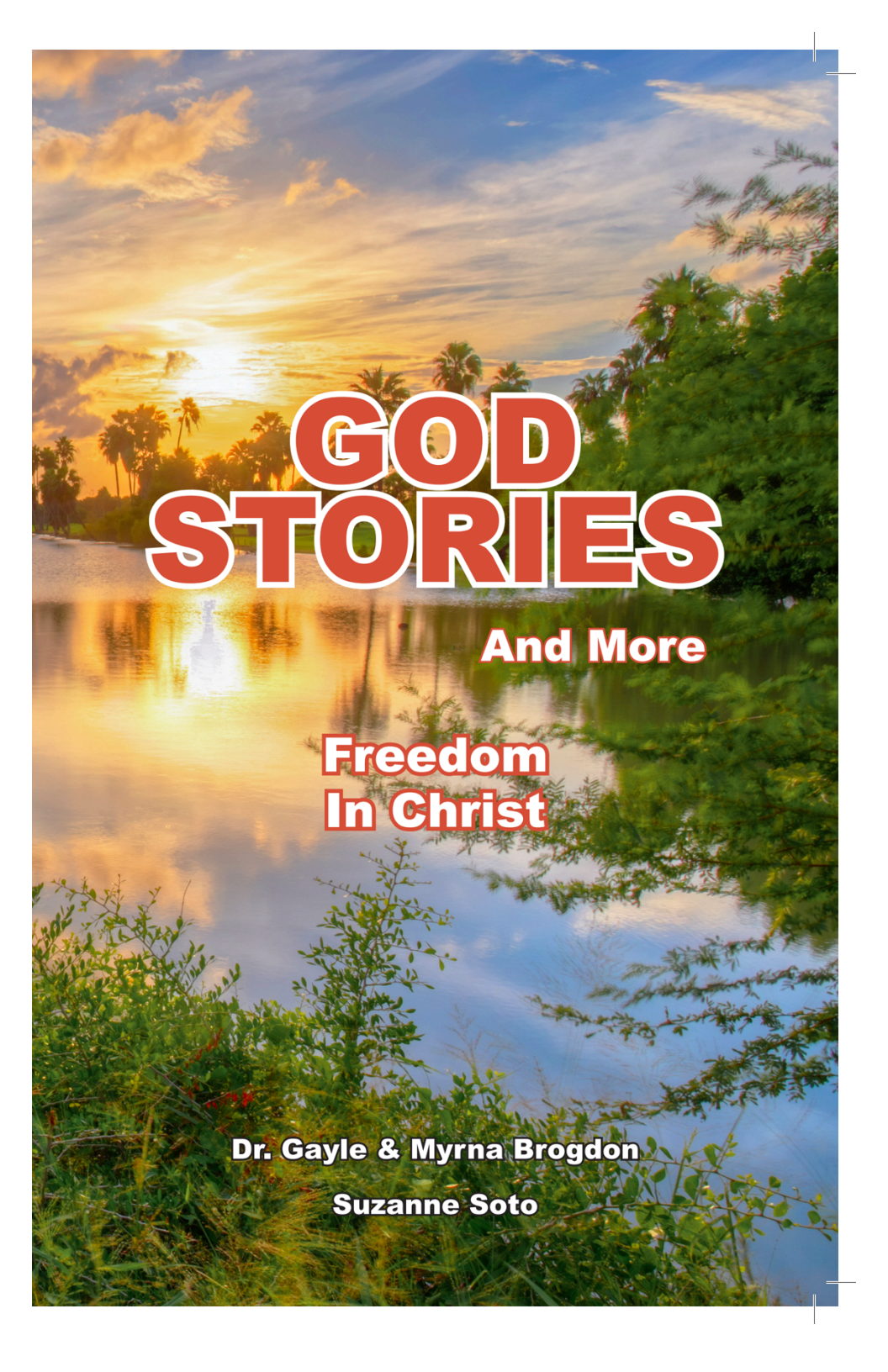




GOD STORIES

And More

**Freedom
In Christ**

Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon

Suzanne Soto

GOOD NEWS FOR YOU

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (ESV)

The Gospel is the good news about what Jesus did for us. All of humanity has sinned—we’ve all done wrong, fallen short, and cannot fix our broken relationship with God on our own. Because of this, we deserve to be separated from Him.

However, God loved us so much that He made a way for us to be forgiven and restored. Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth and lived a perfect life without sin. He took the punishment we deserved and demonstrated the ultimate sacrifice by dying on the cross for us, so our sins—past, present, and future—could be forgiven. Jesus was buried in a tomb, and on the third day, He rose again from the dead. His resurrection proved that He has power over sin and death.

If you were to die today, do you know where you would spend eternity? Here is a simple prayer to consider if you have not yet given your life to Jesus Christ and want to live in eternity with Him.

The Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. So right now, you can pray: “I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of my life. I repent of my sins and ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me and giving me new life. When I die, I will live in eternity with You.”

FREEDOM IN CHRIST!

"So if the Son sets you free, you're free indeed." John 8:36



Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon * Suzanne Soto

The **GOD STORIES And More... FREEDOM IN CHRIST!** book is comprised of powerful, true and inspiring stories written by ordinary people of how an extraordinary God radically transformed their lives – setting them FREE from fear, anger, bitterness, rejection, betrayal, suicidal thoughts, etc. Through these stories, the reader is reminded of the freedom that is made available to every person through Jesus Christ. Regardless of past situations, or seemingly impossible difficulties you might be facing today, Jesus Christ is able to bring freedom to your life.

These stories will inspire you to deepen your faith and trust the One who loves you more than you can imagine. Perhaps you desire to know the One who can set you free. Do you find yourself passionately seeking to have a real personal relationship with Jesus and to experience the depths of God's love for you? Are you wanting to know Him intimately as your Lord and Savior? Do you want to be free in Jesus? This is the day to surrender your life to Jesus.

31-DAY DEVOTIONAL: This booklet may also be used as a 31-day devotional. As you read the stories designated for each day, ask the Lord, "What do you want to reveal to me? In what way(s) may I apply to my life the message(s) and/or the scripture passage(s)? Then pray and do what He shows you. Our prayer is that everyone who reads this booklet will draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and for those who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior, we pray you will...for there is **FREEDOM IN CHRIST!**

With Christ's love,
Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon
Suzanne Soto
Email: life4educators@aol.com
Website: <https://www.god-stories.com>

DAY 1: THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1



Ron Corzine
Ft. Worth, TX

Freedom is probably one of the most sought-after experiences in life, yet many people misunderstand what true freedom is. In John 8:36, Jesus presents a powerful truth that often challenges our ideas about liberty. His words rise above external circumstances and speak directly to the condition of the human heart.

In this passage, Jesus addresses people who believed they were already free because of their heritage and religious identity. Yet He reveals that anyone who lives or practices habitual sin is not truly free but rather enslaved. This can be difficult to accept, especially in our culture, where freedom is seen as doing whatever one desires. However,

Jesus exposes a deeper reality: without Him, people are often controlled by habits, fears, guilt, and desires they cannot fully overcome on their own.

