for the first time. He also found the Lord and has followed Him faithfully ever since. “I have never experienced anything like this in my entire life,” Keegan explains. “The respect and acceptance I received from strangers was unprecedented to me. These people did not know me at all, but welcomed me and accepted me unconditionally. This, while my people rejected me. I do not know of another place in the entire world where an addict is taken in so unconditionally, and this without any payment for the restoration program. When I asked how much it would cost, I was told that Jesus had already paid for me on the cross.”

CYPSA stands for Concerned Young People of South Africa. The restoration program they follow is intense and based on biblical principles. The program is offered free of charge, but participants must commit to the rules and strictly follow all the instructions. They must also go out after the program is completed to live their lives. Hopefully, then, they will be more equipped to withstand the challenges of life. However, Keegan did not want to leave the place after completing the program and requested to stay longer. He wanted the new peace he had experienced to last as long as possible. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The mission station has established several projects and successful businesses since its inception more than fifty-five years ago. Keegan eventually landed at one of the agricultural projects at Emseni Farm. He ultimately found his grace in the greenhouses of the Emseni Farm, which means ‘grace’ in Zulu. Emseni is currently one of the largest producers of sweet peppers in the country, with many hectares of greenhouses. Emseni also grows other vegetables, such as lettuce (and

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many others).

And it is when he talks about his work in the greenhouses that the true Keegan character emerges. There is no trace of the criminal in sight. His face lights up, and his eyes speak. He recently completed a diploma in plant production.

I find immense joy in sharing Keegan's remarkable journey. His story resonates deeply because it illustrates powerful lessons and valuable insights that can inspire others. In a world overwhelmed by a constant stream of negative headlines and distressing events, uplifting tales like Keegan's act as a vital counterbalance. They serve as a beacon of hope, highlighting the goodness that still permeates our lives while reinforcing the belief that positive change is not only possible but achievable. Each detail of his experience underscores resilience and the potential for transformation, reminding us that amidst adversity, there are always stories of triumph and inspiration waiting to be told.

NOTE: For more inspiring stories of restored lives, visit and follow the Devoted magazine by following the link: <https://www.devotedmag.co.za/>

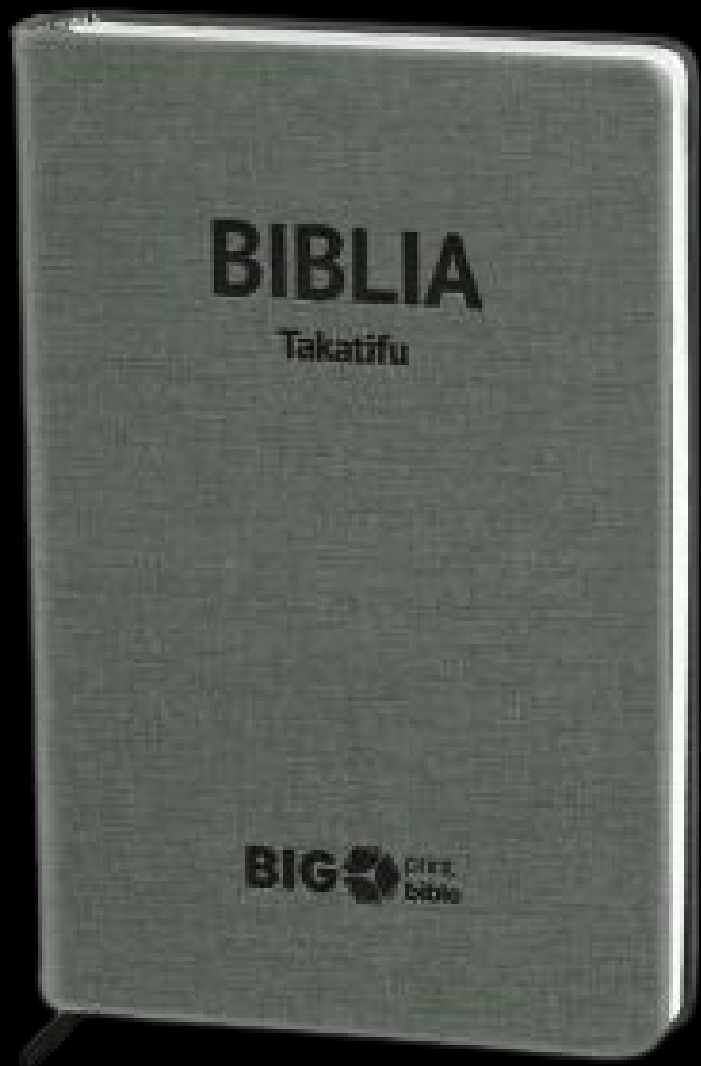
(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Gerda Potgieter is the author of the book, A Journey to the Truth, The case of KwaSizabantu Mission, and the managing editor of the Devoted magazine. You can read inspiring articles from young people who have given their lives for the Lord during these youth conferences on the website: <http://www.devotedmag.co.za>.

