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Introduction

We are going to make something that has been very hard, very simple. I could not hear God's voice for the first ten years of my Christian life, and now I have spent 30 years teaching the Body of Christ how to do so. It is as simple as quieting yourself down, fixing your eyes on Jesus, tuning to spontaneity, and writing! And **all** Christians can do it! **You** can do it! Jesus **promised**, "*My sheep hear My voice*" (John 10:27). So you **can** hear His voice. His voice sounds like spontaneous thoughts that light upon your mind, especially as your heart is fixed on Him.

And you can do this **every day** as part of your morning devotions. You can live out of His voice all day, by simply seeing Him alongside you (He is Immanuel, God with you), and staying tuned to spontaneity all day long. The Bible calls this abiding in Christ (see John 15:4) or "*praying without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5:17).

And if these four keys sound like something counterfeit groups do, then we get excited, because we know that satan only counterfeits things that are real and have value. So finally we are doing something real enough and valuable enough for satan to take interest in it and counterfeit it. Glory be to God!

Come on, let's get started! Jesus is waiting to share His love with you!

As I began to journal and hear God's voice, it was astounding to me how much He loved me. Being more of a "Martha" than a "Mary," I had always focused on serving and obeying the King of Kings. (There is nothing wrong with serving and obeying; they are just not to be the CENTER of the relationship.) In my journaling, God began pouring His love out to me, telling me how special I am and how precious to Him, and how much He enjoys spending time with me. He said, "Mark, this is the reason I have created you – so that we can spend time together and share love together. This is the center of life to Me. It is not the things you do for Me. It is the time we spend together sharing love. Come and do this daily. This is why I died for you on Calvary, to restore times of wonderful intimacy and love. So come and do this often. Come and do it daily. This is My desire...to spend time sharing love together with you. Come, My child, and do this often. Come, My Child."

Wow! Talk about a world-changing reorientation! So the center of life is not workaholism or obedience. The center of life is sharing love together, and experiencing intimacy and romance with the King of Kings!

As you begin to hear God's voice and journal, you too will experience this same amazing realization of God's love. God's passionate desire is to be intimate with you!

So again I say, come on, let's get started. Jesus is waiting to share His love with you (I Jn. 3:1).

Do you want to intensify your results? Find a few friends who want to learn to hear God's voice, too. We highly recommend that you meet together for 10 weeks with a small group. We have 10 one-hour DVDs in which we teach the key principles of the 10 chapters of this book. During the week you can read the corresponding chapter for additional background and to deepen what you learn on the DVD. You may order DVDs, CDs, and Audio/Video Guides at: www.CWGMinistries.org

Each week's video session will lead you into journaling (writing down what God is speaking to you) and encourage you to share your

journaling with one another. These journaling questions are also listed throughout this book, and the page numbers where you can find them **are all listed for you in Appendix D.**

You must enter into the journaling times! We must “practice truth!” We must be doers of the word and not hearers only (see James 1:22). So journal together weekly in your small groups at the close of each DVD session and then share your journaling with one another or a prayer partner, and ask them if they feel in their heart that this came from the Lord. As they affirm your journaling, your faith is strengthened and you leap forward in spiritual intimacy. If you do this, you will clearly, daily hear His voice. He promised, and I have proven Him true to His Word.

Even if you are not able to be part of a group, we encourage you to still get the CDs and Audio/Video Guide, and to share your journaling with a couple of spiritual friends, or a “Personal Spiritual Trainer” available from Communion with God Ministries.



CHAPTER 1

How I Discovered the Four Keys

I Hungered for a Personal Encounter with the Living God

When I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart at age 15, an immediate hunger to know God sprang up within my spirit. I first attempted to satisfy this desire by devouring the Bible. However, within weeks it was obvious to me that the people in the Bible knew God through hearing Him speak to them and seeing visions of Him. God was their Friend. They walked and talked with Him. Every day, Adam and Eve heard God's voice and lived out of it. What an astounding lifestyle! From Genesis to Revelation, people heard God's voice and saw visions. I wanted that, too! What I didn't know at the time was that this hunger to know God had been placed in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and that God fully intended to satisfy this passion.