The freedom Jesus offers is not merely freedom from consequences, but freedom from the power of sins or habits themselves. Transformation begins on the inside when Christ sets a person free. He breaks the chains that once held them captive—whether those chains are addiction, bitterness, pride, or shame. This freedom does not mean perfection, but it does mean a new direction and a new power to live differently.

Another important aspect of this freedom is that it is rooted in a relationship, not human effort. Jesus does not say, “If you work hard enough, you will be free.” Instead, He places the responsibility on Himself: “If the Son sets you free.” This reminds us that true spiritual freedom is a gift, received through faith and trust in Him. It is not something we earn, but something we experience as we walk with Christ and continue in His truth.

The phrase “free indeed” emphasizes the completeness and authenticity of this freedom. It is not temporary or superficial. Even in difficult circumstances, a person can experience inner peace and liberty because their identity is no longer defined by sin, but by Christ.

Ultimately, this verse invites every person to consider where they may still be bound and to turn to Jesus as the source of true freedom. In Him, we live, move, and have our being. Acts 17:28

DAY 2: GOD INTERVENED IN MY LIFE!

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

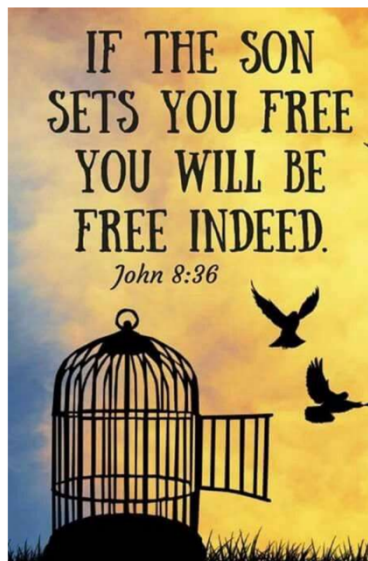
My wife and I were not in good standing with each other and I wanted to kill myself. I took my gun and was going to commit suicide that night. Meanwhile, my wife and my mother were looking all over South Padre Island, TX for me. My mother found me behind one of my Island stores in the dark. I was holding a gun to my head and crying like a baby. She told me to give her the gun, which I did, because I didn't want to kill myself in front of her. We left and I spent the night at her house. The next day I was helping her run one of our booths at an indoor flea market, when a man came up and started sharing the gospel of Jesus with me. I thought, “Oh no, a ‘Jesus freak’.” He gave me a tract, a pamphlet, explaining what it takes to get to heaven, and how I could be set free in Jesus.



Bob Harris
Laguna Vista, TX

What he told me began to make sense, and that night I became born again. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I felt totally different. I was freed from suicidal thoughts, and of the hurts and anger I had been feeling. My wife saw the freedom I was experiencing, and a week later, she and our eldest daughter were born again.

The next day at work I called all my co-workers to a meeting and shared the whole truth about the gospel of Jesus. That day was just the beginning of a life of ministry. Since then, God has opened up doors for me to teach Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, have youth groups, and go into several public schools to share the gospel. Later I became a bi-vocational pastor (business man and a pastor). Many lives were changed for His glory, all because of Jesus Christ setting me free. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!



DAY 3: PRAISE THE LORD!

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:36



Susan Jackson
Harlingen, TX

I grew up always knowing my father as a Christian, gentle and loving. I was the youngest child with two older brothers and was a daddy's girl.

On the other hand, I grew up knowing my mother as mean, critical and emotionally unpredictable. Though some days were great with her, I would eventually come to hate her. As an example, on her birthday, she wouldn't get out of bed so my dad had us all bring birthday presents to her. I was devastated when she slapped the gift out of my hand. It was the first of many episodes of her hateful actions. I was only four years old.

Fast forward after years of living on an emotional roller coaster, I married my high school sweetheart. We turned our lives over to Jesus going all in for ministry, asking God to use us to "do something for God." All seemed well.

However, one day I became severely depressed and tormented out of the blue. I shut the door of my bedroom and isolated myself, as I was overtaken by what I thought must be demonic. I sat in heaviness, feeling helpless and deeply oppressed, I turned on the radio in desperate need of worship only to hear a song begin, "He can work through those who praise Him, praise the Lord. "I knew the power in



worship but could not physically even lift my hands. What I heard in my mind next changed everything. It was "If you don't let me deliver you now, you will be like your mother the rest of your life."

I didn't realize the eternal impact of what was happening. It was a spiritual as well as physical fight to get my hands up in worship, but when I did, I began to weep with such intensity I could hardly breathe. In that moment of surrender, Jesus met me and totally set me free. It was nothing less than supernatural. God gave me His love and forgiveness for my mom. I was forever changed and able to love and honor her with His love for the rest of her life.

DAY 4: IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:44-45

My father grew up in a home without love. He was raised by his sister and brother-in-law. Once, he fell off a buckboard and got hurt, but instead of being helped up, his brother-in-law whipped him.

As a child, I grew up in a family of nine. My father was very controlling and the disciplinarian at home. We all respected him mostly due to fear. His discipline of me included the belt, or his huge, heavy hands. Other times he would slap my face or pull up on my ear to where I had to stand on tiptoe. I guess that was the only type of discipline he knew. Because of this, I grew to hate him so much that I would wish him dead.



**Linda Lopez
Brownsville, TX**

Growing up we lived in a house with cement stairs outside. I could sit there and look down the road which He took to come home on. Everyday I'd sit there, wishing he had gotten killed at work, and that I wouldn't see his car turn onto that road. When I'd see his car, I would be utterly disappointed and walk to the backyard where I wouldn't be in his way when he got home.

Whenever I spoke of my father to others, I could still feel resentment rising up in me. It was deeply rooted in my heart. While visiting a friend, she read me the story on the previous page titled Praise the Lord! I could identify with those hurts that woman felt. It wasn't until 4/29/2026, when my Christian friends prayed for me, that God set me free from years of resentment toward my father and another person who had betrayed and hurt me deeply.



DAY 5: UNEXPECTED TOUCH BY JESUS

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Barry Jackson
Harlingen, Texas

In 1977, I had been married for two and a half years, my wife was pregnant with my first son and my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer. At the same time, I was diagnosed with bleeding ulcers because of all the alcohol I was drinking.

My father was sent to MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX for treatment. I received a desperate phone call from my mother who said I needed to come see my dad. My wife and I drove to Houston to see him, but my wife told me she was divorcing me as soon as my dad died, so I was anxious to find out how my dad could live longer to keep my family together.

After seeing my dad at the point of death in the hospital, I reached out to a church I was told about in Houston. After drinking all day, I went to the church on a Saturday night special service just to get someone to go pray for my dad, but God had other plans.

At the end of a nearly three-hour service, the preacher asked for anyone having bleeding ulcers to come down if you wanted to be healed. I went down and evangelist Charles Hunter met me in a group of some two hundred people asked me if I wanted to be healed of my bleeding ulcers. I said "yes", he touched my forehead and I felt like alkaline seltzers were going off in my stomach. I told him



that I felt I was being healed. He said, "Do you want to get your heart right with God?" I said "yes" again and again, he touched me as I felt the weight of sin leave me. He then asked if I wanted to receive the Holy Ghost and as he prayed, I received this power from God.