RESTORATION

Book link: A JOURNEY TO THE TRUTH: The case of KwaSizabantu
Mission: Potgieter, Gerda: 9780639797038: Amazon.com: Books
<https://www.amazon.com/JOURNEY-TRUTH-case-KwaSizabantu-Mission/dp/0639797032>



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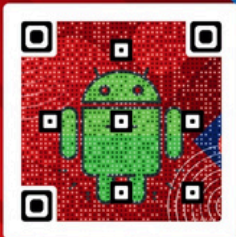
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MEASURE YOUR TREASURE

“MEASURE YOUR TREASURE” - Earthly treasures vs Heavenly treasure

I enjoy baking and cooking. I remember my first baking attempt was when I was about 8 yrs old. My father bought me an “easy-bake oven”, it had a little light inside with small little baking tins. Today you still find them at vintage markets or auctions but you don’t see many of them. I use to watch my mom bake cakes.

She just had that “special touch” and a secret ingredient, added without measure, her love for us. Well, I must say my first cake I baked with extra love was a very dark green cake. I decided to add a whole bottle of green colorant to the ingredients, without measuring just like my mom did it. This did not end very well. She never used to measure any ingredients but the end product was always perfect and beautiful. I remember my parents had a taste of my “green cake”, they said it was very tasty and looked beautiful but the expression on their faces probably gave them away. These are moments and memories in my life I treasure, it is priceless. I call it the overflow of treasures.

In the book of Zechariah, chapter two, where Zechariah saw a vision of a young man with a measuring line on his way to measure Jerusalem to see how wide and how long it is. Two angels appeared in this vision and they had a conversation and a special message for him, the good news, “Run! Tell that young man, “Jerusalem will burst its walls, bursting with people, bursting with animals. And I’ll be right there with her”— GOD’s Decree, a wall of fire around unwalled Jerusalem and a radiant presence within Gods Glory with no limitations, no walls. How can we at times measure our lives, or limit our lives and find our worth through the worlds measuring stick when God promises us when we give, without limitation,

MEASURE YOUR TREASURE

it shall be given to us, pressed down, shaken together, running over (Luke 6:38). Another example can be ourselves limiting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the walls that surround us instead of taking the gospel out to the nations, becoming a church without walls.

Another memory that comes to mind was an Afrikaans series in the eighties called “Skattejag” or translated in English Treasure hunt, a game show where contestants solve clues to find a treasure. It was an interesting show to watch and very entertaining, but temporary with no spiritual, everlasting value. Of this we can be certain if we add spiritual value to a treasure we need some tools to find a treasure that is not temporary but everlasting. In Matthew 6:19 Jesus warns us against earthly treasures, where moth and rust destroys and where thieves break in and steal and He concluded His message with these powerful words, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be. Jesus does not prohibit material possessions, nor the enjoyment of material things, but He does forbid a selfish and extravagant materialism that ties a person to this earth.

When we are searching for a treasure we need some tools, a map, perhaps a spade or a first aid kit and you should be prepared to walk for kilometers and in the process be prepared to get those hands and feet dirty. Finding our purpose, our treasure in life might take you through some detours, or perhaps at times your treasure, your own plans won't look the same as God's plans for you but when the Holy Spirit becomes your guide, your helper He will guide you in Spirit and truth, at times you might need to dig deep into scripture to find hidden treasures, Psalm 119:105 assures us that God's Word is a lamp unto our

MEASURE YOUR TREASURE

feet and a light to our path. One might get hurt along this path but He will be there to bind up your wounds. Your hands and feet might get dirty in process but when you have found this hidden treasure in your earthly vessel it will bring you eternal joy and everlasting, glorious riches that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Sons and daughters of the Most High are Gods chosen treasure and you are deeply loved by God. You will find this glorious treasure, Christ in you, the One only God that treasures you more than gold. You are more precious to Him as rubies. Madam Kathryn Kullman once said: "God is not looking for gold and silver vessels He is looking for willing vessels. You don't have to be a perfect vessel just a surrendered vessel. 1 Corinthians 4:7 declares we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. Christ in us our treasure without measure.

