

For Me, God?

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Second Edition unless otherwise noted

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Introduction

All of us know the song Jesus Loves Me. And we all know the chorus, *Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so*. But *if* we really knew this, what would we do with this valuable piece of information? How big would we dream? What would we go after knowing that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26 NIV)?

Many years ago I bought my husband a small, pewter trinket for his office desk and on it are the words *What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?* What would you attempt? The same is all the more true for the believer. You not only have the promise of heaven, but you have the Word of God, the Redeemer and the Great I Am backing you up, telling you, yelling for you to, “GO FOR IT! IT’S ALL YOURS!” If only we would believe it, grasp it and run with it.

Today’s society appears to have offered us so much but has in fact delivered so little. Some of the promises are of fame, fortune, beauty and popularity. With the introduction of social media there comes the promise of instant fame. And, unfortunately a large majority of us bite the bait

only to learn later that those five minutes of fame have forever tarnished our future.

We have all faced bad decisions, bad thoughts, bad roads and bad love. But in spite of all of this, there is still a good God. You don't have to wait until you get it together. Guess what? You never will. You can do your u-turn right here, right now and make the decision to follow Christ. You can choose today to start a new life with Jesus.

So back to my original question. What would you do if you really knew Jesus loved you? You're about to find out that God loves you so much, that He sent His Son to die for you and has in fact paid for it all in full. It is all yours. All you have to do is reach out to Jesus, believe you have it and go and get it.

Chapter One

For Me

I talk to girls from every walk of life and it surprises me that they all eventually end up asking me the same question. “*Did He really do it all for me?*” These girls don’t know each other, may never meet each other but their stories are almost identical. Do you know why that is? No, it’s not a coincidence. No it’s not the generation. You may be a little shocked to realize the answer is so very simple. The enemy only has one story. He only has one CD. Only one DVD. Only one show on Netflix. Only one! And he plays it over and over and over and over. To you, to me, to our friends. To everyone.

Do you know why the enemy does this? He sets in place confusion, frustration and bouts of low self-esteem because he knows what God has done for you. He knows what you have access to. He knows the end of the story says you win! And if he can just plant one little seed to distract you, you and you alone will derail your life for hours, days, years and sadly sometimes your whole life.

Another one of the questions I hear from girls all the time is, “*How do I know God did it for me?*” And then they begin to cry and tell me why they are unworthy of His great love, attention and gifts. They continue with why they are disqualified from any of the good stuff God has for them. It is at this point I look at them and tell them God knew what we could and possibly would do as humans, yet with that valuable knowledge He still sent Jesus to die for us, again knowing we could and probably would screw up. (Remember Adam and Eve in Genesis 3?) Even though He knew there was a good possibility we would take His awesome gift of free will and use it against Him even to the point of not believing in Him, He continued with the plan. God knew it all. And then these girls just look at me and cry more. This time from the immense love of the Father.

We are all undeserving. All of us have rightfully earned the ticket to go to hell. We have hit the ball out of the park on that one. We have received high marks for that privilege. And rightfully so. And do you know when we earned that right? When we were born. We were born into it. Let’s hear it for Adam and Eve. We were hell bound from day one

and there was nothing, at that point, we could do about it. But the Good News, and that's what it is, the Good News, is that Jesus went to the cross, died and was raised from the dead for you and for me. He PAID for our sin, wrongdoing and wickedness, IN FULL. That's how much God loves you.

“What about me though? You don't know what I've done.” Does it really matter? I remember a story a young man told me once that forever has been etched in my mind. This young man was brought up in the church, was an only child, went to private schools, had loving parents and had everything going for him. Then he got the call from the world. He went off to the “greener” side, chasing the things of this world. Eventually reaching the end of the road, and let me say, there is always an end to the road, this young man was empty. The world had promised him everything, drained him of all things and delivered nothing. It was at that point in his life he ran to God, with His whole heart. Having been left so unsatisfied by the world, he purposed in his heart that he wouldn't let anything get between him and God's best for his life.

God is now using that young man as a revivalist to change the lives of young people and helping them to encounter the life changing power of God. That young man asked. God answered. That young man surrendered. God took notice. That young man expected and God did it. God did it all.

What God has done for this young man, God will do for you. There is nothing you can do to get God to “unlove” you. We have to stop measuring God’s love by the human standard of love we know. Hopefully you’re not dating, but if you have dated you know, or at least have heard of boys breaking up with girls for the most stupid reasons and stating they don’t love them anymore. We can’t allow ourselves to measure God’s love by that standard. God’s love isn’t even in the same universe we are. God loves you even when your mom and dad are disappointed in you. God loves you even when you turn your back on Him. And why does He continue to love you? Because He believes in you. He believes that someday, somehow, through someone, you will realize just how far, how wide and how deep His love is for you (Ephesians 3:14-18). And He believes that you will someday realize He is the only One who can fulfill everything in your life.

The key to knowing and understanding God is quite simple. Read the Bible. Read your Bible. Our human nature has made it so difficult for us to comprehend all God has for us. We have literally set up these imaginary fences around us (call it intellect, street smarts or whatever name you want to give these fences) and have coded the gates to those fences, so that no one gets in our life without those codes. Including God. Especially God. That's why you have to get into, dig into the Word of God. You need to read it as if it were your lifeline ...because it is. Everything is there. The questions, the answers, the plans, the what-if's, the why's, the how-comes, it's all in your Bible. As if that weren't enough, the Word of God is also the greatest love story ever written or lived. It's a love story to you. The Book of John overflows with the love that has absolutely no boundaries. From day one, when we (mankind) royally screwed up, love was there. Love has always been there.

“But God threw Adam and Eve out of the garden Ang! What kind of love would do that?”

True. But remember He is God. He could have killed them. They disobeyed and disobeyed big time. God gave them access to everything He had.

He made them their own special place. They didn't have to work (as we know work). They didn't have to shop. They didn't have to do anything except three things. Fellowship with God, be obedient and not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And by one action, one disobedient action, they forever changed their future...and it wasn't for the good. Yet, in all of this, God still loved man. He still wanted the best for man. He still wanted to see man succeed because He believed in man and loved man with a love no human could comprehend. And He loves you that much too.

So how do you know that God really did it all for you? Because His Word says so (2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 3:16). Our God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19). He sent His only Son to die for you (John 3:16). He has a great plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11). He bought you with His very best (Titus 2:14, Ephesians 1:7). What is your cry to God? What is it you need for Him to do for you today? What God did for that young, empty man I told you about, He will do for you because our God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). You have got to grasp that God is not out to get you. He's out to gain you.

