

Rebecca O'Connor

POSTER CHILD

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POSTER CHILD

BY
REBECCA O'CONNOR

DEDICATION

I want to dedicate this to all the pastors who look out and see the resemblance of a congregation of people who are missing. Also, I dedicate this to the churches that are missing a pastor. This book is for all of God's missing children.

It is a call to come home and be found.

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling...calling for you and for me...Ye who are weary come home."

FOREWORD

When I was initially given the title of this work, naturally I thought of the multitude of pictures seen on everything from milk cartons, posters in store windows and yes the infamous Amber alerts. However as I read the manuscript I painfully realized that God's poster or missing children are not limited to infants or young adults. No...God's number of missing children are comprised of every man, woman and child who has never known or has been deceived into running from His unconditional love never to answer His call. Folks, we are talking about a scope of children and degrees of rejection that would destroy all hope of the most steadfast mom and dad for the safe return of their child.

I found myself asking...why? The word "imposter" came to mind when learning of the title and before the read. I thought just another play on words, but my memory kept coming back to that word so I looked it up in a dictionary and thesaurus. Some of the key meanings are:

im-pos-tor or im-pos-ter(im-pos'ter) n.One who engages in deception under an assumed name or identity.

[French imposteur, from Latin impostor, one who assigns a name, from impostus, variant of impositus, past participle of imponere, to place upon; see impose.]

Main Entry: hypocrite **Definition:** Pretender

Synonyms: actor, attitudinizer, backslider, bigot, bluffer, charlatan, cheat, con man, crook, deceiver, decoy, dissembler, dissimulator, fake, fraud, imposter, informer, masquerader, Pharisee, phony, poser, pretender, stool pigeon,

swindler, whited sepulcher, wolf.

The definitions sounded all too familiar but in doing so, also clearly explained why dedicated, earthly parents and our loving Father God have "poster children". The enemy of our soul and destroyer of our heavenly calling also takes *Proverbs* 22:6 very seriously by training up a child in the way that they should go and when they are old, they will not depart. But alas, just like every imitation there is always an ingredient missing. Mix: 1 Cor. 13 with Proverbs 22.6, and when you least expect it, your poster child for whom your heart is breaking will finally say. "I've returned home where I belong".

This excellent read will make you laugh and cry but most certainly give hope and restoration to the poster child in all of us. Be blessed.

Dennis O'Connor

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I. POSTER CHILD

(Missing In The Church)

Gen 3:9

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Recently, in my morning, prayer group while praying over wayward children, the Lord gave me an understanding. I cannot say it was "the voice of God" or a vision. The best way to describe it is when praying in the spirit; one gets the interpretation or understanding of the prayer. This was the understanding: I saw a poster of a missing person. My mind went to all the news releases of missing persons and especially the senior girl who went missing in Aruba. Her mother spent so much time and painstaking effort to find her missing daughter. This picture came like a flash, but the Lord gave me to understand that these are being searched because their physical presence is missing.

I felt God's heart very heavy as I continued to understand that many are missing yet because we see their resemblance we do not guess the truth. We do not see that they are missing and being held captive by the flesh somewhere unknown to us. Many parents are not looking for their children because they see the resemblance of them, but they are missing and no one is looking. Pastors see the resemblance of their congregation when they stand at the pulpit yet many of them are missing. **These are God's missing children, and no one is searching for them.** Children appointed with a unique call that is missing, held captive and needing to be found. In many cases the spirit of these are crying to be set free, and we do not see the signs or recognize the cries for help. We see the resemblance and become quite discouraged with what we see. These are careless children who are wasting their lives living for death and things that are only dead.

I remember an old black and white science fiction movie from my youth called The Body Snatchers. Aliens took what looked like seedpods and placed them near the person they were to take the form and resemblance from. As the victim slept the pod would take that person's appearance, and the real person would wither and disappear. These imitations would walk around resembling the people whose form they took but did not duplicate their true identity. They had no compassion or human feelings. They were like the walking dead, hollow of substance. Finally some of the humans caught on by noticing that their friends and family were not acting like themselves. The inside did not match the outside familiarity. The point was, of course, the aliens were taking over the earth by secretly replacing us for them.

Now why am I giving the synopsis of some sci-fi flick? You tell me what is sci-fi. We have an alien presence in the earth named Satan. We cannot see this alien, but it goes about leaving a pod of craving flesh to take over the spirit of man. The flesh container resembles the person, but they begin to act differently. The spirit ordained and predestined by God is now held in captivity to the flesh container. This enemy alien is planning on taking over the world...the universe! We see our friends and family like always, but in time we notice they are not acting like themselves. The pod of sin has lured the flesh to resemble the outward while the inward does not match the person we have known.

The alien Satan planted seeds while the master slept:

Matt 13:25-30

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Now we come back to the opening Scripture.