I Believed that Christianity Is to Be More than a Religion

One basic distinction between Christianity and the many other religions is that Christianity goes beyond a simple code of ethics, a list of rules and laws that one must follow, and offers direct, spiritual experiences with a loving God. We not only know about God, we experience Him. We not only say the sinner's prayer, and accept by faith that we are saved, but we experience His Spirit bearing witness with

our spirits that we are the children of God (see Rom. 8:16). We not only seek direction from the laws of the Bible, we also find guidance through the Spirit granting peace in our hearts. We do not simply read the Bible as a lifeless book with black print on white pages, but we experience it as alive (see Heb. 4:12). God “illuminates” or quickens it to our hearts as we pray for a spirit of revelation (see Eph. 1:17). We do not just pray according to our own desires; rather, God “burdens” our hearts to pray in harmony with His will. God has sent His Holy Spirit into our hearts, crying “Abba Father” (see Rom. 8:15), so that we can have a direct ongoing love experience with Him. God has come to dwell within the hearts of humankind!

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (John 14:16-18).

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves (2 Corinthians 4:7).

I am sure all Christians have experienced the truth of Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me [fuses His strength to mine, literal Greek].” Being too weak to handle a problem, we have called upon the indwelling Spirit to help us and have found His strength overcoming our weakness, His joy overcoming our sorrow, or His peace overcoming our anxiety.

Christianity is much more than a code of ethics; it is much more than a religion. It is a love relationship with the King of Kings. It is a direct encounter with Him through the indwelling work of His Holy Spirit, which we freely receive as His gift to us. This, then, causes

Christianity to ascend far beyond rationalism into the world of direct spiritual experiences. First Corinthians 2:9-10 tells us:

Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

We Are to Experience Divine Revelation Within Our Spirits

We come to know truth with our hearts or spirits, rather than with our minds. God reveals things that our natural eyes and ears could never sense through His Spirit speaking directly to our spirits. It is not that our natural eyes, ears, and mind have no place in God's glorious revelation, for they are wonders of His creation as much as our hearts and spirits are. However, each part of us (body, soul, and spirit) has a special function in God's plan.

God says that there are some things that He can only "reveal through the Spirit." Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God has given us direct communion with Himself. We hear His voice within our hearts. We are led by the Spirit (see Rom. 8:14). We have inner subjective experiences. Through insight, we receive revelation from Him, and He illumines Scripture to us (see Luke 24:32). Through intuition, we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. So, our life in the Spirit, our relationship with God, is an inner, intuitive, spiritual, heart experience.

So Let's Not Settle for JUST Doctrine!

We must receive the caution Jesus gave in John 5:39-40: "*You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness to Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have eternal life.*" We may assume that we can acquire correct doctrine and head knowledge from Scripture. We can learn what the Word says about Christ and become satisfied with that information. But such intellectual exercise does not profit **our spirits** at all. We must take a **further step** of loving trust in Jesus as a Person

who is alive right now and yearns to be part of our lives. Only through heart faith can we experience the things that the Scriptures testify about Him.

The Bible itself teaches us that in addition to examining Scriptures, we also need a personal relationship with God in which He speaks directly to us. For instance, in Exodus 15:26 the Lord tells the Israelites to listen carefully to His voice and to give heed to His commandments and statutes. Many people think these are all the same thing: we listen to God by paying attention to Scripture. But in the context, there were no commandments to heed. The Hebrews had recently come out of Egypt and had not yet reached Sinai, which is where God gave the Law. *So listening to God's voice came before the Law was given.*

Now that we have readily available printed Bibles, our experience is that we learn through the Bible first and hear God only as an added extra. But this is not the order of Scripture itself. Paul makes it very plain that faith is more important than the Law. Our personal relationship with Jesus through faith, including the ability to hear Him speak to us, is actually more important than following the Law, the Torah, the Scriptures! Not that we abandon one to concentrate exclusively on the other. It is clear that God tells His people to do two related, overlapping, but distinct things—hear His voice and obey the commandments—just as Jesus made a distinction between searching the Scriptures and listening to what He said.