Now that you know He really did it all for you, and you're going to begin to saturate yourself with the knowledge of God by reading your Bible, at least three times a day (you eat three times a day, don't you?), let me show you what you are in for. Let me show you what God has for you!

Chapter Two

Dream Maker

Some of you may have watched The Mary Tyler Moore show on Netflix or on old time television and remember Mary spinning in the middle of downtown Minneapolis because she had finally fulfilled her dream. That can be you. I'm not saying you are going to Minneapolis to spin in the middle of the street, and then throw your hat in the air. But you could if that was your dream.

I want you to take a moment and I want you to write down your biggest dream. Write it out in detail. If your dream is you want to be a scientist and you want to take a specific airline to a specific city in a specific time frame and you want to meet a specific scientist and be asked to work under them, write it down. Be specific. Write it out in detail. Once you are done, I want you to read over it slowly. Now I want you to get another piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On the left side I want you to write all the reasons you will be able to fulfill that dream and on the right side all the reasons you wouldn't, couldn't or can't fulfill that dream. Fold the paper in half long ways, rip off the

right side of that sheet, crumble it up and throw it away. On the remaining sheet, write on the top, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV). That is what God thinks. God gives you dreams. God gave you your dream (Ephesians 3:20 Living Bible).

You can have whatever you can dream! You need to take the following statement and etch it in your mind and meditate on it day and night so that you know that you know. *You cannot dream big enough for God.* If you are believing for a 40,000 square foot castle on 6,000 acres God has a 60,000 square foot castle on 8,000 acres for you! We cannot dream big enough for God! He is God!

As I speak with girls it astounds me to hear the reasons they think that God can't or won't fulfill their dreams. Here are just a few:

It costs too much!

It is just way too big!

It would take a lot to get that!

Do you know what I'm asking for?

Only a miracle could make this happen!

I just close my eyes, smile, and then share with them about this God they obviously don't know. I show them the Book of Revelation and share the description of what we will see in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21). Jewels and gold are used to pave His roads and His gates are made out of pearls! Have you ever seen a driveway made of gold or gates made out of giant pearls? I promise you if you did, you would think whoever could afford that, could afford anything. So why would you think any different about the God who really has this?

Did you ever wonder how God gets things done here on earth? No really. We aren't zombies so He doesn't cast a spell on us so we do what He has commanded us to do. He takes our dreams, the ones He gave us and plugs us in where He needs us. If you dream of being a veterinarian, He will make that dream come true and plug you in where He needs you. If you want to be a writer, He will do that for you as well. But here is a valuable little tidbit. Sometimes it doesn't happen exactly how we would like it to. God may take us down a few other paths to see where our heart is. Do we really trust

that He will fulfill the dream He gave us, regardless of what it looks like now (2 Corinthians 5:7)?

There are so many people I know whose dreams haven't come to fruition. They have a dream and then they get derailed. Then they ask, "*Where is God? Why did God let this happen? I thought God was for me no matter what (Romans 8:31)?*" It's not a God issue! It's a heart issue. If God said it, will we believe it (Numbers 23:19)? If we have a desire to accomplish something, will we use it for His glory or our own gain (Colossians 3:23-24)? We can say what we want to say, but remember that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34, Luke 6:45). If you tell people you want to become a billionaire so you can help poor people all over the world, yet in the same breath you are talking about all the wild parties you'll have, I'm not so sure your plan/your dream is going to go smoothly for you.

How do we get on the road to the Dream Maker? How do we access the Dream Maker? First of all you need to receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your life. If you haven't already done so, please go to page 67 where you will find a prayer for making Jesus Lord of your life. You will never be sorry for

making that decision. Now that we have that taken care of, we have to have a plan (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). *“But I thought God would do it for me?”* When you get up in the morning, you don’t wait for God to move your feet so that you can get out of bed do you? No. You have to move your feet. The same with your life. What is it you would like to do with your life? No one can give you your desires. I can’t tell you that you should be a plumber and you will love it! You are going to give me a look and think I’m nuts!

You have to search for your dream. God gave you one, what is it? Only you can see what it is you envision for your life. My goal in life is to get girls to grab their dreams and then help make them happen. One of the young girls I minister to wants to be a fashion designer. We’ll call her Lucy. I didn’t know Lucy wanted to be a fashion designer until two years after I met Lucy! I knew she was a good artist, but one day in class we were asking the girls what they wanted to do with their lives. Some didn’t know yet. Some had desires way deep down inside of them of things they wanted to do. I showed them how to dig those dreams out and how these could be the very things God wanted for their

lives. Lucy wanted to be a fashion designer. I asked how she envisioned getting this dream started. She wasn't sure. Lucy knew she wanted to go to school in Italy but that's as far as it went. I asked her if she had talked to any designers. She said no. I asked her if she had been to any fashion shows. Again her answer was no.

You can ask anyone who knows me. I am a get-it-done type of girl. Give me a task or a problem and I will have *at the very least*, a plan of action within the hour. Well my thoughts started spinning. How could I jump start Lucy's dream? Remember something girls. God puts people in your lives for a reason. In the very same breath, know that the devil puts people in your life as well. That's why you need to pray...and pray always (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Ask God for guidance in your life on who you should allow to speak into your life and who not to allow to speak into your life (James 1:5). So I prayed about it. I knew it was my desire to make Lucy's dreams come true, but I also knew my Father's heart. I remembered the teacher of Lucy's young girl's class was planning on going to Italy in the near future, so I spoke with her and threw the idea out to her that maybe there was a way we could

send Lucy to Italy with her. The teacher was onboard with me, but finances would be an issue as Lucy came from a very large family, so excess of funds, well it wasn't there for someone to trot off to Italy to pursue a dream. I left my idea with God.

Now remember that my dream is to help girls achieve their dreams and become everything God wants them to be. So this is a win-win situation. I gave it to God, told Him I would love to send Lucy to Italy with the teacher. The problem was I needed money, and a lot of it to accomplish that. A month or so went by and as God is in all of His awesomeness, He put people in my path to help me jump start Lucy's dream.

I was talking with a lady at church I knew and this particular Sunday she was so excited because she was going to New York with her daughter for Fashion Week that following week! Now I'm not a designer but I know Fashion Week in New York is the next best thing to being in Italy. I took that tidbit home and contemplated how I could get Lucy to New York the next year. How could I make the introduction? I had never met this woman's daughter and I couldn't just ask this woman to have her daughter take this unknown girl to New York

with her. Again I gave it to God. If anyone could pull this off it was God.