Gen 3:6-9

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the

presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Sin was an alien presence that humans had no experience understanding until it captured them. They still resembled Adam and Eve, but they covered

over what they had done and reacted unlike themselves when God came looking. God can see all creatures and knows when a sparrow falls so it was not that God could not see them, but that they were missing. God recognized that they were missing and searched and called out for them. God is calling out today to those who are missing. Where are you, Children? Where is my Kate? David where are you? Mary, Joannie, Michael, Toby where have you gone?

The sad thing about those who are missing is that after so long a time and with each day passing so is the hope that they will be found alive. Parents and pastors hold out the hope that our loved ones will return alive, but the more time passes the more unlikely that their call and purpose is still alive. I for one **do** believe in miracles. One key for a miracle to happen is for love to never cease. Love does not fail even when all else in the rescue efforts seem to. The outward resemblance is so hard at times to love being void of the real person missing, but we must. This outward resemblance is the door by which we enter to find our missing child. We do not want to permanently shut the door that leads to deliverance.

If you are the parent of a missing child ask God to show you that your child is still alive within. You will see or hear signs of life from that missing dear one now and again to give you hope that all is not lost. Even if you cannot see any sign of life hold on to your prayers they are the rescue that never sleeps but continues on searching even after you have stopped.

II. POSTER CHILD

(Are You Missing...It?)

James 1:23-24

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightwayforgetteth what manner of man he was.

Maybe you are not the poster child missing, but something is missing. Could the poster child be your salvation? Is salvation missing from your life? Anyone who has accepted Christ as their Savior and made confession of such considers himself or herself to having salvation, but do we. There is a test to see if we are the living salvation or the walking dead, unsaved resembling the saved when actually lost. What is salvation? Is it a one-time confession, an altar experience? Look at the word:

OT:

Salvation/שׁוּעה y shu ^ 'a ^ h: something saved, that is, (abstractly) deliverance; hence aid, victory, prosperity: - deliverance, health, help (-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare.

NT:

Salvation/σωτηριὰα: rescue or safety (physically or morally): - deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.

Whether from the Old or New Testament we see the same definition. To have salvation is to have *deliverance*, *aid*, *victory*, *prosperity*, *health*, *help*, *welfare* and *safety*. We, having salvation, have all the qualities of salvation here on earth and then for all eternity for that is salvation. To have only some of the qualities of salvation would mean we were only partially saved. The Old Testament word for salvation is Yeshuah/Jesus. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. If any man opens the door He will come in and sup with him.

Rev 3:20-21

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as

I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

In other words, Salvation whose name is Jesus, comes knocking at the door. Can we only let part of Jesus enter? How may one separate Jesus? There are many aspects to salvation yet salvation is one whole and not separate entities of choice.

"But then are you saying if I get sick that I am not saved?" Heaven sakes NO! What I am saying is that sickness may not live on you. Lack may not stay with you. Fear, depression, sorrow, malady may not reside upon you. You have within you salvation to handle any and all attacks coming your way. I am saying that no matter the attack of malady the remedy is salvation. But I am saying if a person who considers himself/herself as having salvation but is a chronic sufferer in whatever the attack without remedy, then I do believe they are missing what salvation is all about. Unless, you believe we may only be partially saved. I personally believe salvation may not be split up nor do I believe you may split Jesus up. Christians do have afflictions from living in this world of sin, but God delivers us from them all! Salvation is deliverance.

Many early church leaders exhorted and excited the emotions of people stirring them to confessing a sinner's prayer. The misconception followed by the church leaders pronouncing them as saved. People went on their merry way assured of being eternally insured against the fires of hell.

Rom 10:8-10

- 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Salvation has a current voice and speaks. It is not a one-time prayer but an everyday language. It is our conversation, our Christian behavior daily.

2 Peter 3:10-11

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy **conversation** and godliness,
- Conversation/ἀναστροφηὶ: behavior, conversation [The spoken exchange of thoughts, opinions, and feelings; talk.]

Confession is the beginning of salvation, and our conversation is salvation's language daily. In 1 Peter 3:1 we see that someone who does not believe the Word can be won by the conversation of the believer. So we sound like salvation or do we sound like we are defeated. Do we sound like *deliverance*, *aid*, *victory*, *prosperity*, *health*, *help*, *welfare and safety* or do we sound like God Himself is not hearing us. Do we feel rejected of God's blessing, but we are hanging in there. If that is the case I can tell you that you are hanging by your own tongue. Your conversation is a noose of doubt with Satan furnishing the rope around your neck and is about to push away the stool! But you will call it God anyway. Why, because you are a Christian suffering for God.

I cannot tell you how many believers clearly do not believe God but believe doubt and despair. They believe the situation they are in and magnify it, praise it with their tune of doom and wear it in all they do like a soiled garment. They soil God's name in their blame of Him, and it is a mighty witness of false Christianity for the world to refuse like the plague. The world says, "How can you love a God like that? While you suck it in and brave it out like the trooper you are! Honey, you are a better witness for Satan, and that is the truth.