Charles Finney: Three Classes of Christians

Pastor, writer, and theologian Reverend Charles G. Finney, who was a key evangelist in the Second Great Awakening, wrote this in the late 1800s:

Many, understanding the “Confession of Faith” as summarizing the doctrines of the Bible, very much neglect the Bible and rest in a belief of the articles of faith. Others, more cautious and more in earnest, search the Scriptures to see what they say about Christ, but stop short and rest in the formation of correct theological opinions; while others, and they are the only

saved class, love the Scriptures intensely because they testify of Jesus. They search and devour the Scriptures because they tell them who Jesus is and what they may trust Him for.

They do not stop short and rest in this testimony; but by an act of loving trust [they] go directly to Him, to His person, thus joining their souls to Him in a union that receives from Him, by a direct divine communication, the things for which they are led to trust Him. This is certainly Christian experience. This is receiving from Christ the eternal life which God has given us in Him. This is saving faith...The error to which I call attention does not consist in laying too much stress in teaching and believing the facts and doctrines of the Gospel: but consists in stopping short of trusting the personal Christ for what those facts and doctrines teach us to trust Him, and satisfying ourselves with believing the testimony about Him, instead of committing our souls to Him by an act of loving trust.¹

On the one hand, let's not stop with the doctrine and techniques taught in this book or trust in them. Life and power flow only from Jesus. On the other hand, let's not discard doctrines or techniques. Recognize that they have been given as channels through which the grace of God flows. Let them lead you into a full encounter with your Lord Jesus Christ, allowing you to wholly experience His life.

I Tried Many Approaches that Didn't Work

I read and memorized Scripture. I went to Bible college. I became an ordained pastor. I prayed and fasted. I obeyed the Lord's commands to the best of my ability. And I closely questioned people who professed to hear from God, since I still didn't know what His voice sounded like. Their favorite answer seemed to be, "You know that you know that you know." Well, that didn't help me because I didn't know, and that is why I was asking them! I could not hear Him, see Him, or feel Him, and yet I was taught and believed that I had a relationship

with Him. If I were married to someone I could not hear, see, or feel, I would be quite disappointed in my marriage relationship! It appeared to me that my “relationship” with Jesus was rather thin. It sure seemed more like a theology about Jesus than a relationship with Him.

Finally I Focused Intently on Hearing and Seeing for One Year

As I began my 11th year as a Christian, I had a “*thought come to me*” that I should set aside the entire year, and focus intently on learning to hear the voice of God. Well, I was ready to do this, because by this time I had noticed from John 5:19-20,30 that Jesus was anointed because He only did what He heard and saw His Father doing. I wanted desperately to be anointed, and so I was willing to spend an entire year focused on learning to hear and to see. Obviously it was the Lord telling me to set aside this time to learn to hear His voice, but at this point in my life, I had not yet identified God’s voice as spontaneous thoughts that light upon my mind as my heart is quiet before the Lord.

Focused effort meant that all my Bible study was on learning to hear and see. All the books I read were on prayer. All the conferences I went to were on prayer, and some were way outside my theological traditions. I was willing to seek out those who were different from me because my theological tradition said God no longer spoke or gave dreams or visions in this dispensation, and my heart had rejected that as being false. All my experimentation was on learning to hear and see. All my preaching was on prayer and hearing and seeing. That year, 1979, I had my breakthrough.

Through a full year of my life devoted to focused prayer and research, the Lord taught me **four simple keys** that unlocked the ability for me to discern the voice of God within me. They would have to be simple, because the Bible says if we want to enter the Kingdom we must become as little children. So hearing God’s voice cannot be anything more difficult than an 8-year-old can do! I had made it so much harder. Now I was being stretched because I discovered it was so easy.

Very simply stated, the four keys to hearing God's voice are:

Stillness: Quiet yourself so you can hear God's voice.

Vision: Look for vision as you pray.

Spontaneity: Recognize God's voice as spontaneous thoughts that light upon your mind.

Journaling: Write down that flow of thoughts and pictures.