Another month or so went by and I was at the annual women's lunch conference at our church. And just like God, (always be prepared for God to work anywhere and at anytime, usually when you least expect it), and guess who was sitting at my table? The woman and her daughter who had gone to Fashion Week! Immediately I put one and one together and whispered to God, "*You're good! Really good!*" Here was God delivering the package! I said hello to the woman, asked if this was her daughter who had gone to Fashion Week, and of course it was.

I talked with the young woman for a few minutes and told her about Lucy. I told her I would love to send Lucy to Italy but in the meantime, I would love to send her to Fashion Week and would she be willing to talk to Lucy about where it was, etc. Being like her mother, the young woman was very welcoming about the idea. I asked her, what about now? Lucy was there at the conference; could she talk to her now? (Never wait for the enemy to intercept or derail you.) She agreed and just shy of leaps and bounds, I was at Lucy's table. I

highlighted to Lucy that I had wanted to send her to Italy, but I couldn't do that right now, but I had the next best thing...a possibility for her to go to Fashion Week! Lucy's face lit up as if I had told her I had one million dollars for her. I told her to come with me. She asked, "*Now?*" (Another opportunity for the devil to derail!). I told Lucy there was no time like the present, took her over to the young lady, introduced them and away they went. Come to find out, they knew each other indirectly but had no idea about each other's dreams! Lucy and the lady's daughter are planning on going to Fashion Week together! That's God!

Do you see how good our God, your God is? He loves Lucy so very much that He put all the steps in place so at the very least she could get a taste of what this whole deal was about. Not only did He answer her desire, He answered my prayer. I wanted to make Lucy's dream start to come to fruition. That's the God we serve. I have so many other stories I could tell, but I want to get to yours.

What is your dream? What is your desire to do with your life? Does it seem too big? Too out of reach? Good! That means it's from God and that also means you will have to totally lean on God

(Proverbs 3:5). Leaning and trusting in God is like Christmas. It builds and builds and then when you think you can't wait anymore...it's Christmas morning! But unlike Christmas morning, there are never any disappointments with God. Usually God does it bigger and better than we could ever hope, imagine or even ask for (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)!

Regarding that young man I talked about earlier, not only did one of his friends show up and let him know God was all good with him, God gave the friend a plan for the young man's life! The friend told him to go to Bible school. Not only just go to Bible school, but which one. The young man was obedient not knowing how all this was going to get paid for. But God said it, so the young man did it with full trust that God knew what He was doing. Now enters God. Because of that young man's obedience and trust in God for the finances, he was blessed with a three year sponsorship! His tuition was paid in full by someone that he didn't even know! That's the God we serve. That's the God you serve. That's the God who is more than enough for you (2 Corinthians 9:8, John 6:1-14).

You may be thinking, *well that guy had a lot of faith*. No, not really. Not anymore than you. You

see we are all given the same measure, the same amount of faith (Romans 12:3). It's just that some of us use it more, exercise it more, and rely on it more than others. What will you do with yours? Will you leave your faith dormant and try and work this dream out for yourself? Or will you take this dream that God gave you and run to God with it? That's your choice.

To close this chapter I want to teach you one more thing. You have to move in faith. God requires faith. Most of the time this faith is demonstrated in action. Let's go back to the story about Lucy and Fashion Week. When I saw the woman and her daughter at lunch, what would have happened had I just sat there and prayed? They may have come up and said something, however unless they were moving in a gift of the Spirit, that probably wasn't going to happen. I needed to move. I needed to make the connection. God set it up right in front of me, literally, and it was my decision to move on it or wait it out. No way was I giving the devil an inch of derailing my or Lucy's dream.

I am not saying you have to do all the work, but I am saying you can't just sit and hope that God is going to drop everything in your lap. Sometimes He

gives you avenues and you have to walk the avenues. It's just like if you wanted to go eat at a marvelous buffet you heard about and I take you there. You are at the buffet! Yeah! But if you don't get up out of your seat and make yourself a plate, you aren't going to enjoy anything on that buffet! And here's another thing. You don't get to complain that you didn't get to eat at the buffet. You chose not to get up and move.

What is your dream? Let God know you have discovered your dream. Wait on God. Move when the opportunity calls for it. Because remember, as much as you want your dream to come true, God wants it more. He wants it for His glory. God will do that for you.

Chapter Three

Healing... A Packaged Deal!

Did you know Jesus came so that you may be saved (John 3:17, 1 John 4:9)? He came so that you would have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). But before He died, He hung on the cross (John 19:18). On that cross He took every sickness upon Himself (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus dying for you would have been enough, but He took every sickness upon Himself so that you wouldn't have to deal with sickness of any kind (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Jesus came so that you can have healing. Not just physically, although that is important, but He also secured your mental healing which can encompass a lot all by itself. Thoughts can literally drive a person mad. Remember Jesus dealt with this very issue on the mountain when He was there for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus knew about mental issues. Jesus didn't stop with mental healing. God made us emotional beings. Jesus paid the price for our emotional healing and as females, Jesus knew we needed this. Remember in the garden (Genesis 3:1-7)? I am sure Eve got very emotional when the topic of God possibly keeping

something from them came out of the mouth of the devil. She probably cried, or maybe she even got mad. But whatever the range of emotions, those emotions ultimately caused her to disobey God. And although all this so far would have been enough, Jesus didn't stop there. He continued on with spiritual healing. This is so very important for the whole person to be healed. There are many stories about people being demon (spirit) possessed (Matthew 4:24, Luke 7:21, Matthew 8:28-32). And they were all delivered!

How many sicknesses can you name? How many do you not even know about? As of 2012 there were over 12,000 known diseases. A lot of us think of Jesus on the cross with whatever sicknesses we have dealt with, which may have been a cold, flu, rashes, a headache and a few other ailments. But the Word of God states that Jesus took upon Himself every sickness (Matthew 8:17). That's over at least 12,000 if we stay at the 2012 count. I barely can deal with a fever, throwing up and a headache! I can't even imagine adding poison ivy to that, then adding any other sickness we can humanly think of. Think about that for awhile. Add to all those physical sicknesses mental sicknesses such as

paranoia, schizophrenia and dementia. Are you getting the picture here?

Jesus went to the cross because that was His mission. To come to earth as a human, live perfectly, die for the human race, even for those who tortured and hung Him, and do all this so that we could be free. Free from what? Everything! God loved you so much that He didn't want you to have to deal with sickness of any kind! *"But we still get sick."* Yes, that's true, but you have the ultimate antidote...the Blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7).