We accept Salvation-Yeshuah-Jesus, and our faith is confessed everyday. We walk and talk like a person who has received salvation. Jesus who resides in us is the author and finisher of our faith, call and purpose. Though we fall short of God's Glory, we rise up again because we have salvation in us. The very kingdom of the living God resides within us.

Luke 17:21

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

 Kingdom/βασιλειὶα: royalty, that is, (abstractly) rule, or (concretely) a realm (literally or figuratively): - kingdom, + reign.

Do you remember the Old Testament account of Joseph who went from a slave to a royal ruler? Afflictions came against Joseph, but his life never stayed in affliction. No matter what the attack, he was promoted by God's favor. Since Jesus we have *salvation* within us to work the same way. The pharaoh of Egypt gave Joseph authority. It was Joseph who used the authority to get things done. With every decision that needed to be made Joseph did not call the pharaoh to get it done. Because Joseph was given the realm of royal authority he was the one who exercised it. Pharaoh gave Joseph his ring. The ring was the signet of authority used to press into hot wax to seal a decree making it law.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

John 14:12-21

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do**;

because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not,

neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that **I am in my**

Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Mark 16:16-18

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that

believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

All of these Scriptures are for the believer who has salvation. Read them very closely. Pay attention to all that you are and all that you do as a person walking in salvation. Salvation is an exercise not a one-time prayer or altar experience.

Phil 2:11-12

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Work out/κατεργαὶζομαι: to work fully, that is,
 accomplish; by implication to finish, fashion: - cause, do (deed), perform, work (out).

As you can see **work out** is exercise and not something left at an altar prayer. The altar prayer was just the beginning and not the end all.

You see, no one can make me believe that they have salvation without displaying the characteristics of salvation. No one calling themselves Christians can live outside of the characteristics of the name of Christ for long. We may fall short, but the fall grieves us, and we rise to salvation's call again.

Look at the characteristics of two kinds of witnesses both calling themselves Christians, but one is a witness of salvation, and the other is in need of it.

EXAMPLE I	EXAMPLE II	
Givers of sound Biblical counselNeedy of counsel		
Speaking Spirits of life	Speakers of woe	
Praises to God	.Rehearsers of malady	
Intercessors	In need of prayer	
Seekers of God	Seeking the oil of others	
Have vision of purpose	Perish without vision	
Life in their tongue	.Death in their tongue	
Waiting upon God	.Waiting for something from God	
Moving in the Spirit	.Paralyzed in the cares of life	
Living vessels	.Dead burying their dead	
Serving	Delusions of de-serving	
Having power	impotent	

(Kosma inspired)

Matt 7:24-27

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Both examples in that Scripture are hearers, but some in the congregation only appear to be present. One is walking in salvation displaying all of its characteristics, while the other is called saved but has no salvation inside to draw upon. Now listen to me. We **all** need the support of the body and at times **all** need encouragement, but to be chronic needers living unfulfilled lives while sucking the life out of the virgins who have oil **is not salvation**. It may have started out a confession, but the ongoing conversation is lacking.

So you say you have salvation; **how's that working for ya**? You judge yourself rightly. Are you missing it? Is salvation missing from your life? Are you walking around in the appearance of someone saved, but you are missing and no one guesses the truth? Read some hard Truth spoken by Jesus:

Rev 3:15-16

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Matt 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matt 25:11-12

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

I did not write that. Those are God quotes. Salvation is not hollow. It has characteristics that are manifested in those who possess it.

I have heard the witness of Christians missing salvation [contradiction in terms], and they sound like God is just plain against them. They have a different rendition of Psalms 23 and from their witness it would sound more like:

Ps 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- 2 He maketh me to go through trials: he leadeth me into troubled waters. 3 He wreaks havoc with my soul: he leadeth me in the paths that are so tight I can barely get through but I do it for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though he takes me through the valley of the shadow of death, I will learn my lesson so he will not bring me back: thy rod and thy staff they beat me down.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me and make me sit in the presence of all mine enemies: thou smiteth my head with oil; my tears runneth over.
- 6 Surely suffering and heartache shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will wear it like a badge of the LORD for ever.

Have you looked in the glass and left forgetting what manner of person you are? Well I have good news; there is a remedy. Once you were lost, but now you are found. **Now** is salvation come to you! If you have merely said the prayer and confessed salvation, now it is time to get into the Word, believe it and walk it. Have you been sitting in a church service week after week, but you are missing? Has your pastor been missing you and not known it because your resemblance is sitting right in the front row?

This is not about *once saved always saved* or about one losing one's salvation. We have our names in the Book Of Life because we started out there. Remember that the Word says all our members were written before we were.

Ps 139:14-16

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

We activate our name, so to speak, when we receive Jesus as our Savior and wear the garment of salvation. If we do not walk out our salvation or neglect our faith we may still be alive in the Book but missing. If we are missing for so long without remedy we are blotted from the Book.