I have never looked back. I have been living for Jesus for 47 years. Never have I had alcohol ever again. God eternally set me free!

DAY 6: OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE!

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.” Revelation 2:5

I used to measure myself by what others thought of me. Every decision felt like it needed approval—every step filtered through someone else’s opinion. Deep down, I knew what I believed God was asking of me, but I kept turning to people instead, hoping their voices would bring clarity or comfort. For a long time, I chose their reassurance over obedience. That pattern caught up with me as I went through a season that felt heavy and dark, stretching on for nearly a year. There was a quiet tension in my heart—a sense that something wasn’t right, even when everything on the outside seemed fine. I was exhausted from trying to get it “right” in the eyes of others, yet still felt unsettled.



Terrie Freeze
Saint Hedwig, TX

One day, worn down and out of answers, I finally cried out to God, “What am I doing wrong?” In that still moment, I heard a gentle, unmistakable whisper in my heart: “I told you what to do.” Instantly, I knew what He meant. I could picture exactly where I had been a year before when I first felt His direction. I had heard Him clearly then—but instead of following through, I had second-guessed, sought opinions, and let doubt take over. That realization hit me deeply. I understood that I hadn’t been lacking direction—I had been avoiding obedience.

I repented right there, not only to God but also to the person I had hurt along the way. In that moment, I sensed God speaking to my heart again, lovingly but honestly: “You rely on people’s opinions more than Me.” It wasn’t harsh—it was freeing. It was truth, and it was exactly what I needed to hear.

That day marked a turning point. I began to shift where I went first for guidance. Instead of running to others, I started learning how to sit, listen, and trust God’s voice. I still value wise counsel, but it no longer replaces the place that belongs to Him. I’m still growing. I don’t get it right every time. But something changed in me that day—I felt a freedom I hadn’t known before. Freedom from the weight of others’ expectations. Freedom to walk in obedience, even when it’s uncomfortable. And for that, I’m deeply grateful!!



DAY 7: FREED FROM THE SNARE!

"Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Psalms 124:7-8



Leigh Aten
Brownsville, TX

Almost 20 years ago, we found ourselves caught in a financial mess. We were literally slaves to the lender*. Not only had we dug our own pit, but we were stuck and didn't know how to get free. I prayed and asked the Lord to help us find a solution. We had bills that were past due and headed to collections. I was in charge of paying the bills but I had no concept of a budget. I was so lost!!

From seemingly out of the blue, we learned that our church would be hosting a Financial Peace University group. We knew this was an answer to prayer!!! After 13 weeks of learning the curriculum, we were filled with a new sense of hope. I finally understood all the critical errors that I was making in our personal finances. We learned to save, create a budget, pay off our debts, plan, and invest for retirement. These were things we had never discussed or considered before. It was a complete change of thinking and purpose!!

God brought us hope and delivered us from the mess of our own making as we worked all the baby steps! We are now completely debt free! We own our house and cars, instead of them owning us. We are continuing to prepare for retirement. God really did a miracle in our finances, minds, hearts and lives!

*The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. Prov. 22:7

YOU ARE FREED!



Suzanne Soto
La Feria, TX

Luke 13:11-12 tells of a woman bound by Satan for 18 years with a sickness that caused her to be bent double, where she could not straighten up. Jesus saw her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." If you have been bound through physical, emotional, or spiritual bondage, Jesus is able to set you free. It doesn't matter if it's been one day, 18 years, or 82 years, His freedom is available to everyone. So come, let Jesus set you free.

DAY 8: FREED FROM GENERATIONAL CURSES!

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36*

One of my personal struggles in life had been with anger. I don't remember what actually caused that problem, but it had been with me since childhood. Aunt Arcenia would tell me that I had a bad temper at an early age. She said that one day, after my father had disciplined me, I became so angry I started throwing things.

The problem of anger never left me even after I accepted Christ when I was 12 years old, and regularly attended church and Sunday School. Anger continued into my teenage years causing difficulty for my mother and brothers at home. They wanted things to be peaceful, but instead there was strife. During those teenage years I remembered I would get so upset and angry at my father because he wouldn't allow me to go places or do certain things. Unfortunately, he also had a problem with anger.

I now saw that anger was a serious problem in my life after getting married. My becoming easily upset and having out-bursts of anger could potentially damage the relationship with my husband. I prayed and asked God to help me be nice and sweet, but I recognized that something else was needed to break this cycle.

I became filled with the Holy Spirit in 1966, and learned that there could be a generational curse of anger in our family that needed to be broken. I had seen anger in my father and I had seen anger in me. With that new information I prayed for any generational curses to be broken off of me and to be free from anger in the name of Jesus. I wanted to grow spiritually in the Lord. That day Jesus broke the generational curse of anger in my life. I thank God that He did. Before my parents died, I went and asked them to forgive me for the anger I displayed while growing up. They forgave me. When the Son sets you free, you can be free through and through. Only Jesus has the power to set me free!



Clifford Wrench
South Padre Island, TX



DAY 9: IT'S AMAZING GRACE!

"For I am the LORD who heals you." Exodus 15:26



Janie Gonzalez
Harlingen, TX

In March of 2020 and I had gone in for routine lab work, and discovered I was anemic. By July, I was losing weight and very tired. A colonoscopy revealed a lesion on the tip of my colon. When the Dr. said, "You have cancer," I wanted to have a pity party. "Why me, Lord?" Immediately, GOD spoke to my spirit... "Why not you? You've encouraged others to have faith, now show what faith looks like. Practice what you preach." From that point on, every day was a gift from God. Every morning, I would speak Psalm 103:1-5 over myself. "Praise the LORD, my soul, ...who heals all your diseases..."

The surgeon told me I would need a colostomy bag, but I prayed. "Lord, spare me from this one thing, nevertheless, not my will but Yours be done." I woke up from surgery there was no bag! **Thank You GOD!!**

Next, my hair began to fall out in chunks due to chemotherapy, but GOD provided a good friend with a hair salon who was able to save my hair with natural products.

GOD gave me strength to continue leading a small Bible study group. These people were an extension of GOD'S love for me as they interceded before GOD on my behalf.

My daughter asked for days off from work to take me to my chemotherapy appointments and GOD touched her boss's heart, who allowed her to do that.

During these visits we noticed how sad people looked. We took donuts and breakfast tacos with Bible verses taped on them to hand out to the patients. Smiles appeared on their faces as they read the Bible verses. We were letting the light of GOD shine in that place.

Sitting in my treatment chair, I would share the word of GOD with my daughter and all those around me. What an opportunity GOD provided for His name to be lifted up!

By GOD'S grace, the battle with cancer was defeated and I rang the bell of VICTORY on May 5, 2021.

DAY 10: WHERE DID THAT THOUGHT COME FROM?

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:4,5

“WHY DON’T YOU DRIVE OFF THE BRIDGE AND KILL YOURSELF?” That was a thought that came to me when I was 17 years old, driving across the South Padre Island bridge headed for a day of fun at the beach with my girlfriends. I was shocked that I would think that because I was a Christian, loving and serving the Lord, had great friends, had a wonderful family life, and I was honoring my parents! WHY WOULD I THINK THAT? WHY WOULD I WANT TO DIE?