God sent Jesus for you. *"Why do I still have to deal with sickness then?"* Because we live here on earth. There is still evil and wickedness here on earth. The enemy, the devil, knows we demonstrate signs of weakness. If he can slow us down or even stop us with sickness, why not? And if we get sick enough, we may not remember, no one better, we won't think God will heal us because of whatever sin the enemy reminds us of. What you have to do is remember that God sent Jesus for you. God knew we would screw up. We all do! We're humans! But God gave us the ultimate weapon against sickness. The Name of Jesus! All we have to do is use it.

Remember the buffet? Same scenario except this time you go to the buffet, get your food, set the plate down and then you just sit there even though your tummy is growling like a grizzly bear. You could have the food and make the growling go away, but you need to pick up the fork or spoon to eat! It's the same with sickness. It comes on us. But we don't have to accept it. We are to take the Name above all names (Philippians 2:9), the Name of Jesus and cast that sickness away from us! We are to speak healing to our body. We are to remind the devil that the price was paid and he can't put sickness on us. We have to remind ourselves that we have the power to heal the sick (Matthew 10:8)! We have to remind ourselves we have the power to heal the lame and the blind (Mark 16: 15-18)! That is the God you serve. That is what God has done for you!

Thoughts...I could write a whole book just on thoughts and how you have been delivered from their negativity. First let me say that you are delivered from them. You don't have to accept every thought that enters your head. Every thought is not from you! *"Are you sure Ang, because they sure sound like me!"* Do you think you would

accept them if the devil said it in his voice?
Seriously? No, of course not. So how do we deal
with thoughts?

First of all, you are not crazy. But here is my disclaimer. Even if you are clinically crazy, it's all good! Jesus took care of that for you too! Jesus is the all-in-one, fixer-upper package! Got a problem? Call Jesus! Got an ache? Call Jesus! Got a thought of suicide? Call Jesus! Remember when I said He was on the cross with all of those physical sicknesses? Now add to that thoughts...bad thoughts. Horrific thoughts. You don't think the enemy bombarded Jesus with thoughts of:

You're no good!

God doesn't love you!

Your death isn't going to mean anything!

No one believes you are the Son of God!

Everyone is making fun of you!

You're not going to heaven!

You're not the Son of God!

If you die, I win!

Do you see how the enemy works? He only has one CD! I said that in the beginning of this book. He may lay it on heavier on some people than others, but in the end, it's the same CD. The same junk. Do you think I have never had the thoughts of:

No one cares what you write about!

You're not helping anyone!

Everyone thinks you're on an ego trip!

You can't write!

No one is going to listen to you!

Remember so and so who isn't living for God?

This is all you Ang! God has nothing to do with it!

I hope that makes you feel better. No I really mean it! We all get the thoughts. Think of your thoughts like email. You get hundreds of emails a week. Do you click and open every one of them? No. Why not? Some of them don't apply to you.

Some you know are junk. Some you know you just don't have to deal with. The same with your thoughts. You don't have to click, open or listen to every thought. Most of them aren't yours anyway.

So how do you deal with these mixed thoughts? Who's God? Who's me? Who's the devil? Uggghhh!! It really is very simple. There is one rule of thumb that I use. Can I picture God saying that thought? "*This book is pretty awesome and it's going to change a lot of lives.*" Who would say that? Well of course me! But no really, the devil? God? No way is the devil going to tell me anything good about me. So it must be God. Each thought must be taken captive to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Does the thought line up with the Word of God? If the answer is no, trash it.

You have been given the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). The enemy wants to derail you to a point of no productivity, no forward motion, no high self-esteem and definitely not having the ability to change anyone's life around you. He gives you thoughts that are the opposite of what the Word of God says about you (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:9, Ephesians 6:11-17). That's why it is so important that you study the Word of God, your Bible, so you

know everything God did for you! To help jump start you, there is a list of scriptures at the back of this book to show you what God has done for you!

“*Why do I need to know those?*” Exactly what do you think you will use against the enemy when he gives you thoughts of unworthiness? When he tells you that God doesn’t love you? When he tells you that you are going to die from a sickness? When he tells you that no one needs you? You have to have an answer! “*But you said I shouldn’t click on the thought.*” You are absolutely right, but unfortunately as humans, we take a thought, play with it, think about it, dissect it, ponder on it and the list goes on and on. Most of the time, okay, 99.7% of the time we do click on the thought, even when we know it’s not true. God gave you His Word, the Bible. Use it!

Battling thoughts leads me right into spiritual healing. What is spiritual healing? Very simply put, believing the right thing. If we choose to believe the wrong or bad things, that road most assuredly leads directly to hopelessness. Once in hopelessness, it’s as if you were in quicksand. The harder you try to get out, the more you get pulled back in. The more you get pulled back in, the weaker you get. The

weaker you get, the harder the enemy pummels you. The harder you get pummeled, the less you believe God is for you.

It's sad to say, but the human race defaults to bad thoughts; thoughts of sadness, thoughts of unworthiness, thoughts of not being smart enough, thoughts of worry, thoughts of hopelessness. There's that word again. But you know what I'm saying because you could feel it in the deepest part of your stomach as you read those words. I felt it as I wrote those words! These thoughts can be a product or the result of taking in the wrong information or not processing the information correctly. By taking one of those clicked thoughts and letting it take root in you, you are headed for that pit, the pit of hopelessness.

The source of these thoughts can range from listening to things you shouldn't listen to, watching things on the internet or television you shouldn't be watching, participating in what may seem like harmless activities, listening to people you shouldn't listen to or dabbling in spiritual things you shouldn't be dabbling in. The answer, the solution to staying on track with God and avoiding the need for spiritual healing is the Word of God.

“Ang, is that your only answer, the Word of God?” Yep. It has never lead me down a bad road, never given me a bad thought, never made me sick and never made me question anything that God has told me. So yes. The Word of God is my final answer. You need to understand my background. My mother was a witch. I don’t mean that she was mean, although that was one of her tendencies, she really practiced witchcraft. She had the books *Man, Myth and Magic*, and as a young girl, I would dabble in them. It couldn’t be that bad if my mom was reading them, could it? Just an interesting note here. I was the only child out of four that my mother ever bought a Bible for. That’s a thought to ponder on, now back to my story.

So as a little girl I was exposed to all types of witchcraft. Tea leaf reading, psychics, horoscopes, white candles, black candles, spells; you name it, I had seen it. But one of those things really grabbed my attention and had me mesmerized, the Ouija board. Thank the Lord (and I really mean that) that I have a personality that asks a lot of questions. I never took (and still don’t) anything at face value. I had to investigate and prove it for myself.