Rev 3:4-5

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.
5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;

and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Joseph did not just have a garment of salvation, but his father had given him a robe of many colors. Through salvation we have the garment, but as we walk out our salvation and work in our calling we have a robe of righteousness. It is a robe to be desired. It is rather like going from the basic attire to the custom made. We will either wear the fig leaf and remain hidden in sin, or trade our sin for salvation's garment. As we walk in our calling and purpose we obtain the robe of righteousness. You will find that no one wears a fig leaf to the wedding feast!

Matt 22:11-14

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. [no testifying conversation] 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Many have not chosen to live the call. Many are fooled and walking around with soiled garments or naked with a few well-placed fig leaves. One day it will be all over and too late to take up the call. Are you missing?

I know this sounds strange, but if I have gotten you lost it is the best thing I could have ever done for you. Many people are lost and do not have the good sense to know it. But if I was able to get you lost then you are found! Once I was blind but now I see, deaf but now I hear, lost but now am found! Take off the fig leaves Adam and Eve; take off the grave clothes Lazarus and live.

What do I do now that I am found? Get into the Word and ask the Holy Spirit to show you what you have been missing. Begin to take the Word seriously. God would not have instructed you to do what was impossible. Come on back to life and be accounted for. Invest in the armor of God in order to win the battles you have been losing.

Ephesians 6:14-19

I. "Loins gird about with truth" Vs. 14

This refers to the Word of God in you. The only Word of God that is in you is what **you** have put there.

Study to show thyself approved, unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (2 Tim. 2:13)

II. "Breastplate of righteousness" Vs. 14

This word in the Greek has to do with a right relationship with Jehovah. Coming to Jesus through His shed blood **starts** the salvation walk in justification. Jesus paid dearly for this piece of equipment. The breastplate is not the whole armor but a beginning part of the whole. It activates your name in The Book.

III. "Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace" Vs. 15
Shod is to bind under the foot. We know we are to put Satan under foot or to bind Satan under foot, but what accomplishes that is the "preparation of the Gospel of peace." The Greek word preparation in Vine's Expository is hetoimasia, which means to have a firm footing or foundation and be worthy and ready to walk it out. What do we walk out? Knowing what the Good News is all about. It is the word for Gospel: euangelizo, which means: glad tidings, good, glad, peace.

IV. "Shield of faith" Vs. 16

Interestingly the shield of faith starts out saying, "Above all taking the shield of faith." This shield, thureos, is door size. DOOR SIZE covers every part of me! We're covered, concealed to the vanishing point! The enemy doesn't see us but just sees the shield. What puts the shield in place? Faith is the word, pistis meaning: persuasion, credence, moral conviction, and fidelity in living the Word.

V. "Helmet of salvation" Vs. 17

This word salvation is translated defence. Our defence against the accusations of Satan is the word of God. The mind of Christ thinks on the Word of God and as a man thinks in his heart so is he. With the helmet of salvation you work out all things according to the Word. It is your problem solver, your answer in all situations and the way you lead your life in thinking and speaking. Salvation resides in the mind. It needs to since the mind is the battlefield the enemy targets. Your help, aid, deliverance, prosperity, safety, victory is in your mind thinking, knowing and speaking.

VI. "The sword of the Spirit" Vs. 17

This takes no guess work for the rest of the Scripture tells you what the sword is and that is the Word, **rhema: utterance of God**. **Sword** is the word, **machaira** meaning: *knife, judicial punishment*. In other words the sword of the Spirit is using the utterance of God in a judicial case, like a knife to cut to the truth. Jesus did this in the wilderness when He confessed the Word. Jesus did not just make a confession but walked His conversation. As should all the Sons of God.

Rom 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creature **waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God**.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

When did God appear? He did not appear to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but was perceived by them. God appeared to man when He was born in a manger. When Jesus was born, God went from the Old Testament invisible to the New Testament visibility. This is the difference between the Old and New Testaments. The salvation promised and talked about in the Old Testament was the word Yeshuah. The promise of Yeshuah-Jesus-salvation became visible at the very beginning of the New Testament. When God became visible we could see what we were to become like. When He returns for us we will be like Him. You do not know what you will become by one confession but a lifetime of conversation in salvation changing and transforming us daily.

III. POSTER CHILD

(Missing the Call?)

Nail down your calling as Jesus was nailed to His.

Not one person on this earth is here by accident or mistake. I can prove it to you. You are a spirit in a body. A spirit can *only* come from God. You are a spirit breathed by God. Never has God accidentally or carelessly dropped a spirit and your body caught it by some accident that was never meant to be! You have been purposed before you are. Sounds like incorrect grammar, but it is not. Listen again: you have been purposed before you are. Read this Ps 139: 14-16 from chapter two again.

Ps 139:14-16

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

You have heard the saying that you were just a twinkle in your father's eye. Well, you were but in *the Father's* eye! He knew you, and you were called to be here. You were called for the call! The problem may *not* be that you do not know your call, but that you were not home to answer the phone. You may have been missing at the time of the call. Now that you have returned to salvation, reading the Word, praying and seeking God's face you will be more aware of the opportunities to use the gifts God has placed within. As those gifts are used more is given and you arrive at the call.