In His Service

Apostle Lynette Wessels (Family Transformation Mission Ministries International)



People can follow us on Facebook & Tiktok - FTM Ministries International, FTM Bible Institute & Courses, Prophetic and Warrior School of the Spirit. I am also a Pastoral & Trauma Counselor for more information you can contact me on my cell no 079 982 7536 or email: lynwessels@ftmministries.co.za

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 thin king 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

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:

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!

The Story Before the Glory

***"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." –
Philippians 1:6***

The Whisper That Stopped Me in My Tracks

This month, as I prayed over what to share with you, beloved daughters of God, I heard Him speak so clearly into my spirit:

"And not everyone is ready to see your glory while you're still walking through your story."

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

I froze when I heard those words. They pierced like an arrow, because they explained so much of what I had lived through. God reminded me of the seasons when my life felt like ashes. Divorce tore through my heart. Grief hollowed out my joy. Loneliness wrapped around me like chains. I was left raising my children with trembling hands, trying to smile for them while crying in secret. People only ever saw fragments. They judged the broken chapters without knowing the whole story. They saw weakness but not the war on my knees. They heard my silence but not my whispered prayers in the midnight hour. They thought they knew my ending, but they didn't know the Author. And daughters, let me tell you – your story is not in the hands of spectators, critics, or gossips. Your story is in the hands of the Living God. The same God who calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13). The pen of your life is not held by people; it is gripped firmly by the Author and Finisher of your faith, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:2).

Misunderstood Women, Glorious Endings

Think of Hannah. Year after year she was mocked by Peninnah for her barrenness. People saw her weeping at the temple and assumed she was drunk (1 Samuel 1:13). They misread her story – but they didn't know her ending. God gave her Samuel, a prophet who would anoint kings. Think of Ruth. A Moabite widow, foreign and poor, picking up scraps behind harvesters. People likely saw her as a nobody, just another desperate woman trying to survive. But God was writing her into the lineage of King David, and ultimately, into the genealogy of Jesus Christ Himself (Ruth 4:13–22; Matthew 1:5).

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Think of Mary, the young virgin chosen to carry the Son of God. To the world, her pregnancy looked like scandal. Whispers surrounded her. But what they didn't know was that the Savior of the world was forming inside her womb. Her "story" looked shameful to men, but her "glory" was the Light of the World. Beloved, what do these women teach us? That people will always misread the chapter you're in, but God alone knows the ending. And the ending always points to His glory.

The Pen Is Still in His Hand

Isaiah 46:10 declares: "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." That means no amount of misunderstanding, no whisper of the enemy, no delay, no rejection can erase what God has written over your life. So don't despise the middle of your story. Don't despise the broken chapters. Because the glory of your ending is not about you, it is about Christ revealed through you. "People may misread your story, but God alone holds the final chapter." And when He turns the page, the world will see what He was writing all along: a testimony of His Son, Jesus Christ, alive in you.

Hidden Glory in Broken Places

One of the enemy's oldest and cruelest lies is this: "Your brokenness disqualifies you." He slithers in with whispers: "You are too ruined. Too stained. Too far gone. God can never use someone like you." But here's the unshakable truth of Jesus Christ: the very cracks in your jar are where His glory shines brightest. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Notice, it doesn't say God's power is made perfect in your strength, or your success, or your spotless record. No, it is made perfect in your

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

weakness. That means your scars don't disqualify you; they qualify you for the stage of His glory.

Tears That Plant Glory

I used to despise my tears. I thought they were wasted water, falling into the ground with no purpose. But now I see every tear was seed. Every groan in the night was intercession. Every broken prayer I muttered was a brick in the altar where God would one day show His strength. Beloved, what feels like death in your life may not be death at all, it may be seedtime. Psalm 126:5 declares: "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy." God doesn't waste your weeping; He waters it into a harvest.

Buried or Planted?