**Lynn Crow, Missionary
CD. Victoria, Tamps, Mexico**

What came next was FEAR. Because I thought that it was my thought, and that I wanted to die, I then felt I had no control over what my body and thoughts would do to me! I gripped the steering wheel and prayed all the way across the bridge, but with great FEAR! From that point on, if I ever drove across a bridge over water, a FEAR would return and grip me in great force, as I felt I had no control.

Seven years later, I attended a conference in Waco, Texas and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and my life changed! I went from a normal Christian to a supernatural Christian, because of the influence of the Holy Spirit. When I received the Holy Spirit, my eyes were opened to understand God’s Word that; **THAT THOUGHT WAS NOT FROM ME, BUT FROM THE DEVIL, WHO WANTED TO DESTROY MY LIFE, MY DESTINY!** (John 10:10) “The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy but Jesus has come to give us life and life in abundance.”

SUICIDE IS NOT LIFE IN ABUNDANCE BUT A TRICK OF THE ENEMY TO TAKE US OUT OF GOD’S DESTINY FOR OUR LIFE! I SAID, “NO DEVIL! YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER ME!” AND THAT DAY I TOOK MY THOUGHTS INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST. FEAR LEFT AND I’VE BEEN GUARDING MY THOUGHTS EVERY SINCE! NO FEAR HERE IN JESUS NAME!!!! I’M FREE!

DAY 11: FROM HAPPY HOUR TO HAPPIER HOUR!

"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." Romans 6:22



Steve Hale
San Marcos, TX

Years ago, a prominent couple in the community visited our church. Both were attorneys and very well connected with the local socialites. Soon, they had encountered Christ and given their lives to Him. A genuine hunger led to a deeper dive in their newfound faith. By their own admission, they had known nothing other than a godless lifestyle marked by secularism and parties, steeped in alcohol. The hallmark of their day centered around Happy Hour, sometimes with friends and co-workers, but always as a couple as they

sought to unwind from the stresses of their fast-paced jobs. Still, there was a gaping hole in their lives leaving them unfulfilled, trapped and searching for more. They went looking for religion, but what they found was relationship.

The impact was swift and life-changing. Wise, godly mentors in the faith modeled Christ, helping them set course for a new beginning. Within a few short months, both came home to realize that their daily Happy Hour had been replaced with a Happier Hour that centered around God and a “new” kind of Spirit. Make no mistake, God miraculously changed these people’s lives and set them free as they immersed themselves in the Word.

My dad used to say, “the unchanged Word of God changes people.” So often, we find well-meaning Christians giving the lost or fallen a list of dos and don’ts that has to be completed in order for them to be set free. But Romans 12:2 tells us that it is the Word of God that renews the mind. I love Psalm 19:7 that says, “The law (Word) of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul...” The word “converting” refers

to restoration. One rendering is to “return to its original condition”... Hallelujah, the Word works!



HAPPIER HOUR
with JESUS!

As time passed, I lost track of this couple, but not before witnessing of the incredible impact their new lives had among their peers and in their family. Their freedom has had a ripple effect that can be seen in others to this day. In Christ, every hour is truly Happier Hour!

DAY 12: HE SET ME FREE!

"So if the Son sets free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

This scripture may be simple, but it is so profound! It was shared with me before, during, and after my depression. It's a scripture that is forever engraved on my heart.

Here is what led to my depression and how Jesus set me free. First, I lost two older siblings in less than a year apart from each other. My sister, Alicia, in June 2, 2012 and my brother, David, in May 17, 2013 both passed away. Losing both of them was heartbreaking and life changing for me. It was a blow from the enemy.



**Sara Gonzalez
Mercedes, TX**

The Lord was faithful and things ran smooth for a couple of years. In May 2013, my father -in -law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and we moved back home to help. Again, the Lord was faithful and we both found jobs and life ran smoothly for a couple of years. Then in December of 2016, my husband, Fred, was diagnosed with colon cancer. I told the Lord, "What else could happen, Lord? I'm spent." He said, "Just trust me, Sara, I got you." Fred's surgery was successful and he was cancer free. Praise the Lord!

In January of 2017, at a school training, I suddenly became so anxious, nervous, and fearful. I saw a physician and started taking medications. But after two weeks, I stopped taking them and decided to solely depend on God. I said, "God, I need Your help because I can't do this. I'm trusting You to set me free from all this." I read my Bible and played worship music before work, during lunch time, and at home. I also reached out to strong Christian prayer warriors whom prayed daily for me. It took everything I had and everything I knew about God and the Bible to fight this battle daily. A battle so big, and so long, that I couldn't see it won. BUT GOD was faithful and kept His mighty arm extended, pulling me out of that depression. I could feel me winning and becoming free. It was Jesus shining through the darkness. Today, I am whom the Son set free...Indeed.



DAY 13: OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND I WILL FILL IT!

*"God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power and of love,
and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7*



Lynn Johnson
Harlingen, TX

All through grade school, high school, and college I was terrified to speak in front of a crowd. I would have terrible anxiety. When the time came for me to speak, I was a bumbling, nervous wreck, and it showed. After marriage, my pastor asked me to help him in our church with announcements. Again, all the old fears were still there and I couldn't get a grip on my tongue or my fears.

Over the years, I have received numerous prophecies from godly men and women saying that I would have words from the Lord that would bless and set the captives free. But in my heart, I didn't believe it, because I wasn't free.

A couple came to our church to minister that specialized in deliverance and warfare. They called me out of the audience, prayed over me, and commanded the chains to be broken over my insecurity to speak. I had told them nothing about my anxiety

of speaking in public before they prayed. But the Holy Spirit had spoken to them, because He had plans for me. That night, the Lord set me free!



After that, the Lord would give me words of encouragement for the church I attended. Although it wasn't immediate, I trusted the Lord, and gave out what He gave me. That was 30 years ago. Today I can preach, teach, and be used of the Lord because when He breaks chains, He breaks them completely in order to fulfill His destiny and purpose in our lives. And without fear, I can stand up to tell about it. He who the Son sets free is free indeed!

DAY 14: HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM!

"My hope is in You all day long." Psalm 25:5

My husband, Kirk, stepped on a rusty nail at his car repair shop. It became so infected that one of his toes had to be amputated. Even after the surgery and with antibiotics, the wound had a hard time healing. At that time, Kirk was diabetic and used insulin. He was a smoker, depressed, had anxiety, and couldn't sleep at night. I immediately became his twenty-four-hour nurse and was very stressed all the time trying to keep him happy.

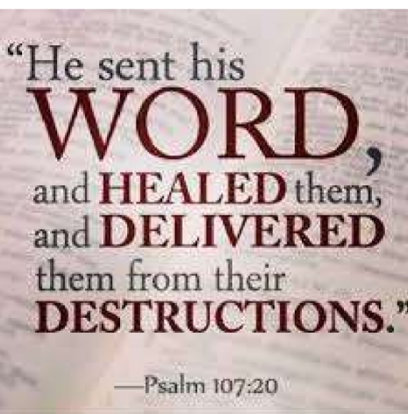
I kept praying for a supernatural healing for both Kirk's body and my health, because we were both under constant pain and had a lot of anxiety in our lives during that time. I thank God for all our church friends, family, and others who were praying and standing in agreement with us for complete healing. I knew that God had created our bodies to heal itself. I also knew that God heard our prayers and that He would heal us. So, we waited and kept praying and believing God for supernatural healing.