Now, whenever I need or want to hear from God, I can—as long as I use all four of these keys. I have traveled worldwide teaching what I have learned, and the four keys have worked in every culture and every circumstance and every age group. God's people can recognize His voice, just as He promised, and YOU can hear His voice!

How God Taught Me the 4 Keys

God introduced me to these four keys by awakening me early in the morning with an actual loud voice in my head that said, "Get up, I want to teach you how to hear My voice." When I arrived at my office, the Lord took me to Habakkuk 2:1-3:

*I will **stand on my guard post** and station myself on the rampart; and I will **keep watch to see** what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered me and said, "**Record the vision** and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."*

As exemplified in Habakkuk 2:1-3, there are four keys to hearing God's voice:

1. I will stand on my guard post (be still).
2. I will keep watch to see (fix your eyes on Jesus).
3. He will speak to me (tune to spontaneity).

4. Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision." (Write the flow of thoughts and pictures that light upon your heart and mind.)

Like me, Habakkuk is seeking a spiritual experience. He wants to hear the voice of God – a *rhema* word – spoken directly into his heart so that he can gain some understanding concerning the calamity he sees around him. So first, Habakkuk goes to a quiet place where he can be alone and become still. He stations himself there, waiting for God to speak.

Second, he quiets himself within by "watching to see" what God will say. Now, watching is something I had never done. I had never used the eyes of my heart as I prayed. I had never looked or watched. The Hebrew words translated, "Keep watch to see" are numbers 6822 and 7200 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. They carry the following meanings: to look out or about, spy, keep watch, observe, to see, inspect, perceive, consider, have vision, observe, look upon, give attention to, discern, distinguish, gaze at, present oneself.¹

I believe Habakkuk had a way of looking specifically toward God. I needed to incorporate this into my prayer time, as I had never done any of this. Habakkuk 1:1 states that this is the "burden which Habakkuk the prophet **saw**." God's spoken word (*rhema*) was couched in vision. As we shall see, focusing the eyes of our hearts upon God (fixing our eyes upon Jesus – see Heb. 12:2 NASB) causes us to become inwardly still, raises our level of faith and expectancy, and makes us fully open to receive from God.

Third, Habakkuk hears God's voice within him. We have defined this as the still small voice of God that is registered within us as spontaneous thoughts that light upon our mind. The Greek term for a spoken word is *rhema*, and we will explore more about its meaning and significance as we go along.

Fourth, when God begins to speak, the first thing He says is, "Record the vision." Habakkuk wrote down the flowing thoughts

and flowing pictures that were coming to him from God. This was certainly something new, because I had never written out my prayers up to this point in my life.

These four elements—becoming still, using vision, tuning to spontaneity, and journaling—are the elements used by the prophet Habakkuk to hear the voice of God. I believe this is a divinely ordained pattern that assists us in our approach to God and helps lift us to the level of the Spirit. Until I combined **all four** of these elements in my devotional life, I was not able to discern God’s voice and commune with Him. I often had become frustrated and uncertain about what God really wanted. These **FOUR** elements truly have transformed my devotional life. In my earlier Christian life, I had stopped singing the song “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” because I never had sweet hours of prayer. Now I find that I can enjoy dialoguing with God by the hour and leave fully charged with His life and love. I have discovered that almost everyone I teach will hear and recognize God’s voice if he or she will use **all four elements at the same time!**

John Used the Same 4 Keys When He Wrote the Book of Revelation

I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, “Write in a book what you see...” (Revelation 1:10-11 NASB).

Being “in the Spirit” suggests that John had quieted himself down. He heard a voice—in this case the voice of an angel—and it is not quite so soft as the “still, small voice” of God! “Writing in a book” is journaling, and “what he sees” indicates the use of vision. So once again we see a prophetic writer in Scripture using all four keys at one time to receive revelation from God—and, in this case, two visions that last 22 chapters!

Now, the four keys are stated in a slightly different order in Revelation than in Habakkuk, and I find it easier for me to teach them in an order different from either prophet. **The order of the keys is not critical. The crucial thing is that you use all four keys at one time!**

Actually These 4 Keys are Found Throughout Scripture

Being still: Elijah stilled himself by going to a cave to listen to God. David commanded his soul to wait in silence for God only. Daniel went alone to his chamber and looked toward Jerusalem three times a day. Jesus regularly took time away from the multitude and even His disciples to be alone to pray. Paul went to the Arabian Desert after his conversion so he could hear from God alone.