Like Joseph, I thought I was buried in a pit, forgotten, betrayed, written off by those I trusted. But the Spirit of God taught me this: it was not a burial; it was a planting. When man buries, it is to hide and to end. But when God plants, it is to grow and to multiply. Joseph's pit was the doorway to a palace. Your pit may look final, but in God's hands, it's fertile. Jesus Himself was placed in a tomb. To His enemies, it looked like burial. But Heaven knew it was planting. On the third day, the Seed of Life broke through the soil of death and rose in glory. That same resurrection power is at work in you (Romans 8:11).

Women of the Bible Who Found Glory in Brokenness

Think of Rahab, the prostitute in Jericho. Men labeled her by her sin. Yet, she hid the spies, aligned herself with the God of Israel, and became part of the lineage of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). Her past did not disqualify her; it positioned her for redemption.

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Think of the woman at the well (John 4). Five failed marriages behind her, scorned by society, drawing water alone. Broken, forgotten, shamed. But Jesus met her in that hidden place, revealed Himself as the Messiah, and she became the first evangelist in her city. Think of the woman with the alabaster jar (Luke 7:37,38). People knew her as a sinner. They saw her cracks. But when she poured out her costly oil and her tears on Jesus' feet, the fragrance of her worship filled the room. Her brokenness became the vessel of glory.

Brokenness: The Soil of Glory

Beloved daughters, hear this: your shame is not the end. Your weakness is not your curse. Your brokenness is not the disqualifier. In the hands of the Master, these very places become the stage for His strength. Your cracked jar becomes the lamp through which His light shines (2 Corinthians 4:7). Your scars become your testimony. Your weakness becomes the pulpit where Christ preaches His power. Do not hide your broken places. Surrender them. Because the soil of your shame is where God is growing glory.

The Fire That Defines You

We all want God to remove the fire. We pray, "Lord, take it away. Don't let me feel this heat. Don't let me walk through this trial." But here is Heaven's secret: the fire is not your enemy. The fire is your proving ground. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew this well. In Daniel 3, they stood before a furious king, staring at flames so hot that the soldiers who threw them in were burned alive. The furnace wasn't symbolic, it was real fire meant for real death. And yet, the very place of intended destruction became the stage of divine revelation. Because in the flames, a fourth man appeared.

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

The Son of God walked with them. Their ropes burned, but not their skin. The fire consumed the bondage, not the believers. Beloved daughters, hear me clearly: your fire, the betrayal, the loss, the rejection, the disappointment, is not sent to kill you. It is sent to reveal Who walks with you.

The Fire as a Refining

Gold must be refined by fire. Silver must be purified in the furnace. Likewise, your soul must sometimes walk through heat so the dross, the impurities, can be burned away. Malachi 3:3 says: “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.” Do you see it? The fire is not random; it is intentional. The Refiner sits. He does not leave. He keeps His eyes on you in the flames until He sees His reflection in your life. In my own fire, I discovered something startling: flames stripped away pride I didn’t know I carried. They burned off the fear that had chained me. They destroyed my obsession with the opinions of others. The fire emptied me of myself so Jesus could fill me.

The Fires of the Faithful

Think of Moses. His first fire was not a furnace but a bush. He turned aside to see flames that did not consume, and there he heard the voice of God. His fire became his calling (Exodus 3:2). Think of Elijah. On Mount Carmel, he prayed until fire fell from Heaven, proving the Lord alone is God (1 Kings 18:38). His fire became his vindication. Think of Pentecost. The disciples sat waiting, trembling, uncertain. Then “tongues of fire” rested on each of them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3,4). Their fire became their empowerment. Every fire in Scripture points to this truth: the flames don’t destroy the faithful, they define them.

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Daughters, Don't Curse the Fire

It's tempting to cry out, "Lord, why me? Why this fire? Why so hot?" But daughters, don't curse the fire. Don't run from it. Because the fire you fear may be the very place where Jesus reveals Himself most clearly.