Matt 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen. [The word are is not in the original.]

We misread this as God picking and choosing. We have all been called but few choose to answer. It is God who appoints the gifts. You may not choose the gift. As I stated before only God can put the spirit of man on earth. There are no accidents and no misfits to be rejected. It is we who either take or reject the call. We are the ones who use or waste the gift.

Matt 25:14-29

14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

- 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
- 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.
- 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.
- 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.
- 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.
- 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.
- 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two
- talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.
- 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:
- 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.
- 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:
- 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.
- 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.
- 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

I will never forget something my pastor said one Sunday. There are many gifts buried in the cemetery that were never used on earth. What a sad condition of man and even sadder for our Lord. If you have run from the call turn around and run back. It is not too late. Too late is called dead. Feel your pulse. Have one? Get back into life and live, Sister, Brother. It does not matter what you have done. I ran from the call, but I ran back. If I hadn't you would be reading a book by a different author.

I, for one, never dreamed of writing books. I dreamed of graduating, falling in love, getting married and having children. My dream expanded to being earthly prosperous and having a nice home etc. I could not wait for the day that I was out of school! I hated speaking in front of people, and once school was over I would never have to speak or give another report out loud to any group! God has a way of interfering with our plans. He seems to think He placed us here for a purpose that goes beyond our dreams. One thing I have noticed in life and that is when we do seek God's kingdom and begin to fulfill His purpose, He takes care of our dreams.

So here I am in life going about my own business, and then I did it! I had to open my big fat mouth to ask God a question. Oh yes, I could not leave well enough alone! I went to church, had Bible studies in my home and prayer meetings...you would have thought that was good enough, but nooooo I had to open my BIG FAT MOUTH! I thought the question was simple enough and certainly no harm in asking. I asked the Lord to show me which was accurate: pre-tribulation rapture, mid-tribulation, or post tribulation. Okay, so I may not be the best discerner of a simple question. That very night I got a visitation and vision. This was not an *understanding* in my mind but an actual visitation in panoramic view! I had heard of others who had had visions but never planned on it being me! God let me see not only the time period that I would be in, but also what I would be doing. I saw myself standing before thousands of people reading from pages that God's hand had pointed to and words appeared. [I have given the vision in more detail in another book.] ME standing before thousands of people! At the end of the vision the finger of God pointed to my head, and I was slain in the spirit in the vision and after the vision, fully conscious, still slain in the spirit...paralyzed and unable to move. It was as if I was being held down to consider that this was very real. I had had an encounter with Jehovah God. That was over twenty-five years ago. We have not vet come to the period in time that I saw, but I believe we are getting closer each day.

I did not have a ship to run and hide upon like Jonah, but I went missing from God just the same. I closed my Bible. I stopped any knowledge that would qualify me for the call. God was just going to have to look elsewhere. After all, I was one of the stupid little people. Nobody in his or her right mind would listen to me...not even me! I had never known God to make a mistake before this, but He was just plain wrong. It is funny now to imagine that I thought I had the last word on it!

I was missing for a long time. Oh, my resemblance walked around as usual, but I was missing. I thought if I did not acknowledge the vision the call would go away, be forgotten or move on to someone else...smarter. Surely in this whole, wide world there was someone more qualified. If you have a heart, God knows how to reach it. He reached into my heart and when I cried UNCLE it was not 3 minutes that passed before I received my first call to minister in a meeting for the

very next week! It was too late to balk; I had surrendered to the call. I not only traveled and ministered but also taught at weekly meetings. I began and the beginning was small, but I found out that the greatest call was not that of an apostle but that of obedience. This is the call on everyone's life. I followed the lead of the Master, and my new response to anything was, "Yes Sir!" I faced my giant of fear and had victory with shaky knees. My hands still shake at the thought, but it is better than actors on Broadway who throw up just before going out!

Many jump ship and set sail for parts unknown to escape the call, but no ship can sail far enough. By the way, do you know that when a minister tells you that if you do not take the call someone else will...NOT TRUE! Another may not replace you because another may not answer the call that you reject:

Ezek 22:30

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

• Translation from Hebrew: and-I-am-seeking from-them man to-dike stone-dike and-one-standing in-breach before-me about the-land so-as-not to-ruin-her and-not I-find

God sought from **among them** and not one would take the call. God can get a fish to swallow a man, a donkey to speak and a sea to be still, but a man will go missing not to be found. God can use the insignificant, but He has little success with the insignif-I-can't!

Just as in Matt 25:14-29 I started out with a few little talents but was obedient. For example I felt like I was supposed to go to the nursing home one day out of the blue. The best way to tell this is in dialog:

ME: Is that You Lord?

ME: But I don't know anyone in the nursing home.

GOD: Do you know where the nursing home is?

ME: Well, yes.

GOD: Do you have transportation to get there?

ME: That would be a yes also. [I figured God was going to lead me every step

of the way, so I got in the car and drove to the nursing home.]