The answer to our prayer came as a doctor recommended a small patch that was designed to activate our own bodies stem cells which would promote wound healing and reduce inflammation. God had given us Jeremiah 30:17 as a scripture to stand while believing for supernatural healing: "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord. We prayed and began using the patches. Suddenly Kirk's foot wound began healing. Shortly after that, he was able to get off insulin. He was sleeping much better, and the anxiety and depression he had been experiencing was lifted.

We give praise to God because He is never late in answering our prayers. He set us free, one health issue at a time- supernaturally. All glory to God! "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

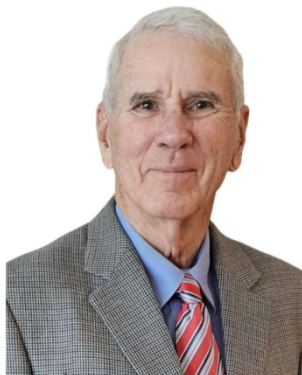


Laura Owens
South Padre Island, TX



DAY 15: THE FATHER KNOWS BEST!

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you." Psalm 32:8*



Gayle Brogdon
Brownsville, TX

Since my teenage years, I was around friends and family who smoked cigarettes. In my thinking, smoking was a way to show that you were approaching adulthood. Smoking became a habit that I participated in for more than 35 years.

One day my family doctor told me I needed to quit smoking, and would give me a prescription that would help me stop. I had prayed earlier that Jesus would help me quit, because no one in my family liked this habit, as it was offensive to them.

I reasoned the best way to quit smoking would naturally come from MY intellect (Step aside, Jesus, I got this.) I asked my doctor for the prescription "Patches." I thought all I had to do was to use the patches, reduce the number of cigarettes I smoked daily, and all would be well. It did not work well, at all. After a few hours I wanted a cigarette and gave in to the craving. Then I tried to quit using a "Smoking Cessation" program. People would meet weekly, discuss their progress, and reduce the number of cigarettes they smoked daily until they reached zero. This didn't work either. The urge to smoke was so strong, that I started to hide cigarettes in the garage, just in case I couldn't make it. This was a way to fulfill my need for nicotine gratification.

I realized I was having very little success in quitting. The next day I tried again, only this time I prayed to Jesus, admitting that I could not do this in my own power and that I needed His help. Jesus was the leader and not me. For three months I did



not smoke, but due to the job stress and having quit smoking, I had bad headaches daily. I prayed every day to be free from the headaches. Then one day, after three months, the headaches were miraculously gone and I felt so free! I had been so addicted to nicotine, that without Jesus guiding and

strengthening me, I could not have done this in my own strength. That was 33 years ago, and I have never wanted or smoked another cigarette.

DAY 16: HAVE YOU BEEN CANCELED? GOD'S WELL IS STILL OPEN!

*She called the name of the Lord who spoke to her,
"You are a God who sees me." Genesis 16:13*

Not long ago, after a heartbreaking family tragedy, a loved one decided to cut us out of their life. We hadn't caused their pain, yet somehow, we became the reason for it. At first, we waited—sure that time and love would heal the wound. But the silence grew longer. Holidays passed, messages went unanswered, gifts were not acknowledged. Our hearts were crushed. All we could do was respond with kindness, forgiveness, and prayer. Still, nothing changed.



**Janet Magee
Harlingen, TX**

In that season of grief, I discovered we weren't alone. There is actually a term for what was happening to us – it's called, "The Cancel Culture." Many people are quietly suffering the same loss—the pain of being *canceled* by those they love. Often, it's not about what we did, but about something hurting deeply within them. Some run from shame, others from pain, and some just need someone to blame. But there comes a moment when you must stop chasing after them.

I asked God what to do, and He whispered to my heart: "*Stop pursuing them. You can't heal them. You are not their rescuer or their scapegoat. They must walk their own journey with Me.*" It was then I realized: my waving the flag of forgiveness couldn't fix everything. True healing comes when the pain of separation becomes heavier than the comfort of blaming others. That's something only God can work out in their hearts.

So where do we go when we've been canceled? Back to God's well - the place where His presence brings peace. Return to the scripture that once comforted you. Sing the song that lifted your heart. Remember the moment you felt His love wash over your pain. Suffering is never wasted when it leads us back to Christ. At His well - in his presence - we find strength to forgive, courage to wait, and faith to believe for restoration—on His terms, in His time. If you've been canceled, meet me at God's well. The water is still flowing, and His love is still enough.



DAY 17: THE PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAIL MUCH!

*"I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!'
Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth." Isaiah 43:5-6*



Jeremy McKnight
Alexandria, Indiana

In the beginning of my walk with God I had many ups and downs. In my younger years, I was a rebellious sinner wanting to do my own thing, even though I was raised in church. I behaved in ways that were not pleasing to Him, but I thank God He never gave up on me.

I strongly believe in the power of prayer, because I have seen it operate in my own life. I know it was because of the faithful prayers of my family and loved ones during my younger rebellious years, that helped set me free from the enemy's hand and put me on a course with God. Prayer is definitely powerful and can accomplish great things. As a result, I can say that their prayers have been the biggest contributing factor in shaping my consistent walk with the Lord.

Because of the faithful prayers of those who prayed for me, and the grace of God in my life, God's plans have been established in my life. He has blessed me with an amazing wife and three beautiful daughters. He has given me a church to pastor and a supervisor role with the Department of Corrections. And He has given me opportunities to let the light of Jesus shine to others.

So don't discount the power of prayer. And don't neglect the privilege of praying for others. It can change someone's life now and for eternity. I know, because it changed my life.

Bible Verses on Prayer

- James 5:16: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
- Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God...will guard your hearts."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

DAY 18: STEPPING OUT ON THE WATER!

“For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

With my geology degree I found myself sitting in the middle of the ocean and being off shore nine months out of the year. Having just gotten married in March of 2024, I was optimistic for a remote position that would allow me to be with my new bride and regularly attend our church.

The contract for the rig I was on was not renewed, so consequently, I was out of a job! It was a sink or swim situation. I prayed, asking the Lord for wisdom and favor in the coming weeks. My manager called, saying a company was willing to interview me for an offshore job. At the same time, I discovered that my current company had a geology department, and was also looking to hire.



Michael Machner
Houston. TX

I interviewed for the offshore position and was offered the job immediately. I requested time to consider my options, and would let them know my decision next week. I spent the week praying and I felt the Holy Spirit guiding me away from this guaranteed job. I felt like Peter when Jesus told him to “come,” step out of the boat. I knew I carried the Lord's favor, and was now being asked to step out in faith.

I turned down the offshore job down the next day. That evening, I started to sink, as Peter did, by questioning my decision. But in the morning, Jesus freed me from my self-doubts and covered me with His peace. Then, not even 24 hours later, after declining the offshore job, I received a message from the geology department. They were asking me to interview for a job. I began to radically praise the Lord! I was walking on the water!