In my late teens, after my mother had passed away, I acquired an Ouija board. I can't remember if it was my mom's or where I got it from, but I was going to prove this thing was not real. Was I in for an eye opener. I had asked three other people to participate in this activity with me. I picked these people because I knew that none of them knew the answer to the question I was going to ask the Ouija board. So I set it up, everyone asked a question, most being what others could guess the answer to or were generic questions. I wasn't impressed. Then it was my turn. I asked my question. "*How old was my dad when he died?*" Everyone looked at everyone else and waited. I was the only one who knew the answer and there was no way I was going to make that pointer move. I was out to prove this whole thing a scam. Then it happened! The pointer moved to the number 4. Then it moved again to the 4. His age was 44 when he died! I was scared!

Now let's fast forward to after I was saved. I have to be on my guard about spiritual things because the enemy will come against me constantly reminding me that my mother was a witch, therefore it meant I was a witch. I had an incident that I had to call a pastor and ask him if I was a

witch! He was very kind and walked me through my current beliefs. Did I truly believe and accept Jesus as Lord of my life? Yes! Did I repent of all my sins? Yes! Did I live my life for Jesus? Yes! He then stated there was no way I could be a witch. Good and evil can't live together. Whew! Was I relieved!

Now why did I tell you all that? I have to be very careful what I expose myself to spiritually. I don't even jokingly read the horoscope. Even those papers on the Chinese tables that have the dragon, rat, or whatever you are depending on the year you were born, supposedly describes your personality. I use to read those and do you know the devil tried to use that against me? He would remind me of what the paper said! And then he would back it up with, *"Old Chinese Proverbs wouldn't lie, would they? They wouldn't publish something untrue, would they?"* Did I click on those thoughts? Sadly, yes. But I soon learned his game and have not clicked on those thoughts in a very long time. You get to decide what you have access to and what you don't. But do know that God in all of His goodness, kindness and love, gave you deliverance from any spiritual problems.

Did you know God loved you so much He gave you armor? He did this because He knew what the enemy would do to you (Ephesians 6:10-18). What a great Dad! Who gives their kids armor to fight with? GOD! He knew how nasty the devil could get and He wanted you to be protected. Protected against the nasty, low-life blows the devil would try and destroy you with. In Ephesians 6:10, Paul is exhorting, lifting us up, and giving us instructions on how to survive. Paul tells us to be strong. When we are in a battle, or facing a battle, I don't know about you, but I am not all gung-ho about going to battle. I can barely think about what I am going to face and Paul tells us to be strong. Why would he say that? Because He knew what a battle was. He had been there, done that. Paul knew if God said it, BAM! It was a done deal.

But Paul also knew you couldn't go into battle weak or without protection. He goes on into verse 11 and tells us to put on our armor. *"Protect yourself girls because it's gonna get nasty out there!"* That's what Paul is telling us. *"It's gonna get rough, but if you'll do what I say, you will make it."* In that same verse he tells us why we should put on the armor. *"So that you will be able to stand firm*

against all strategies of the devil.” Paul knew the devil played dirty. Girls, he still plays dirty. In verse 12 he tells us exactly what we are fighting against. Invisible things. Don’t freak out on me. You’re gonna be okay. You have been equipped! All you have to do is pick up your armor and weapons. In verse 13 Paul tells you that as well. Then one of the most important verses in that set of scriptures is verse 14. **STAND YOUR GROUND!**

What do we like to do when trouble comes? Run. Avoid it. Ignore it. Act like it’s not there. But it is there. It is going to stay there and if you don’t fight with everything you have in your armory, you are going to get the snot beat out of you. But God didn’t stop there in preparing you for your victory, although that is pretty awesome so far. As God always does, and girls, He always does go up and beyond, He sealed the deal. He sent Jesus.

Think about the cross again. Imagine Jesus hanging on the cross with all the sicknesses, then the devil tormenting Him with any number of low self-esteem thoughts and then add on top of that spiritual issues. *“You delivered that boy from a demon. Where do you think that demon went? In you Jesus! That’s why you are being hung! You’re a*

fraud! When you were raising those people from the dead, you doubted God, didn't you? Well it's true. He didn't raise them from the dead. I did!" And it went on and on for as long as Jesus hung on that cross.

But here's the Good News! God sent Jesus to die *for you* to pay for all of it! Physical sickness...PAID IN FULL! Mental illness...PAID IN FULL! Spiritual battles...PAID IN FULL! God loved you so much He sent Jesus to take care of it all for you! You are free! And yes, God did it all...for you. Psalm 40:1-3 can be your declaration:

"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. ²He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. ³He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord."

Chapter Four

Hope – Not a Wish

(Ephesians 3:20 AMP)

Picture the Christmas season. Now imagine a cold, snowy, ice laden Christmas morning. A newly fallen snow that you had hoped for and see before your very eyes. With that one desire fulfilled, you rush downstairs hoping that all the hints, letters, and suggestions of the one thing you so desired, so hoped for all those days and nights didn't fall on deaf ears. As you get to the Christmas tree you excitedly look for the distinct packaging. You quickly see and discover the one thing you were hoping for...isn't there.

We've all experienced that before. Sometimes the things we ask for are there and sometimes they aren't there. Although the reasons vary dramatically, it doesn't ease the heaviness in your heart. After all the gifts are opened, your one gift, your one desire, your one everything wasn't under the tree. You may or may not know the reason it didn't get bought, but it makes it no less painful. The disappointment of a letdown is heavy on your

heart. The hoping up and beyond got you nothing. We've all been there. It may not have been on Christmas morning. It may have been a birthday. It may have simply been a request you made. And for whatever reason it never came to be.

I have good news for you! I know someone who will never let you down, who will always come through for you. Who you can put every ounce of hope in for whatever it is you want. He is never too busy to hear the smallest of requests. He never thinks your requests are too expensive. He never gives you anything equivalent of what you've asked for. He always gives you more. That someone is God! Jesus! Yes! God who lives in heaven cares for the smallest details in your life. If it's important to you, it's important to Him. If you need something, He already knows. That's how much God of the universe, of everything, loves you. Remember, Jesus came so that you may live and live more abundantly (John 10:10b). God is going to make sure that happens!

I am a writer and a bookworm. I love words. So I am going to give you The Amplified Version of Ephesians 3:20: *"Now to Him who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at*

work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes or dreams]-..."

Jesus came so that when you pray and ask for something in His name, you shall have it (John 14:14). However, I need to put one caveat in here. *"I knew it Ang! I knew it was too good to be true!"* Now wait a minute. Do any of you have a parent that if you asked for something that would hurt you, they would give it to you (Matthew 7:9-10)? Of course not. And the same, if not more, is true of our heavenly Father, God. Unfortunately as humans we don't always look at the big picture of how something could bring us harm, lead us astray, or even take us away from God. We just don't think that way. Let me give you an example.