ME: I'm here. Now what?

GOD: Do you see the entrance?

ME: Yes. [I got out of the door and went through the entrance.]

ME: Next.

GOD: See the nurse's station?

ME: Yes. [So I walked over to the nurse's station to get further instruction.]

ME: Next.

NURSE: "May I help you?"

ME: "Ahh..." [Okay God, what's next? God? GOD!!!!!!!]

ME: "Ahh, the Lord told me to come here to visit people who may not have visitors." [Stupid, stupid, stupid. They must think I'm some real BOZO! And where were *You*, God?]

NURSE: "Here let me have you talk to Mrs. So&So. She will take you around."

I went to the nursing home faithfully every Week to visit. I came to love it and the dear ones God sent me to. I eventually even forgave God for being so tricky! [Sometimes I think we humans must be very entertaining...at times.]

Another time I saw a man walking on the road in front of my house. I felt like the Lord wanted me to pray with him. I, being smarter than God, told Him I did not know the man nor what he would need me to pray about. So the man passed by, and I did nothing. Remorse over disobedience grieved my soul, and I promised God if I saw him again I would pray with him. [It is not difficult to make deals with God and change God's intention with something more comfortable, but it is not obedience. I could easily have prayed *for* the man instead of *with* him. God wanted the man involved in the testimony.] In a few days here came the man, **but** I had just washed my hair...**but** it was up in a towel...**but** my hair is wet...but I'm a wreck, BUT, BUT, BUT, God. The man was just about in front of my house, and I raced for the door and called out, "Hey mister, could you come over here for a minute?" To my surprise he did. I told him that the Lord had asked me to pray with him the other day, and I did not do it, but if he would let me I could pray with him now. The man told me he had gotten a bad report about his heart, and he was walking to get the prescribed exercise. He immediately took off his hat and bowed his head, and I prayed. He walked by almost daily, and one day told me about the good report he got from the doc's and thanked me for praying. Small beginnings to baby step you into more and more.

The scariest thing I have ever had to do was face the giant of self-consciousness. I think I would rather have faced Goliath with a pebble than what I was called to do. [Goliath was not David's giant to face. David's giant came in small doses as a the bear and the lion so that by the time Goliath came along he was no giant but just an uncircumcised Philistine.] My reputation was something I valued more than anything, but some in town thought I might be a cult leader. I

was *too* radical and took the Bible *too* seriously. I home-schooled my girls and bought health food instead of from the town's grocer. Yup, no doubt about it I was a cult leader. Not only that, but I witnessed and prayed personally with each of my neighbors.

One neighbor's son had been born paralyzed on one side of his body. I was visiting one afternoon with the mother when she left the room to take a call. I made good use of her time away and laid my hand upon the baby and prayed for his healing. She came back and we finished our visit and I left. I got a call later that night from her, but I could not tell if her hysteria was good or bad. She opened with, "What did you do to my baby?" HUH? What did she mean? She then asked if I had prayed for him when she was out of the room. [Am I going to need a lawyer for this conversation?] But all was good! He turned himself over using his paralyzed side! She and her husband were so grateful that her husband who was our dentist did not charge for our daughter's retainer. This mother became one of the speakers at our women's meeting in town giving the testimony.

Another neighbor had told her family that if she ever started acting strangely that I was to be called to cast it out! [Who they gonna call? Ghostbusters!]

Yet another neighbor had gotten into some trouble with the law. I told her about God's great forgiveness and how she could start fresh with Him. She showed up at my church the next Sunday and went forward to receive Christ into her heart. From that time on for weeks I had her in my home for Bible study. YUP, I was a weird bird in my community but appreciated by my neighbors...at a distance. I weathered the storm of gossip and some spreading it called me for prayer, as we cult leaders seemed to know how to get results! But I have not told you the scariest part. All those were baby steps, but the real test to self-consciousness and my reputation was on its way.

I had noticed some of the videos to rent at the grocer's in town, a hardware store on Main Street and a small convenience store on the edge of town, which also carried porn magazines down low enough for little eyes to see. Not all the movies were bad, however some were questionable, and one of the owners was an elder in a denominational church in town. This had bothered me for some time. The thought kept coming to me, what are you going to do about that? Finally after that thought kept coming to me I asked the Lord if He was the one asking. I knew there would be a reckoning comin' ta the ol' town.