I interviewed and was offered the job the following week. Even when things don't make sense in the natural, having faith and walking in obedience to the Lord will allow Him to honor you. Because, “Faith the size of a mustard seed can move a mountain.”

DAY 19: UNFORGIVENESS IS SPIRITUAL POISON!



Ron Corzine
Fort Worth TX

This is what I have learned about unforgiveness.

Unforgiveness is the single most popular poison that the enemy uses against God's people, and it is one of the deadliest poisons a person can take spiritually. It causes everything from mental depression to health problems.

Jesus gave us very important commandments to follow; one of them was to love one another, as He has loved us (John 15:12). Love is the exact opposite of unforgiveness, envy, jealousy, hate, pride, and bitterness. You can't truly love somebody and hold bitterness or unforgiveness against him or her at the same time.

1. Our responsibility is to forgive others.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins, so that we may be reconciled to Him, without spot or blemish. He asks that we give others the same forgiveness that was paid for us. He tells a parable in Matthew 18:23-35 that says the same thing:

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'"

2. Unforgiveness can block God from answering our prayers

Mark 11:24, 25, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought (something) against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

3. Unforgiveness can defile a person

Hebrews 12:15, "...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

Notice at the end it says, "many be defiled." This is a VERY common, if not one of the most common, everyday things that defile people! Many bondages can be shed when a person forgives those who have wronged him or her.

DAY 20: GOD'S MIRACLES!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

My wife passed away from Lupus 12 years ago. Now I was alone and things began to weigh me down. I was angry with my neighbor over simple things and would lash out at her. This continual anger caused me to realize I shouldn't be living like this. Anger was useless. I needed to change. I had been praying and asking the Lord to deliver me from anger when one day I needed a ride somewhere because my car didn't work. I asked my neighbor and she kindly and cheerfully took me where I needed to go. Suddenly my heart melted and it felt like a huge weight had been lifted off of me. Jesus had just delivered me from anger. Not in a way I expected, but miraculously it was gone! God had answered my prayer.



Nick Munguia
San Benito, TX

Four years ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It was a terrible experience as I had doctor visits and then surgery. The doctor told me I would definitely need a second surgery. I didn't want that. I knew God hears our prayer, so I kept praying for God to heal me. On a follow up visit six months later, the doctor was amazed! No surgery was needed. She said, "Whatever you're doing, keep doing it." It wasn't anything I did, but God who set me free by healing me!

Then a year later I had a stroke. Two weeks later as I was getting my mail I couldn't walk back to my house. My neighbor took me to the ER and the doctor told me I was very fortunate to not have died even two weeks ago, because I had just now had a second stroke. I started to cry and to think about all the things the Lord had set me free from: anger, cancer, two strokes. I was overwhelmed by God's goodness in my life and how much He cares for me.

Now every morning when I wake up, I praise the Lord because each day is a WOW moment! I'm grateful to be alive!



DAY 21: I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU!

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will take hold of me." Psalm 139:7-10



Ludi Snyder
Brownsville, TX

"We can't hear the baby's heartbeat," said the doctor, "and we can't see the baby either." I was in shock! I was close to four months pregnant! My blood work showed I was pregnant. My belly had been growing. And now, all of a sudden, there is no baby and no heartbeat? How could there be no baby, and no heartbeat, when there was evidence of a pregnancy??

The fact was, I was pregnant and there was an embryo. But my baby could not grow because I had so much scar tissue in my uterus. The main doctor called me in and said I needed to have a hysterectomy as soon as possible. I knew it was the end of ever becoming pregnant again. My husband and I were so hurt and so devastated by this news, that we hardly talked to each other! I was upset at God. I felt angry. How could God allow this to happen? He knew how much I wanted children. My first pregnancy was a miscarriage. My second one, I almost lost several times, but she survived and was a preemie.

I remember crying and praying before the hysterectomy and suddenly I began to feel the Lord's presence settle over me. Jesus began gently setting me free from all the hurts, pain, and loss I was feeling. He was replacing it with His comfort and peace. He led me to Psalm 139:7-10, ministering to me, softly reminding me that He would always be with me wherever I would go. That scripture brought freedom to me as I was assured that even going through a hard situation like I did, Jesus was always there with me. He loves me and He will never forsake me.

God is Always With Me

Psalm 139:7-10

DAY 22: I QUIT!

"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." John 3:2

Struggles! Nobody likes them, especially me. I wanted things in my Christian life to be moving along faster than they were. I wanted "miracle grow" to be happening in my life. I thought I was doing all the "right" things. I was reading the Bible, studying the scriptures, quoting the scriptures, praying, even reading books that taught me how to hear and receive more revelations from God, and yet, nothing I did seemed to be working. I felt stuck in my Christian walk.



Suzanne Soto
La Feria, TX

I was explaining this to a friend, and the more I explained about what I was doing and not getting the results I wanted, the more frustrated and angry I became. Finally, I said, "I quit!", and threw my pen across the table, not in surrender to God, but in anger. My friend reminded me this was not the first time I had gotten angry and reacted badly. That comment bothered me. Why was I acting like this, and where did that anger come from?

I was still upset when I went to bed that night. In fact, I didn't even bother to pray, or read the Bible. I thought, "Why bother, all my efforts of doing the "right" things were not producing the results I wanted anyway, so I'll just go to sleep."

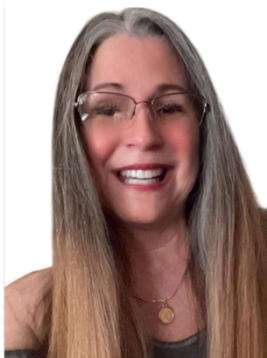
Later that night Jesus did a miracle and set this captive woman free. I woke up feeling totally refreshed and light. The weight of me trying to make things happen in my Christian walk was broken. The heaviness was gone. Jesus revealed Himself that He was Lord of my life, and that He was in charge of my spiritual growth, not me. What freedom!! He also revealed and delivered me from the root cause of anger. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can set people free, as the scripture says, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Praise the Lord!

NOT BY MIGHT
NOR BY POWER
BUT BY MY
Spirit
SAYS THE LORD

Zechariah 4:6

DAY 23: SET FREE FROM FEAR!

"Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36



Heidi Crane
St. George, Utah

John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." That scripture became real in my life when Jesus set me free from fear.

There was a time when I felt overwhelmed and pressured by circumstances around me. Fear would try to creep in -- fear of the unknown, fear of what could happen, and fear that I wasn't strong enough to face it all. It weighed heavily on my heart and mind, and I realized I could not carry it on my own.

In that place, I turned fully to the Lord. I began seeking Him with all my heart, asking Him to remove every distraction so I could hear His voice clearly. As I spent time in His Word, I began to understand His strength, His power, and His promises in a deeper way. His Word reminded me that He is my protector, my refuge, and my peace.

**"So do not fear, for I am
with you; do not be
dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen
you and help you; I will
uphold you with my
righteous right hand."**

— Isaiah 41:10

Something shifted within me. The fear that once held me began to lose its grip. In its place came a deep, unshakable peace not because my circumstances changed, but because I knew God was with me. I realized I was not alone, and I did not have to be afraid.