A woman prays for an office job in a big city that she has always dreamed of having. It will pay great money so she will be able to support all the ministries she has wanted to. She won't have to use any money for a new car because she can take the train into the city and the train is only two blocks from her house! Now this woman doesn't wait for

an answer from God but quickly accepts the position. “*But what’s wrong with that Ang?*” Let’s see.

Yes, she is making great money and she is indeed able to support many different ministries. But what she doesn’t realize is she is leaving for work before the sun comes up and she is coming home after dark. She is so tired she uses her weekends to catch up on her sleep and never makes it to church. The money she sows into the ministries is wonderful, but God would never give you anything that would take away from His time with you, His church or His Word. And the weeks become months and the months become years and before she realizes it, she has lost fellowship with God. The woman then has to deal with the guilt of not spending time with God and enters a very dangerous position in life. God or thoughts. Thoughts or God. Job or God. God or job. Her life is literally up for grabs.

The woman went after her dream. She didn’t wait for God to answer her prayer. And do you know why? She already knew what the answer would be. God wasn’t going to give her a job that would take her away from Him or church. God is a

church guy. So the woman talked herself into thinking God would want her to have the job and that just wasn't so. God would never have given her that job at the cost of her relationship with Him. But the woman didn't think that far ahead. Or if the thought did cross her mind, she probably cast it down thinking it was from the enemy.

You can ask God for anything, and if it be according to His will and Word you shall have it (1 John 5:14-17). So with that said, what are you hoping for? In the world today we use hope, hoped and hoping in a mystical way. It's as if we throw our want or desire out into space and if it is to be we'll get it and if not it wasn't meant to be. That's not what hope means! Let's get a real definition.

In the 1828.mshaffer.com dictionary the word hope is defined as:

A desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable. (Hope for good success. Be sober and hope to the end. 1 Pet.1.); Hope differs from wish and desire in this, that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility

of possessing it. Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain and anxiety; To place confidence in; to trust in with confident expectation of good; (Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God. Ps.43.); Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises; a scriptural sense; That which gives hope; he or that which furnishes ground of expectation, or promises desired good. (The hope of Israel is the Messiah. The Lord will be the hope of his people. Joel 3.); An opinion or belief not amounting to certainty, but grounded on substantial evidence; (The Christian indulges a hope, that his sins are pardoned.)

Wow! That's pretty amazing isn't it? I like this version of the dictionary because it was written in a time when everything was weighed against the Word of God. Life was applied to the Word of God. So it is with this word hope. The desire of some good. That answers the question if God will do it or

not. Is it good? A belief that it is obtainable. So hope isn't casting your wishes to the wind and wishing that it comes back. That definition addresses the word wishing. *"Hope differs from wish and desire in this, that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it."* Again, you are hoping, expecting the good. Not just throwing it out there and then waiting with great [unsubstantiated] expectation.

Our God, your God has hope for you! He wants you to succeed. He gives you the desires of your heart. Hope is not a word that is mystical anymore. It is not some spell we say and cast it out into the deepest blues and if we are found worthy by the spirits...forget it! God Almighty doesn't play those games. God said He is your provider! God said He is your healer! God said He is your place of refuge! God is your source of hope!

What is hope? It is a word of well, hope. It holds more than the possibility of actually coming to fruition. God has given you hope (Romans 15:4). He has given you hope so that you can accomplish those things which He has asked you to do (Ephesians 3:20). He has given you hope so that

you will be able to tell a lost and dying world that you have hope for them (Psalm 119:49)! He has given you hope so that you can stand in the face of the enemy and declare that your God is the God of real hope; not a false hope, not a whimsical hope, but a real live - grounded on substantial evidence - hope. God gave you hope, now go and use it!

Chapter Five

Security – Don't Ever Look to Man for This

Do you know of anyone who doesn't want to have security in their life? Everyone wants to have security in their lives. Everyone wants to have an anchor in their lives (Hebrews 6:19). You would never go to the beach when there are five foot waves and think you are going to be able to swim out and back with no problems. Never! You want some security that you aren't going to drown or get washed out to sea. Your security may be the lifeguard telling you only to swim so far from the shore. Your security maybe a floatation device. Whatever it is, you want something that makes you feel safe.

God is your ultimate security. There are so many scriptures where the situations seemed hopeless and then God showed up! I want to show you two of those times. First, Moses. In Exodus chapters 7-14 things weren't good and it appeared to be going downhill pretty fast. This was when Moses was told by God to go and command Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. That didn't go over too well with Pharaoh, even though Moses told

Pharaoh God said so. Then God sent the ten plagues. Each time God instructed Moses to go and tell Pharaoh what was going to happen. Again it didn't sit well with Pharaoh and eventually Pharaoh told him to get out of Egypt and take all his people with him. But, instead of turning and leaving Moses alone, Pharaoh had a change of heart and decided he wanted to kill them after all, so he gathered his troops and chased them down. Poor Moses. As if he hadn't been through enough. Soon, Moses and the Israelites realized Pharaoh's guys were right behind them and what happens? They run into the Red Sea.

I am sure Moses thought, "*What else could possibly happen?*" What actually happened I am sure Moses never ever thought of. The Red Sea split open so Moses and the Israelites could walk *through* the Red Sea! That was security at its finest because not only did God get them to the other side but God allowed the bad guys to follow, until they were in the middle. And then, oops! Time was up and the sea went back to well, being a sea and all of Pharaoh's guys drowned. God killed Moses enemies! Security at its finest!

What about Gideon? In Judges Chapter 7 Gideon was to face a battle. A big battle. But, no

worries. Gideon had 32,000 guys to fight with him. That's a pretty good number! Then God talked to Gideon. God told Gideon he had too many guys on his side. God goes through this whole weeding of Gideon's guys and eventually the finest men are left. The finest men numbered...300. *"But he had 32,000 Ang!"* Oh I know. Nothing with God makes sense. In verse 7 of that same chapter God says to Gideon, *"With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."* Gideon had to be thinking he was hearing things. Maybe he was talking to himself. Maybe he had drunk some bad grape juice. Maybe he had eaten something bad. No. It was God. And again, God always has a better plan.

So, Gideon obeys God. I can bet you Gideon in his gut, wasn't feeling too secure. Gideon had 300 guys. He was to fight against thousands of thousands of men with those 300 men! Remember girls, God's plans are always ultimately going to bring glory to God. Not to us. God tells Gideon how to set his guys up. Then God says they are to bang clay pots together, blow their trumpets and make lots of noise in the dark so the other guys think there are thousands of soldiers around them and

then they will run away! Not only did it happen just like God said, but some of Gideon's enemies killed, their own guys! That's God's security. Gideon's guys didn't fight, at all! All they did was make a noise!