Seeing vision: The Bible also shows us repeatedly that before we hear God speak we need to see something of His glory. Seeing God's glory comes before hearing God's voice. Looking precedes listening. From Abraham to whom God 'appeared' before He spoke (we don't know any detail of this appearing), to Jacob seeing the ladder and the angels, to Moses seeing the burning bush, to Elijah seeing the effects of the earthquake, wind, and fire, to Isaiah seeing the seraphim, to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds seeing the angels, to Peter seeing the animal-filled sheet, to John on Patmos seeing Jesus, the pattern is repeated. These are not 'extraordinary.' In the Bible they are ordinary, as confirmed by Moses in Numbers 12:6 explaining that God's usual way of speaking to prophets is through a vision. In our culture such 'seeing' is deemed extraordinary, but that only shows how much we have to learn.

A voice: Elijah heard God speak in a still small voice, but generally people in the Bible never discuss whether God's voice came as an inner thought or an outer sound. Even though some may believe God's voice came as an audible sound to people in the Scriptures, the Bible does not state that.

Journaling: Many in the Bible wrote down what they were receiving from the Lord. David wrote the Psalms; the prophets wrote their visions and the words the Lord gave them. John wrote the entire book of Revelation as a record of two visions he had. Literally hundreds of chapters of Scripture came from people journaling or writing out their encounters with the living Lord.

After 30 years of teaching this message worldwide to all age groups, I am convinced that anyone who uses all four keys at one time

will hear God's voice! *Two or three keys at one time are not enough; all four keys are necessary.* I am so convinced this will work 100 percent of the time that I feel comfortable offering a money-back guarantee whenever we sell our course "Communion with God" from Christian Leadership University. Any student who does not learn to hear God's voice can ask for and receive a refund for the cost of the course. These four keys work! You will hear! Jesus was the One who issued the guarantee. He said, "*My sheep hear My voice*" (John 10:27). A Christian who utilizes the four keys all at the same time will recognize God's voice! Use them and teach them to others:

- Stillness
- Vision
- Spontaneity
- Journaling

Hearing God's voice is as simple as quieting yourself down, fixing your eyes on Jesus, tuning to spontaneity, and writing. Memorize this statement and share it over and over and over with people. Help them break out of a culture of rationalism and discover spiritual intimacy with Almighty God for themselves. I believe it is the greatest gift you can share with people, next to salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Come On, Let's Stir Up a Passionate Hunger for Spiritual Things!

Creating a desire within for more of what God has to tell you and to give you is the beginning of a new way of thinking, living, and believing. For instance, when Oral Roberts was asked, "How do I go about learning to hear God speak to me?" he replied, "Wanting it badly enough to work on it." You will not learn much about the spiritual world until you take time to be quiet and look within. Relating to the spiritual world is complex and takes as much time and effort as relating to the physical world. Learning to walk in the spiritual world is similar to learning to walk physically. There will be stumbling, falling,

and getting back up again. Do you have a passion to live and walk by the Spirit? (See Galatians 5:25.)

Prayer Is a Dialogue, Not a Monologue

Prayer is our link to God. Therefore, prayer is the most important activity in which we can engage. Prayer is supposed to be powerful, effective, and meaningful in our lives. Yet many times it is nothing more than a dutiful recitation of the items on our prayer list. We need to learn how to make prayer what it should be—a dynamic dialogue with the Lover of our souls.

Of paramount importance is learning to break free from the prison of rationalism in which Western culture is locked and relearning how to have spiritual experiences—experiences that come from God's Spirit to our spirit and only secondarily to our brain. We must return to the balance that was so beautifully expressed in Jesus' life who did nothing on His own initiative, but only what He heard and saw the Father doing (see John 5:19-20,30).