Today, I stand with confidence, knowing I am covered and protected by the Lord. When fear tries to return, I go back to His Word and stand on His

promises. I now walk in faith instead of fear, trusting Him completely.

Jesus truly sets us free. If He did it for me, He can do it for you. All you have to do is seek Him, trust Him, and stand on His Word.

DAY 24: DO NOT WORRY ABOUT...

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phillipians 4:19

In the late 90's, I was systematically fired from a convenience store manager's position. I was then offered a different position, working 3rd shift, part time, at another location. My income was substantially cut by 90%. I sought out other employment and was hired by Essex Wire and Cable in their quality department as the ISO Coordinator.

This position required me to interact with everyone from the CEO to the janitor as I wrote procedures. It was a very hectic job and I loved it, except for the language of my coworkers. I kept quiet for a period of time before finally saying to them that I didn't mind the foul language with one exception: I asked that they not take the Lord's name in vain. To my amazement, they apologized, and it wasn't long before the foul language almost completely disappeared. As with any job, I had my ups and downs, and after a couple of years I started praying specifically about my job. I prayed asking God that if He wanted me elsewhere, to make it plain because I'm slow at seeing the signs!



**Paris Fettes
Ossian, Indiana**

Several weeks later, just days before a BIG ISO audit, both my boss and I were called into HR. This was not out of the ordinary, based on the type of jobs we did for the company. However, this trip to HR was different. I was losing my job! While my boss went white and nearly fainted, I laughed! Looking at all the confused looks in the room, I then explained the prayers I had prayed. I said, "God definitely made it obvious!" My peace and my freedom concerning a job change were found in Christ. He set me free knowing I could trust Him with my future. I didn't have to worry or be anxious, because it was all in God's hands.

Within a matter of minutes, news flooded the factory in disbelief as I was escorted out of the building. I gave thanks to God, not knowing what lay ahead, but having the peace and freedom to rest in Him. The next several months were busy with things I wouldn't have had time for with a job anyway. And when that season was up, 9/11 happened. Shortly after that, I got the job God wanted for me, and right where He needed me next!



DAY 25: IN GOD'S TIME!

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10



Linda Champion
San Benito, TX

In 2008, I was sent to a specialist to see if I was having kidney issues. After x-rays were done, the specialist called my Primary Care Doctor and reported that the kidneys were okay but there was a spot on my left lung that should not be there. For three years, it was "watched" carefully, and in the spring of 2011 a decision was made to perform a biopsy on it. I went for the scheduled procedure, but the pulmonary surgeon said he was afraid if he did the procedure, the lung would deflate and cause further problems. But in July 2011, my pulmonologist decided to go ahead and remove the spot anyway, since the borders were changing and the cells seemed denser.

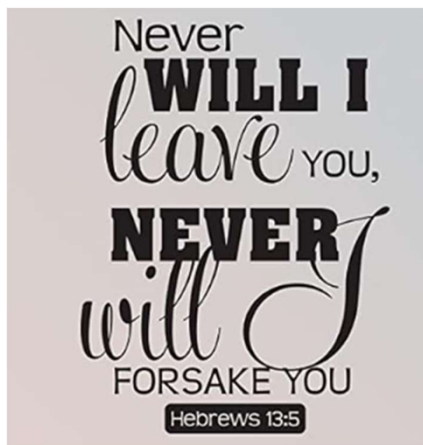
When I awoke from the surgery, the doctor said it had been cancerous. They had removed the spot along with the lower lobe of the left lung. I never had anything else done after the surgery as far as chemotherapy or radiation.

I had this freedom and peace in knowing that God was with me the entire time before, during, and after the surgery. And I knew with confidence that He would

never leave me. He has determined all of my days here on earth, so why worry? He knows everything about me so I do not need to fear anything.

After the surgery, I returned to my job as a middle school teacher in the fall semester. In 2012 I moved back to Texas and continued teaching. After a career of 44 years in the classroom, I retired.

Throughout all of this, I was never worried. Whatever happens, I know He has me in His hands.



DAY 26: WALK THIS WAY!

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or you turn to the left.'" Isaiah 30:21

God's grace is offered free of charge to everyone, beginning at birth to those who are advanced in age. It is God's gift to us and I saw it operate in my own life and the lives of others. My spiritual journey began through godly parent who lived their Christianity by example. I had innumerable other positive influences in my life, such as teachers and coaches, who were godly role models pointing to the eternal sheepfold of Christ. As a result, spiritual seeds were being planted in my life.



Paul Hemphill
Brownsville, TX

My first personal eye-opening experience occurred at a young age. I went outside and looked up at the heavenlies and beheld the awesome display of stars. At that moment I knew there was a Divine Creator who had placed those stars in the heavens. This revelation was deeply imbedded in my soul as more spiritual seeds were planted.

Bible stories and hymns like, "This is My Father's World" and "Fairest Lord Jesus" had a way of penetrating even the hardest of hearts as more spiritual seeds were sown in my life. Yet, in my 20's I learned how to be cynical and judgmental of the corporate Church, as I drifted away from my youthful innocence. But at 30, as I listened to others talk about their personal journey with Jesus, I became aware of the need for God's grace in my life and renewed my relationship with God.

I witnessed God's grace when I volunteered to work with a teenage ministry. A spirit of rebellion was present one evening so we called for an all-night prayer vigil. God's grace worked mightily as that spirit of rebellion left and many breakthroughs occurred. I saw more evidence of God's grace displayed while volunteering in a prison ministry. The constant miracles that happened there were beyond description and nothing short of amazing!

I am grateful for the ever-present miraculous power of God's grace drawing me back to Him and being able to witness God's grace in other's lives. That is truly...God's grace!



DAY 27: TRAVEL THAT SETS YOU FREE!

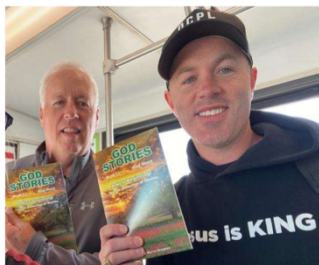
"Ten lepers stood afar off and lifted up their voices and said, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' So when He saw them, He said to them, 'Go show yourselves to the priests.' And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.'" Luke 17:12-14



Suzanne Soto
La Feria, TX

I was quiet, easily intimidated, and fearful when it came to talking to people, and especially talking to people about the Lord. I just didn't know what to say or how to share to an unbeliever about Jesus. I was too afraid. So, I didn't do it. I figured I'd just leave the sharing of the gospel up to the evangelist. Except, all that changed one night where I felt impressed that the Lord was saying, "Am I too busy not to share Jesus? Is this not a priority?" I immediately knew where I had to go. I got up the next morning, packed a travel bag with GOD STORIES books and rack cards, and headed out to a nearby city street to hand them out to those God brought across my path.

I had NEVER done anything like this before, by going out and sharing Jesus to total strangers. I was a bit fearful that morning, so I hid myself behind the palm trees that lined the street until I saw someone I could approach. As I went out in obedience to God's prompting, I was suddenly filled with a confidence and boldness that I didn't have before. I was able to approach many different people that morning. I talked to young couples and older couples; single people and families; people visiting from out of town and local shop owners. Everyone became an opportunity for me to tell them about Jesus, and hand them a GOD STORIES book. In addition, I asked if there was something I could pray with them about.