Remember girls, God always rescues his people. He secures the premises. He changes the situation. God gives His people security in believing that He will take care of the problems (Matthew 6:28-33). Well guess what? That God who helped Moses and Gideon 2000+ years ago? That same God, your God, will, still and can do that for you today.

"But you don't know my situation Ang!" I don't have to. I don't have to know anything about you because there is nothing in your life that God can't do. You want to feel secure? You have two choices. Look to the world and man to make you feel secure, which if Moses or Gideon would have done, perhaps it would have read... Moses was killed. Gideon was slaughtered. Or maybe we would never have heard of them because they wouldn't have believed God was the ultimate protector. Man can only give you so much security by whatever means that can be (materialistic, physically or monetarily). But God can cover it all!

But if you decide to choose man there are a few things to consider. Man is, well, man. Man is exposed to the things of this world. Financial bottoms - as we know - fall out, devastating people. Real estate can take a dive to the point of causing people to become homeless and then there are all the temptations man faces that can affect his judgment. Temptations such as greed, lust, sexual immorality, conniving, deceit, lying, cheating and the list goes on and on and on. Or you can go right to the Creator, the Maker of all things! God is the greatest security to ever exist...God who can see everything...God who knows everything and God who can do everything, anywhere, anytime, however it needs to be done.

“But how can God be my security when He lives up there?” God lives down here too, you know. If you are born again, Spirit-filled, God lives in you. When you made Jesus the Lord of your life you surrendered your life to Christ. Christ now lives in you. When you got filled with the Holy Spirit, God’s Holy Spirit, the great Comforter came and lives in you. (If you haven’t received the Holy Spirit, please go to page 67.)

Let's look at that word comforter for a moment. When you don't feel good, or if it's the middle of January in Chicago, and it's -15° what do you want to wrap yourself up in? A comforter! Why? Because you feel secure from the cold! The same is true with God. He sent Jesus and the Holy Spirit for you, to give you security. Are your parents having a hard time financially? Guess what? God is going to make sure you are taken care of. Would He be God if He couldn't? No. Are you unsure where you are going to live when you go away to college? Do you think God is going to let you live on the streets? I think not!

God gave you Jesus and the Holy Spirit so that you would have security and you would know that God has your back. If you are dealing with bullying at school, give it to Jesus. I am not just handing you a cliché. Jesus is there for you (Hebrews 7:25, Matthew 28:20). He is right there with you every step you take. Sometimes when I'm in a situation where I feel like I am going to get pounded (usually mentally) I picture Jesus right next to me wherever I am. We forget that He is always there.

Are you insecure about you? Hey! We are girls. Every girl or woman, regardless of age, is in one

way or the other, insecure in some area of her life. It may be as simple as how her hair looks. It could be the insecurity of not getting close to people because she has been hurt before. It could be a sense of insecurity about her future and wanting to be in control of her entire life, thus locking God out. There are many different types and levels of insecurity. You and I are not the only ones who have ever gone through or will ever go through insecurity. We all go through it. It's what we do before, during and after that matters.

Some of us go in and never come out. Sometimes I feel women didn't get the full serving of self esteem. And the little we did get the devil comes and snatches it away every time we get up and think we just might have achieved some level of self esteem. And just like in the Batman movies, BAM! POW! There we go. Hitting the lower level of self esteem. But we forget! God did not give us the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)! "*But I'm not afraid, I have low self esteem Ang!*" I love you sweetie, but let me share something with you. If you have low self esteem, you are walking in fear: fear of what other people think about you, fear that you can't live up to someone else's expectations, fear

that you aren't good enough, fear that fear will come on you and fear, fear, fear. That my friend is fear.

But guess what? When we get to the intersection of low self esteem in life we have to look both ways. (That's the law when we get to a street intersection!) We get to decide which way we go. Are we going to go to low self esteem or are we going to choose to be secure in who we know God made us? Don't know what to do? Ask Jesus! He's standing right there! Go ahead. *"Excuse me. Jesus. Sir. Could you please tell me which way I should go?"* Guess what? You already know the answer! See! You are more secure in your self esteem knowing you have the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords walking right beside you (Isaiah 43:2, Leviticus 26:12).

Who wouldn't be more secure knowing the God who parted the Red Sea was walking next to them? Well He is! Who wouldn't be more secure knowing the God who made and named every star, is walking beside them? Well He is! Who wouldn't be more secure knowing the God who made a donkey talk, is walking beside them? Well He is! And who wouldn't be more secure knowing that the God who

Himself came down as a man, for the sole purpose of being killed and dying for mankind so that they could live in heaven forever, is always with you? Well He is and He does and He always will walk beside you! He has done it all for you!

Security. We all want it. All of us can have it. But will we all choose it? God sent Jesus to earth for you. Then Jesus was killed. But just like God, Jesus wasn't going to leave you here on this earth to fend for yourself. He loved you so much He promised to send the great Comforter (John 14:16, John 16:7, John 15:26). The Comforter is a type of security blanket. The best there is! The Holy Spirit! And guess what? He did this all for you. God made sure He had in place a security system for you at all times. You just have to choose to access it.

And how do we access that security? Through prayer! Remember the armor in Ephesians chapter 6? Verse 18 says, *“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”* Pray. Pray and pray. Praying is just talking to God. Sometimes we get so caught up in the formalities of praying that we aren't really talking to God, we're just sounding like a religious person.

Read your Bible. This is your security manual. Your Bible is your key to...everything. How can you know your God if you don't spend time with Him? Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word of God is alive. That means it works today. It is effective today. It applies to today. And that verse goes on to say that it can cut between soul and spirit. That is how powerful the Word of God, your Bible, is. Use it. It is one of your weapons of warfare. It's not so you can hit someone with it. It's so that you can slice and dice the enemy (the devil) with your sword, the Word of God. People with swords don't go out to play. They go out to fight and they fight to win.

Go to church. This is your security training! There is power in numbers. There is power when believers get together. There is power you receive when you sit and receive good, solid, Word-based teaching. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25, "*And let us not neglect meeting together...*" Go to church. Jesus went to church! He went to the temple! That's where Mary found Him when He wandered off as a boy. He knew how important going to church was. It is there you will find power.

Think of yourself as a car. You cannot go anywhere if you don't have gas in your car. You have to fill up your car. If you have an electric car, the same is true. You have to plug in your car in order for it to have power. Go to church. It does the body, spirit and soul good.