Isaiah 43:2 promises: "When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." God does not say if you walk through the fire, but when. That means fire is part of the journey, but so is His protection. So, walk boldly with Christ through the flames. Because when you come out, you won't smell like smoke. You won't just survive, you'll shine. Your testimony will carry the fragrance of Heaven, and people will see that the only explanation for your survival was the Son of God walking with you. 🔥 "The fire you fear may be the very place where Jesus reveals Himself most clearly." 🔥

Running Into His Healing

When heartbreak nearly broke me, I started running. At first, I thought I was running away from my pain, from the memories, from the heaviness that threatened to crush me. But the Spirit whispered a deeper truth: I wasn't running away, I was running into the arms of God. Every step, every pounding of my feet against the pavement, became a prayer. Every kilometer was a whispered declaration: "Lord, don't let me give up. Carry me. Strengthen me. Heal me." Hebrews 12:1 became more than words, it became my anthem: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." People saw the medals I chased, the hills I climbed, the races I finished. But they didn't see the invisible work happening inside me. They didn't see the healing taking root in my soul. The race wasn't about accolades; it was about restoration. Every step on the track, every breath drawn on a lonely trail, was me surrendering my brokenness to the Lord and trusting Him to restore what had been lost.

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Healing in the Midst of the Marathon

Running taught me something powerful: healing is a journey, not an instant fix. There is no short cut to the renewal of the soul. Some stretches are uphill, steep, and exhausting. Some paths are lonely, and the temptation to quit is strong. Yet, just like a marathon, the only way to arrive at the finish line is to keep moving forward, one step at a time. Psalm 147:3 reminds us: “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Each step I ran became an act of cooperation with God’s healing, a physical representation of my spiritual restoration. My legs became a metaphor for my faith; the perseverance of my body mirrored the endurance of my soul. My children became my living motivation. They needed to see a mother who refused to quit. And I needed to remind myself that the same God who strengthened my legs to finish a race was strengthening my heart to endure every trial. Each stride became worship. Each finish line became a testimony.

Chasing God, Not Medals

Daughters, hear me: sometimes what the world thinks you are chasing is not your real pursuit. People thought I was chasing medals, accolades, recognition. But the Spirit showed me that I was chasing healing, wholeness, and the presence of God. 2 Corinthians 4:16,18 says: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” Every hardship, every lonely kilometer, every uphill struggle was preparing me to receive an eternal revelation of God’s love and power in my life.

Endurance Through Christ

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Life is a marathon. Some moments are downhill with exhilaration and joy. Others are uphill, lonely, and heavy. But every step carries a lesson: I can endure because Christ endured for me. Every stumble, every setback, every tear becomes a testimony of His strength. Every finish line, no matter how small, is a reflection of the One who carries us through. Beloved daughters, let your race be one of perseverance. Let every mile remind you that healing is never passive — it is a pursuit. And the finish line is not just survival; it is transformation. It is your spirit rising stronger, brighter, and more aligned with Jesus Christ, the Author of your story. “Run, beloved, not to escape your past, but to embrace your healing. Every step is God revealing His power in your broken places.”

The Silence of Others

One of the hardest lessons to learn in life is this: not everyone will celebrate your process. Some will misunderstand you. Some will walk away quietly, leaving you feeling abandoned. Some will only clap when you reach the miracle, the moment everyone can see, but will never sit with you in the midnight hours of your pain, never hold your hand through the tears, never whisper a word of encouragement in your loneliness. Jesus knew this truth intimately. In His own hometown, the very people who watched Him grow up rejected Him (Mark 6:4). Those who knew His family, who thought they understood His beginnings, could not grasp His destiny. And the crowds who shouted “Hosanna!” on one day, turned to scream “Crucify Him!” just days later. Beloved daughters, if Jesus Himself walked through rejection, can we expect less in our journey? The silence of others is not a reflection of your worth. It is not a verdict on your story. Your value is not in who applauds, but in Who carries you.

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The Purpose in Silence

There were days when I ached for affirmation. I longed to hear someone say, “I see you. I understand you. I’m with you.” But God allowed the silence for a divine purpose: to teach me to lean on His voice alone. Psalm 62:1,2 says: “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.” In the silence, I learned that God’s approval is sufficient. His presence is constant. And His understanding surpasses anything human can offer. Some friends disappeared. Some family didn’t understand. Some even criticized or doubted me. But God never left. In the quiet, He whispered His love. In the loneliness, He revealed His faithfulness. And in the moments of seeming abandonment, He became my constant companion, the One who walks beside you when no one else does.

When Rejection Becomes Revelation

The silence of others can feel like a wound, but daughters, it is often the soil where revelation grows. Just as the night prepares the dawn, their absence can prepare you for God’s presence. Just as a furnace purifies gold, the lack of human understanding can refine your heart to hear Heaven more clearly. Consider Joseph once more. Sold into slavery, forgotten in a pit, overlooked in prison, abandoned by man, yet never forsaken by God. When his time came, the very people who had ignored and betrayed him bowed before him (Genesis 41:41,43). The silence, the rejection, the waiting, all became the stage for his ultimate glory. Beloved, the applause of the world is temporary, but the presence of God is eternal. Let silence be your teacher, rejection your refining fire, and absence your invitation to deeper intimacy with Jesus.