That day Jesus broke the fear of man off of me. No longer was talking to people about the Lord something to be feared. It was now a joy and a privilege, and something to look forward to. Jesus had set me free from that bondage that had ensnared me for so many years.

Not only was I set free that day, but many people would testify after being prayed for, how Jesus had set them free of fears, anxiety, worry, finances, jobs, health issues, and even some people of their eternal salvation by accepting Jesus as their Savior. Freedom was available to all. Do you need to be set free from something? Then call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for He is able to do what concerns you.

DAY 28: HOW THE FEAR OF REJECTION BECOMES A TRAP!

God knew that the fear of rejection is one that people would have to face and overcome. Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man is a dangerous trap. But to trust in God means safety.” How is the fear of man, or the fear of rejection, a dangerous trap? I listed just a few below. There are so many.

1. The fear of rejection causes us to conform our lifestyles and values.

To avoid rejection, we sometimes become chameleons, adapting to the clothes we wear, the car we drive, the lifestyle we live, and even the values we hold, because we don't want to be rejected for who we are.



Ron Corzine
Fort Worth, TX

Many years ago, when I first entered the ministry, it was very important for me to dress, talk, and look a certain way so I would appear successful and hopefully be accepted by successful people. Now, after more than 50 years of ministry, I see this is not just a problem with young people. Even older people still struggle with the fear of rejection. At this time in my life, I am seeking only comfort and simplicity and not the appearance of success. I suggest that, however you dress, talk, look, or live, do it not to be accepted by men, but because you know God has accepted you.

2. The fear of rejection keeps us from speaking the truth.

Sometimes people lie or distort the truth to avoid being rejected by others. Some remain silent, bite their tongues, and refuse to speak up. When it comes to truth, we should be able to speak it in love from our hearts without fear of rejection. If it means being rejected, so be it.

3. The fear of rejection prevents us from giving and receiving love.

This is a biggie. Many people choose to shut down because they've been burned once and don't want to be burned again. I have heard people say, "I have shown love, and it was not received, and it made me feel so foolish." Because they feel so foolish and so rejected, they stop giving and receiving. This happens in many marriages. They can no longer handle the treatment or the rejection from their spouse, so they just shut down.

Don't be trapped by the fear of rejection. Jesus came to set you **FREE!**

DAY 29: A BRUISED REED!

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled." Heb. 12:14-15



Myrna Brogdon
Los Fresnos, TX

Several years ago, Gayle said, "You're not the same person I married." I replied "Yes, you're right, but I don't know why I changed." Why had I changed from being a quiet, timid, and fearful young bride to a strong woman with a brusque, black and white (with no gray areas) personality? I knew something was amiss, so I began asking the Lord, "What happened?"

One day during our devotional time, Gayle read Hebrews 12:15, which warns believers against allowing a "root of bitterness" to grow.

Unchecked resentment can spread, corrupting both the individual and others. We prayed together, asking the Lord to search our hearts and show us if we had any root of bitterness in us and to set us free.

The next morning, the thought came, "I have a 'root of bitterness!'" Even though I'd already repented and forgiven everyone, it still felt like the enemy's hands were holding a tight grip on that root of bitterness, trying to keep it in my heart. Immediately, a movie began rolling in my mind's eye showing every rejection, betrayal, and intense, emotional hurt that occurred from family, friends, teachers, and even spiritual leaders. I felt like a bruised reed, that had been bent over and stomped on from words or situations that had greatly pierced and wounded my heart throughout my lifetime. Then the movie stopped. It focused on one specific person, along with the immense trauma and devastating betrayal from that person. After that, I saw myself rise up and declare, "NO MORE!!"

At that moment the Lord opened my understanding and showed me this was the reason why I had changed. I repented of the bitterness that I had unknowingly been harboring in my heart. James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults to one another, so you

may be healed." I confessed to Gayle what had just occurred, and right then, Jesus totally set me free! No longer did I feel like a bruised reed. Jesus did what His word said it would do. He healed me, freed me, and brought restoration to me from all the hurts, rejections, and betrayals I had experienced. I was now set free!



DAY 30: GOD'S PERMANENT WAY OF ESCAPE!

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says." Mark 11:23

Permanent breakthroughs can be as real and natural as breathing. One day many years ago, God showed me that I can pray and fast for permanent BREAKTHROUGHS. I was so tired of having temporary ones, on one minute and off the next (like a light switch).

One day while reading scripture, I discovered that God promises a way of escape for every temptation. "NO temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

During one of my struggles, God said to me, "Since you can ask for anything in My name, why not ask Me for a permanent breakthrough?" So, I asked for His permanent way of escape from my addiction of excessive slumber. Throughout my entire life, it has always been hard for me to rise up early. Mornings were just not my cup of tea. I prayed many times for a breakthrough, but every attempt to rise early was a huge effort, and most of all, followed by utter failure within a day or two.

I asked God for a permanent way of escape from sleeping in until noon or even 1:00 p.m. countless times. It wasn't until a dear friend said, "Debbie, God's Word says YOU are to speak to that mountain, 'Be moved!'" Wow, what a revelation. God's given me the power in Jesus' name to speak to any mountain!

That mountain moved, and so many more since then. Now I wake up between 5:30 to 7:00 a.m. without an alarm clock! God set me free through His word and gave me a permanent breakthrough once and for all. He can give you a PERMANENT breakthrough in any struggle that you're going through today. Simply ask Him for it, and then speak to that mountain, "Be moved, in Jesus' name!"



**Debbie Diehl
Harlingen, TX**



DAY 31: I AM A CHILD OF GOD!

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6*



Carmen Rivera
La Feria, TX

There were 14 of us in our family while I was growing up. Sometimes we got attention and sometimes we didn't. With my dad, you had to have a lighter complexion to get any attention. Even at age four I started to see the favoritism, as he only held certain daughters on his lap. I didn't get to sit on his lap, or my sisters, with the same complexion as myself. I soon realized to not even try to get too close to him. I started having feelings of dislike towards my father and later a hatred towards him.

We were migrant workers. My dad had a cruel spirit and always treated us with a form of dislike. Just dealing with ordinary life was hard, but my dad added to that struggle by always yelling at us. I was beginning to think that God really didn't care about me.

Every Sunday my mom would have Billy Graham on T.V. and I felt like I needed to hear him. I needed a father figure in my life. My brother started going to church and I had seen the change in him and I wanted that for myself. Hearing Billy Graham every Sunday at home was not enough anymore. I knew there was a greater purpose for my life, so my sister and I went to church with my brother.

That morning the pastor was saying, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. At that point, I completely gave my life to Jesus and received Him as my Lord and Savior on Easter morning of 1986. He set me free from a life of sin and past hurts. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Many years passed, and I ended up taking care of my father. Little did he know that the daughter he had mistreated would wind up leading him to Jesus. God had a greater purpose for my life.



Jesus' desire is that no one perish, but all come to repentance. His sacrificial death on the cross brought freedom for everyone who believes in Him. Have you given your heart to Jesus? If not, consider doing so, that you may experience FREEDOM IN CHRIST.

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