I needed to learn some things before prayer became purposeful in my life:

- I can have a relationship with God through spiritual experiences rather than the dry monologue of simple mental prayer.
- The essence of prayer is my love relationship with the King of Kings, not simply going to Him to get things.
- The main purpose for learning to hear God's voice is so that I might really know Him—His heart, His joys, His desires, His hurts, His character, His will.
- The principles from the Bible that relate to prayer and the spiritual realm provide direction and understanding as I travel the road of spiritual experiences.
- The Holy Spirit will mold my prayer life, instead of me taking the principles of prayer God has shown me and reducing them to legalistic bondage.

- Spirit-born specific action and power flow as a natural result of my love relationship, causing the activities of my life to be of the Spirit and not the flesh. This keeps my relationship with the King of Kings from being simply self-indulgent on my part and helps me to realize that many others need to be touched by His love, as well.

Some Reflections on Learning to Hear God's Voice

After many years of successfully teaching these four important keys, I've come to several conclusions:

- Christ often speaks back to us using Scripture. God's voice (*rhema*) is grounded in God's Word (*Logos*).
- Initially, I looked upon my experiences as experiments. I was unsure and only acted on one-half to two-thirds of them. My confidence grew as I saw the positive results.
- I found I could react to God's ideas with my own analytical thoughts and questions, and that Christ would react to my thoughts with His words, which I sensed as spontaneous thoughts. I still recognized a distinction between His spontaneous thoughts and my analytical thoughts.
- When His inner voice lines up with inner thoughts you already have, rejoice. Don't doubt that it is His voice and assume that they are just your own thoughts. You were simply already picking up God's spontaneous thoughts before you began your prayer time. Your journaling has merely confirmed what you already had been sensing from God.
- God does not require more of you than you are ready to give. He will provide an alternate, easier path if you request it. However, He is most pleased when we

allow Him to expand our faith and draw us out of our comfort zone.

- When the Lord's words do not come to pass as you expected, go back and ask Him why. He will tell you. If the issue degenerates into a confusing mess that you can't comprehend, that's fine. Just put it on the back burner and maybe someday you will receive understanding about it. If not, you will understand it in eternity.

I have several such issues simmering in my heart. One stayed there for eight years until God finally gave me understanding through another person in the Body of Christ. The Lord had spoken to me through a prophecy that I was going to move to Montana. I have never felt any witness in my heart to go to Montana, so I just let the prophecy sit in the back of my mind. When I was sharing this in a seminar one day, a person explained to me that "going to Montana" was a colloquialism that meant "you are going to a higher plain" (Montana is a high-altitude state). That made sense and bore witness in my heart, as this prophecy was given to me shortly after I learned to journal.

Examples of Two-way Journaling

Key #4 is two-way journaling. You write your thoughts and questions to God, and God responds. The entire conversation is captured on paper. It is two friends, sharing love together. It is not one-way journaling where you share your heart and leave. It is you letting God share His heart back with you. That is why we call it two-way journaling. Throughout the book, we go into great detail about this important key and also provide examples to help you become familiar with this exceptional way to connect more intimately with your heavenly Father. We recommend that you have a journal and a pen nearby as you continue reading. At various junctures within the discussion, writing in your journal will be helpful—and necessary—to keep you moving forward toward hearing God's voice.

All journaling is similar in that you sense the character of Christ permeating it. It is saturated with attitudes of love, joy, peace, faith,

gentleness, faithfulness (see Gal. 5:22-23). Your journaling will edify, exhort, and comfort you (see 1 Cor. 14:3). Let the examples throughout this book inspire and encourage you as you note how similar they sound to the journaling you receive from the Lord.



Della—God Says to Relax

Dear Jesus, what are You telling me today?

Today is a beautiful day and you are in the center of My will. It only feels bad because of what you are holding on to. Breathe deep. Relax. Put your feet up. I am in charge. I still am Head of the universe. And I am the laughing Jesus, or else there would be no laughter on earth. You, My daughter, are very, very serious. It all works out in the end.

Turn your worry into warfare. Turn anxiety into answers. Turn your problems into prayers. Seek Me. I am here waiting. Sit at My feet. I will come. Give up on yourself and your circumstances. I AM is My name. The great I AM.