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Walking Forward in Confidence

Do not let the silence of others shake your faith. Do not let their misunderstanding define your destiny. When you feel unseen, unloved, or unappreciated, remember: God is orchestrating your story behind the scenes. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” This promise is the anchor of every heart that has been misunderstood. In the quiet, He is shaping you. In the absence of applause, He is uplifting you. And in the seeming abandonment of people, He is writing the chapter of glory that only Heaven can see. Your worth is not in who claps for you, but in Who carries you. And when God lifts the veil, every person who walked away will witness the glory He has prepared for you, a glory revealed only to those who endured the silence faithfully.

The Glory Unfolding

Here is the unshakable truth, daughters of the King: your story is not over. Not even close. The Author of life is still holding the pen, and every chapter, even the painful, messy ones, is orchestrated by Him. Romans 8:18 declares: “Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Hear that, your pain, your tears, your scars are not the end. They are the prelude, the shadow, the fertile soil where Heaven’s masterpiece is being painted. Right now, your chapter may look messy. Confusing. Even humiliating at times. But Heaven already sees the final brushstrokes. Every tear that fell in silence has been gathered. Every betrayal, every fire, every uphill stretch, every moment of loneliness has been held in the palm of God’s hand. And the story He is writing? It points straight to Jesus Christ.

Scars as Testimony

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Every scar on your body, every wound on your heart, every trial endured is proof that God heals. Every tear shed in the quiet of the night is evidence that He comforts. Every moment you survived when you thought you couldn't, is proof of His faithfulness. Beloved daughters, this is the glory of Jesus Christ revealed through your life. Not your strength. Not your cleverness. Not the applause of the world. But His mercy, His power, His grace carried you when you couldn't carry yourself. And that is the story worth telling.

Let Them Whisper

Let them whisper. Let them doubt. Let them walk away. Their misunderstanding does not alter your destiny. Their rejection does not cancel your glory. Because when God brings the glory out of your story, every observer will see: it was His hand, His mercy, His power that carried you through. Beloved, your story before the glory is not wasted. Every pit, every planting, every fire, every kilometer run, every silent moment, all of it was preparation. All of it was shaping you to reflect His character, to radiate His presence, to declare His name.

Surrendering All to Jesus

Here is the highest truth: the moment you surrender fully, the moment you place your everything, your heart, your past, your pain, your future, into the hands of Jesus, something extraordinary happens. He takes the reins. He begins to write the ending. And daughters, that ending is always victory. Philippians 1:6 reminds us: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." When Jesus is the Author and Finisher, failure is impossible, despair is temporary, and every loss becomes a launching pad for His glory.

GIRLS ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

The Revelation of Christ

Your story, when surrendered fully, becomes a living testimony of Jesus Christ. Not just in what you endure, but in how you endure. Not just in what you achieve, but in Who carried you through. Every chapter, every trial, every triumph, it all points to Him. Beloved daughters, hear this as a prophetic call: I want to be more like Christ in everything I enter into and find myself standing in. Jesus, take it all. Let Him have your past, your present, your future. Let Him have your pain, your dreams, your victories. Let Him write the ending, and watch as every scar becomes a crown, every tear becomes a river of life, and every survival becomes a trumpet declaring: Jesus Christ is faithful.

When God unfolds the glory of your story, it will not be about you. It will be about Him. And every soul who witnesses it will know: this was not by chance, not by strength, not by human effort, this was by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus. Your story before the glory was not wasted. The story in the fire, in the race, in the silence, all of it was the prelude to His revelation. And now, daughters of the King, it is time for the glory to shine, and in that glory, Jesus Christ is revealed.