Now I have learned not to argue with God. Number one, He does not listen to my excuses and number two, my being comfortable with any challenge to my faith never held much consideration with God and last of all, I always end up doing it anyway. I was not sure what the plan entailed I just left all the details to God and told Him to let me know where and when. Bright and early on a Saturday morning [not Wednesday evening when all the "Holy People" were in

church] I felt the urging of the Lord to go. Where? Why, to go to each store to pray! With the nursing home episode under my belt along with a few other baby steps in faith, I got in my car and set out for the grocer's. I gave God no sass and took this step very seriously. The grocery was packed, but I walked through as a dream. I went in and picked up one of the videos, held it up and prayed...right out loud. Yes, I did too! You can ask God; He was there! I proceeded to the hardware store and repeated the performance. The owners were the only ones present and as I prayed it was deathly silent until a customer entered and their voices peaked in embarrassed unison. By the third store my heart was broken over the smut in plain view of children. I took a hand-full of magazines and held them up to God and prayed against the attack on our innocent children. The whole morning was as a dream, yet I was fully awake and it was reality. It was like a dream in that it seemed I was merely watching myself doing these things like one does in a dream. Being afraid of people's faces was the biggest giant I have ever to this day faced. The giant fell, and I cut off his head. And what of my reputation? I learned to die to my reputation. I learned to be a living sacrifice, which is my reasonable service...and hoped never to have this particular experience again. Besides, having just read what I did and remembering it all again...it is no wonder people thought I was a cult leader. I was flat out weird! Two of the stores in town got rid of the videos for fear I would return!

I have also had a time to be still after years of being vocal. It was an unusual time, but I grew through it and spent many hours of study. During this time I was not dormant but teaching in a Christian school and loving the opportunity. Writing happened quite unexpectedly. I had kept still for so long I almost felt like an eruption would take place. I had to do something with what I was sitting on for all these years so I thought I'd just put the thoughts down on paper. Those close by me began to read the papers and more flowed without end until the pages turned into chapters and chapters into books! Books turned into a publishing company, and the end is not in sight. Then the vision came back to me of God's hand pointing and words appearing. This was no accident but a plan in God's purpose. Funny, though, I did not realize God would give me the words, and I would do the typing. I had forgotten how to type!

Even though I received salvation at 13 and took baby-steps, I did go missing through fear at first, which later turned into a comfort zone I did not want to leave. That is what happens. When God begins to use us we freeze up. "Why, I can't do that," when of course we can, but fear stops us. Fear leads into all the "what ifs".

What if I'm not hearing you?
What if I am wrong?
What if everyone thinks I'm stupid?
What if I fail?

These are not uncommon thoughts produced by fear. We all have them. The first time that I was going to minister to a group of people I felt FEAR! I had a long discussion with the Lord before hand, and I did all the talking! I told God that I was going to minister out of obedience in His Good Name in front of everyone so He had just better make it right! It was almost like an alcoholic addressing an accountability partner reminding him that we are in this thing together, and you'd best be watching my back! I meant it and have never repented to this day. I mean it the same today as yesterday. It is the only way I am able to go outside my comfort zone and open myself up to criticism or attack. "God, I am going out in Your Good Name plus the fact that this was Your idea." It helps me, and God is not offended but in full agreement. I know, I know, you think it is easy for me to say, and you are still not convinced. What I am about to do is just for you so I hope you will appreciate it!

Here are some things God knows I would never use on an application for credibility:

- The administrator at school came into my classroom to ask if I needed a
 quick get-away. I looked puzzled, and he continued to let me know that
 my car was in the parking lot still running. If he had not told me I suppose
 I would have run out of gas without going anywhere!
- 2. Denny drove me to the store to make a quick "pick up something for dinner". I suppose he was turning the car around closer for me in the rain, when I came out, saw a red car and got in. The man in the car was not Denny! WHO WAS THIS STRANGER AND WHY WAS HE IN MY CAR? He just stared at me as I gathered my thoughts and proceeded to back out of the car. [If I remember correctly, I gave an indignant look at his presence in MY car, before the look of shock and reality set in.]
- 3. Denny and I were Christmas shopping, and I was trying to get him to look at something on the next aisle, but he was dragging his feet and resisting. I fussed at him to get the lead out when I turned to see that I was dragging a total stranger over 6 feet tall. The man was smiling, but I was humiliated. I do not even remember how I got out of the store or anything else that day.
- 4. Denny has said that I would never hurt myself falling from a three story building because I would never find my way to the bottom! We were coming out of the store and were walking together toward the car. Denny had gotten in the car and noticed that I was not getting in. He looked back out and there I was across the parking lot just following my nose and not paying attention. I was lost in thought and heading for the highway with a hand full of flowers. I had bought my flowers and that was all I needed to be concerned about. Tra-lee tra-lah, I have flowers.