God says, “Celebrate the Storms of Life”

Lord, what would You say to me?

You are a beautiful child with innocent eyes. See the clouds forming on the horizon? My arms will keep you safe. Storms are exciting times. Thunder and lightening—not to be feared, for My arms are around you and I’ll not let you go.

We can dance to the music of the storms—your feet on Mine; My hands holding yours.

We dance with abandonment. The pounding of your heart is not from fear but pleasure and anticipation. The wind wraps My robes around you. Watch and be amazed at what I do. You will find peace in the midst of chaos.



Mark—The Process Is Where It Is At!

*You feel the immediate victory and slaughter of the evil one is the goal. I feel the process is the goal. You see, I can instantly slaughter the evil one. Yet I have not. I am letting him perform his greatest efforts against My body and then I shall utilize **both his and My efforts together** to demonstrate My victory. Thus I shall rule over all—both the forces of good and the forces of evil. And My triumph shall be unquestionable.*

Therefore, fear not the process nor the intertwined defeats. I shall in My time thoroughly and totally defeat the enemy and shall be Lord over all.

Has not the process always been integral to My plans? Consider Joseph's many years of slavery before being exalted to Pharaoh's right hand. Consider Moses' 40 years on the backside of a desert before being exalted by My right hand. Is not the process integral to the victory? Consider My Son's death and torment before being exalted to My right hand.

Fear not the process. Fear not for the victory, for it shall surely come SAITH THE LORD.

CELEBRATE the process. CELEBRATE the struggle. CELEBRATE the defeats, for all shall be swallowed up in My victory and I shall be Lord over all. I shall rule over the light as well as the darkness. My glory shall shine forth as never before and all mankind shall see it.



Christian Leadership University Student—God Dances Over Us

Lord, I have drifted away and so easily for the last two weeks. You know the whys. I need You. I must have intimacy with You above all else. My life depends on it. Speak to me this morning.

It's hard for you to see Me or to understand when I dance over you with joy. I do not see you as you see yourself. I am not bogged down by the past and the failures. You are My joy. You are a joy to Me.

But what about all my failures, even my most recent ones?

They are gone. Washed away. Forgotten. You have confessed them. I see your heart, My heart in you. There are two choices before you today. To dwell in Me or to dwell in you, on your sins, your failures or your struggles. Choose the better. Sit at My feet and learn of Me. You will find rest for your troubled soul. Come and sit. Dwell. Rest. Relax in My presence.

I know your tendencies toward sin and how easily you stray from Me. I see. I know. As you sit before Me, I cover you with My robe. I place it on you. I lift your head by putting My hand under your chin, and lift your gaze into My eyes. There you see acceptance, and approval.

I know you feel like running, like pulling back. But how long can you go on like this? This is a much better way. Continue in My love. Live in My love and acceptance and in My approval. Nothing, absolutely nothing you can do can win My approval. This is hard for you to grasp. To be free from striving, trying hard to be accepted; to be free is where I am taking you. Total abandonment to Me. To My righteousness, to all that I give you; to receive from My hand. No strings attached.

Remember, I do not see with your eyes, but you can see with Mine. As I touch your eyes, receive sight. This is a new day. Today. Come to Me TODAY. NEW! Fresh. Everyday is a new start. No past. No failure. Covered by My blood. Just as if you have never failed or sinned. That's how I see every morning. My mercies are new every morning! Start this day, every day with that fresh realization. Behold, all things are new. Come away, My beloved. Come.



More journaling is available as blogs at www.KoinoniaNetwork.org.

Free Online Resources to Deepen These Truths
Interviews with Mark Virkler

- **100 Huntley Street** www.cwgministries.org/huntley.htm
 - **It's Supernatural** www.cwgministries.org/RothTV
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Endnotes

1. James Strong, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, first published in 1894), ISBN 0-917006-01-1, 6822 and 7200.
2. Charles G. Finney, "The Psychology of Faith," *The Independent of New York* (April 30, 1874). Taken from protected material, used by permission of the Christian Literature Crusade, Fort Washington, PA 10934. Full text available at http://www.charlesgfinney.com/1868_75Independent/740430_psych_faith.htm.