BISHOP OT WHITAKER

FOR THIS CAUSE



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For This Cause The 8 Prophetic Processes

In light of the contemporary challenges facing the prophetic ministry within the body of Christ, it is crucial that we delve deeply into an extensive examination. It is incumbent upon us to hold this sacred ministry in the highest regard, recognizing its enduring importance both in the past and in the present day. To truly grasp the essence of the prophetic ministry, we must look back to its roots and understand its significance in shaping the spiritual landscape. When we consider the Abrahamic Model

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of the prophetic ministry, we are reminded of the foundational principles that underpin this sacred calling. Just as Abraham was called out of his comfort zone to embark on a journey of faith and obedience, so too are modern-day prophets called to step out in faith and proclaim the word of God fearlessly. The Abrahamic Model serves as a timeless blueprint for prophets to follow, emphasizing the importance of unwavering faith and steadfast commitment to God's will.

In examining the prophetic ministry through the lens of the Abrahamic Model, we are encouraged to emulate Abraham's unwavering trust in God's promises. Just as Abraham believed in God's faithfulness despite the seemingly impossible circumstances, so too must modern-day prophets cling to the promises of God even when faced with adversity. By grounding themselves in the Abrahamic Model, prophets can draw strength and inspiration from the faith of their forefather, knowing that God's plans are always greater than our own. The Abrahamic Model of the prophetic ministry offers a timeless and relevant framework for understanding the sacred calling of a prophet. By embracing the principles of faith, obedience, and trust exemplified by Abraham, modern-day prophets can navigate the challenges of their ministry with confidence and conviction. Let us hold fast to the Abrahamic Model as we seek to fulfill our calling as prophetic voices within the body of Christ.

The salient aspects of Abraham's prophetic ministry include:

1. Direct Communication with God. Firstly, in Genesis 20:7, Abraham is explicitly recognized as a prophet when he is engaged with Abimelech, serving as an intercessor. This moment highlights his unique connection

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with God, allowing him to pray for others and bring about positive outcomes.

Additionally, Abraham's prophetic abilities are further demonstrated through visions and revelations that he receives from God. For example, in Genesis 12:1–3, God instructs Abraham to leave his homeland and promises to make him into a great nation. This divine communication not only shapes Abraham's destiny but also establishes him as a pivotal figure in religious history. Moreover, in Genesis 15:1, God appears to Abraham in a vision, offering reassurance and protection: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." These instances of direct communication and divine guidance underscore Abraham's role as a prophet chosen by God to fulfill a significant purpose on earth.

1. Intercession and Advocacy.

Firstly, in Genesis 20:7, we witness Abraham's profound role as a prophetic advocate through his intercession for Abimelech. This act showcases Abraham's willingness to stand in the gap for others, embodying the essence of a true mediator between man and God. Moreover, Abraham's intercession highlights his deep sense of empathy and compassion towards those around him, revealing a heart that seeks justice and mercy in equal measure. Secondly, Abraham's well-known petitions to God for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, as recounted in Genesis 18:22–33, further underscore his role as a prophetic figure. In this instance, Abraham engages in a bold negotiation with the Almighty God demonstrating his audacious faith and unwavering commitment to righteousness. Through his plea for the cities' salvation, Abraham showcases the power of intercessory prayer and the transformative impact it can have on divine judgment. Furthermore, Abraham's actions

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in both scenarios serve as timeless examples of prophetic intercession, where an individual stands as a bridge between humanity and God. His willingness to advocate for others, even in the face of great peril, sets a precedent for future generations to follow in his footsteps. Ultimately, Abraham's legacy as a prophetic advocate remains a testament to the enduring power of faith, compassion, and intercession in shaping the course of history.

2. Covenant and Divine Promise.

In Genesis 17, we witness a profound moment where God establishes a covenant with Abraham, a pivotal figure in the Biblical narrative. This covenant signifies a significant shift in Abraham's life as God not only alters his name but also promises that he will be 'The father of many nations.' This divine promise is not merely a fleeting statement but a profound declaration that shapes the course of history. Through this covenant, God assures Abraham of land, progeny, and a lasting relationship, highlighting the depth of His commitment. The act of circumcision emerges as a tangible symbol of this covenant, underscoring Abraham's unique role in God's redemptive plan. This physical sign serves as a constant reminder of the promises made and the responsibilities entrusted to Abraham. It solidifies his identity as a chosen vessel through which God's divine purposes will be fulfilled. By embracing circumcision, Abraham demonstrates his unwavering faith and obedience to God's commands.

Furthermore, this covenant with Abraham extends far beyond a simple agreement; it lays the foundation for a profound and enduring relationship between God and His chosen people. The covenant with Abraham sets the stage for future generations to partake in the

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blessings and promises that were initially bestowed upon him. It establishes a lineage that will ultimately lead to the birth of Jesus Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant with humanity.