- 5. Have I always had this handicap? Yes. On the back of all my report cards from elementary school was the usual complaint of my lack of attention. One of my dad's favorite stories was at a school function and everyone stood to pledge allegiance to the flag. Everyone of course was facing the flag to the right of the room. I was the only one facing left.
- 6. I got my first driver's license when I was in my thirties because I was afraid I would get in the car and drive off the edge of the earth and never be heard from again. No one would have to kidnap me, my thoughts do that while all else fades into oblivion.
- 7. When my younger daughter was leaving to go to college she panicked about thinking of her poor lost mother trying to find her way anywhere. She envisioned me driving off the edge of the earth too, so she approached an acquaintance of mine at church and told her to take care of me while she was gone. My daughter explained my handicap thoroughly, and the woman and I have been best friends ever since. I think she felt it her duty, but all I know is wherever we go she does the driving!
- 8. When I am getting ready to minister at a meeting my mind is so on the Word to be ministered that I do things absently. I needed to return a pot to someone I would see at the meeting and in order not to forget, I placed my notes and Bible down in the pot. This would insure the pot's delivery I thought. Time came to leave, and I reached down into the pot, gathered my notes and Bible and went out without the pot.
- 9. I could not find my wedding rings or other jewelry for around three months during the spring and summer. I could not imagine where they could be. Was it something I had done with them? Were they stolen? Fall came and time to get my black shoes back out to wear on Sunday morning and there in the toe of the shoe for safe keeping were my rings and all missing items. I remembered. (But I refuse to tell of the item I was missing that turned up in the refrigerator!)

I tried to reason with God and remind Him of just who He was calling to minister His Good Word! "God, you are calling the most lost person to get people found? You want me to direct people in the right path? Not to mention the fact that I am scared of People!" But He reminded me that if He could call a jackass to speak, He certainly could call me! Well, Friend, I thought about that and I still thought the jackass more qualified, but I stopped arguing. If David can get through his giant and a pip-squeak like me can get through my giant so can you. What one man can do another can do…besides God said so!

Another thing I would do when running from the call, was hide at meetings. I would go sit in the very back. I did not want a word spoken over me because I already knew it. What I wanted was to be forgotten and invisible. No matter how far away I got there was always a word for me. It would always start out with, Sister... Yes, you in the back corner over there the Lord has a word for you...I could not escape anywhere.

One night sitting at the back and pressed up against the wall the man who had been preaching the message called to the "sister in the back" to come forward. As I was dutifully walking toward him, he said that God had told him I was to pray and lay hands on the people. About fifty to one hundred or so people lined up for healing, and I watched myself laying hands on them for healing. It was a blur in time but the prayer flowed and people had fallen out in the spirit. One woman I remember was on crutches and in a leg brace. The minister asked while I was praying if I felt a release...was he kidding, I could not even feel my own body. I simply said, "I prayed the Word", and he told the lady to remove her brace. [A vision passing before my eyes was the possibility of this large woman falling flat on her fanny as I took my place back to the corner making myself as invisible as possible!] Well, she was certainly a sight throwing aside her crutches and brace jumping and running all over shouting praises to God. All I could do was watch. It was like I was a bystander praying and watching miracles. The next day at a prayer meeting one lady came up and told me that when I prayed for her she could feel something come out of the top of her head. I was hoping I had not cast out her brains but told her that whatever the Lord had done for her to receive everything God had for her. There had been so many people that I did not remember her or what I had prayed. Now I have to be quite honest with you, Dear Reader, those healings had nothing whatever to do with me. I had come under this minister's anointing with training wheels on when he called me forward. That anointing covered me. All I did was walk forward. I did know how to pray the Word. God was trying to show me that it was not my ability but HIS ability was all I needed and to be obedient. So escape, sitting in the corners, pressed against the wall would not work.

How about you? Are your lips glued together? Do you sit invisibly in the back row? Does your heart race with a word or thought to speak while you suppress the idea of opening your glued mouth? Do you think like I thought, that you do not have the ability? You are right. You do not have the ability, but God does. Just step forward and let Him cover you...He will. I have proven God in my life. I have tested His Words and proven them. God has delivered me from the lion and the bear, and there is no uncircumcised Philistine that is any match for what God can and will do in me!

1 Cor 1:26-29

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the

wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Look at verse 26: God does not choose the worldly wise, mighty or noble. God does use [vs. 27-28] the foolish, weak, base and despised of the world, the people who are counted as nothing by the world's standard to bring nothing into something. God did just that; brought nothing into something. Out of nothing He spoke light, and it was. The earth is hung upon nothing, and yet it is. What causes the heart to beat? Nothing that brings forth something.

Foolish/μωροὶς: dull or stupid (as if shut up), that is, heedless, (morally) blockhead, (apparently)

absurd: - fool (-ish, X -ishness).

It was not the manger that became the Greatest Story Ever Told, but what was in the manger! We are just the foolish manger going by quite unnoticed, but it is the God in us that is greater! The manger was nothing yet God was in it, and that made it what it became. No longer was it just a trough for animals but the place of God. You are no longer just a foolish, weak person but a place of God. The kingdom of God is within you! GET IT?

1 John 3:1-2

- 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Prove God and His Word. Dare to believe. Take up salvation and the call upon your life and walk forward and God will cover the foolish, weak one that you are. One day you will look back and be amazed at what God has done to bring you through the lion and bear and all giants even a Goliath.

God is calling all missing children to come home. He has not forgotten you. Your name is written in the Book. Do not erase your salvation or call. You cannot run away, Jonah. No ship can get you far enough away from the love of God who needs you and placed you here for a purpose. You have a part in The Greatest Story Ever Told...learn your lines before the curtain call!

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