In essence, Genesis 17 portrays a transformative moment where God's covenant with Abraham not only shapes the destiny of one man but also paves the way for the salvation of all nations. This covenant serves as a testament to God's faithfulness, His sovereignty, and His unwavering commitment to His people throughout the ages. Abraham's willingness to embrace this covenant sets a powerful example for believers today, reminding us of the importance of faith, obedience, and the enduring nature of God's promises.

3. Testing and Obedience.

The binding of Isaac in Genesis 22 stands out as a pivotal moment in the biblical narrative, carrying profound significance. This particular event serves as a critical juncture where God issues a command to Abraham, instructing him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. The emotional turmoil that must have engulfed Abraham upon receiving such a directive is unimaginable. Despite this immense challenge, Abraham's unwavering faith and trust in Divine wisdom shine through as he prepares to carry out the sacrifice. His willingness to follow God's command, even in the face of such a distressing request, underscores the depth of his devotion and his unshakeable belief in the divine plan. Abraham's obedience in this trying situation serves as a compelling example of faith and submission to God's will. It exemplifies his readiness to set aside his own desires and emotions to prioritize his relationship with God. The act of sacrifice, or the mere willingness to make such a sacrifice, is a recurring motif in various

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religious and philosophical traditions. It symbolizes the ultimate test of faith and commitment, challenging individuals to go beyond their personal inclinations in service to God. Moreover, the narrative of the binding of Isaac is often interpreted as a prefiguration of the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ in Christian theology. The parallels between Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son and God's sacrifice of His own son for the redemption of humanity are deeply profound and provoke contemplation. This connection underscores the themes of sacrifice and redemption that resonate through both narratives, emphasizing the sacrificial nature of divine love. In essence, the story of the binding of Isaac is intricate and multi-layered, delving into themes of faith, obedience, sacrifice, and trust. It prompts readers to ponder the essence of belief and the extent to which one is willing to go in service of their faith. Abraham's resolute commitment to carrying out God's command, despite the immense personal cost involved, continues to serve as a poignant example of unwavering devotion and submission to God. The narrative of the binding of Isaac remains a timeless testament to the complexities of faith and the profound challenges it may entail.

4. Legacy Across Scriptures

Abraham's story holds significant importance throughout the Psalms, where he is honored as a model of faith and divine grace. In the New Testament, especially in Romans 4, Paul depicts Abraham as the embodiment of righteousness that comes through faith, intricately linking his prophetic confidence to Christian theological principles. Abraham's prophetic function extends beyond simply predicting future events; it encapsulates profound faith, embraces divine revelations, and influences the spiritual pathways of countless generations. While I

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do not claim that the Abrahamic model is the only legitimate paradigm, it has undeniably emerged as a pivotal standard for various prophetic ministries. The importance of Abraham in the Psalms is deep and influential, with his steadfast faith acting as a guiding light for all believers. For example, in Psalm 105, the psalmist narrates Abraham's faith-filled journey, emphasizing his obedience when God called him to leave his familiar surroundings. This showcases Abraham's profound trust in divine direction, which Paul reiterates in Romans 4 as he highlights faith as the foundation of righteousness. Furthermore, the prophetic function of Abraham goes beyond his own personal experiences, leaving a lasting impact on the spiritual framework of future generations. His readiness to obey God's command to sacrifice Isaac illustrates the profound depth of his faith and the ultimate trial he faced. This pivotal moment prefigures the redemptive sacrifice of Christ, reinforcing Abraham's prophetic importance within Christian understanding. When we explore the broader ramifications of Abraham's legacy, it becomes increasingly clear that his life serves as a crucial reference point for grasping prophetic ministries. Although alternative models may be present, the lasting significance of Abraham's faith and obedience has laid down an enduring framework for discerning divine truths and fulfilling spiritual callings. Thus, the Abrahamic model continues to be a vital cornerstone in the intricate tapestry of prophetic traditions. In our upcoming chapters, we will delve deeper into the fascinating realm of the 8 prophetic processes. These processes are essential components in understanding and interpreting prophecies across various cultures and belief systems. As we continue our journey through these prophetic processes, we will uncover the underlying principles that govern prophetic traditions. Stay tuned for a enlightening exploration of the 8 prophetic processes that will broaden your understanding of this ministry.

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