Security. The only place to find it and know that it is genuine and cannot be tampered with, altered or destroyed is with God. God is your security. He has put everything in place for you to access Him. All you have to do is access your personal security code. G-O-D!

Chapter Six

Future – How Big is Big?

Guess what girls? God has a bigger future for you than you could ever hope or image (Jeremiah 29:11)! This is my very favorite chapter of this book, because it's here that I get to show you how God brings it all together for you. The great things He has in store for you. The great plans He has for you. The great everything He has for you. And I don't have to try and convince you. All I have to do is present the truth to you, knowing that God has this wonderful package for you (His Word and His love) and I get to cheerlead you to open it! Are you ready?

Remember Chapter Two? Your dreams. Take a moment and pull out the sheet you wrote your dream on. Ok now that you are back and have those dreams fresh in your pretty little head, guess what? God can, wants to and will make everything you desire come to pass! Yes! It's true! You were made by God, for God and you are designed for victory! Did you know that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13)? Did you know that everything you lay your hand to

prosper (Deuteronomy 28:8)? Did you know that there is no weapon formed against you that can prosper (Isaiah 54:17)? Did you know you are guaranteed to succeed (Romans 8:28)? It's all true! And I didn't promise these! I could never even start to try to figure out how to make all that work! But I have someone who can! God!

God, in His Word to you, gave you every answer and promise you will ever need for this life. First of all you have to know that you know that God made you. You weren't a mistake (regardless of the circumstances that brought you into being). God made YOU and He made YOU with a purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "*For I know the plans I have for you...*" When God created you, He knew what He wanted you to do. I am doing what I do because God created me for this. You aren't writing this book because that's not what God called you to do. He has a different, specific plan just for your life.

You must remember...God never makes a mistake. "*But Ang you don't know what my life is like!*" Again, that's true, but I do know that you were destined to win. 1 John 5:4 says, "*For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.*" You are a winner.

God doesn't make losers. The devil tries to convince us otherwise by giving us thoughts (remember not every thought is your thought) of uselessness, not being wanted, not being capable. It simply is a lie from the pit of hell. If you remember only one thing from this book I want you to remember that God doesn't make mistakes! God knew what He was doing when He made you. God has a specific purpose for you. He has a specific destiny for you. He has a specific future that you could never in your wildest imagination ever comprehend.

What is it you want to do in life? Why do you want to do that? What will your dream do for the kingdom of God? If your dream and desires don't point back to God and His Kingdom, guess what? It's probably not from God. But that's not a problem. Rip that one up and start over. Pick up your armor. Pray. Wield your sword. Get out your Bible and read and read until you hear that small still voice instructing you and guiding you to where God wants you to be. God is the God of new beginnings (2 Corinthians 5:17). God is the God of hope (Romans 15:13). God is the God of success (Deuteronomy 8:18, Matthew 6:33). There is

nothing you could want or desire that He wouldn't do for you. But there is one thing. *"I knew it! I knew it Ang!"*

Yes you are right. There is a catch, so to speak. You have to sell out to Jesus. Psalm 37:5 says, *"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him, and He will help you."* Not one foot in the door on Sunday for 15 minutes, opening your Bible only when told to and then you don't look at your Bible or talk to God again until you need something from Him. God is always there for you. You need to know that. There is not a time you are going to need to get a hold of Him and an angelic secretary takes your message. You are never going to reach out to Him and His iPhone is on silent. You won't be told to wait when you need Him because He is with someone else. He will always be there for you. But He wants a relationship with you. He doesn't want to know you only on Sunday mornings. What about the other six and a half days? You were made by Him, for Him. He doesn't only want to hear from you when you need something. Let's look at this from a human view.

Your mother birthed you, changed your diapers, has fed and clothed you your entire life. You owe

her. Not monetarily, but there is something your mom expects out of you. A relationship. How do you think your mom would feel if you only showed up when it was time to eat? Or you only came by on the weekends for her to do your laundry? Or you only called when you needed money? Otherwise she didn't see or hear from you until the next time you needed something. Emotions would be running rampant in your mother. She would be sad at times and at other times she would be very angry with you. There would be times she may even be on the edge of depression because of the disappointment.

Thank goodness God doesn't run on emotions! But nevertheless, that's how God feels too. He wants a relationship with you. He loves you more than anything in the whole world! He loves you more than your mother loves you! He loves you more than the whole universe! He loves you so much He made you just a little lower than angels (Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:5). And if that wasn't enough, knowing that God loves you beyond human comprehension, you also have first priority in His kingdom! Isn't that awesome?

I want you to think about this. The angels are with God 24x7. But picture this, an angel is in

God's office requesting something. He's standing there in his white angel suit, wings smugly tucked back, presenting his request or need to God. Maybe it's an upgrade to his wing speed when all of a sudden your prayer hits God's desk. Boom! Papers fly everywhere. God looks down and sees that it's your prayer! Do you know that the angel who is standing in front of God will be pushed aside, regardless of his requests or needs because your prayer takes top priority? And the angel is standing there thinking, *"What the heck? Oh great. Another human. They always get priority over me!"* That's how much God loves you! That's what He does for you!

So what it is you want out of your life? Be careful what you ask for, because remember I said that God isn't going to give you something that will hurt you. And when He does give us our heart's desire we have to be careful that the dream, the hope doesn't take priority over God. As humans we soon forget the gifter and allow the gift to consume our attention. We have to keep our eyes on Jesus at all times. He is the giver of all good things (James 1:5). The world and the enemy will try to distract you, even try to entice you away from God. You

have to be on guard at all times (1 Corinthians 16:13). It's not a matter of if a distraction or enticement will come, it's when they will come. They always come. You can bet your very life on it. The enemy has never and will never play fair. If God blesses you, the enemy is right around the corner to counter that blessing. You have to be strong and so very passionate about serving God that you are on guard at all times watching that no one or nothing distracts you from the things of God.

This doesn't mean you have to choose the career option of being a nun. You can be an actress. Hollywood needs believers! You will have to be strong not to get caught up in the drug and sex scene. You will need to be clear minded not to accept the lie that everyone is "*doing it*", whatever "*it*" may be. That maybe true and probably is, but you aren't everyone. You are God's chosen. You will need to pull on the strength that only Jesus can give you (Philippians 4:13). You are His princess. You have an audience of One - The Kings of Kings and the Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)! You are the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8). You are His possession (1 John 3:2). You were made for Him (Ephesians 2:10, Revelation 4:11).

What has God done for you? EVERYTHING!
What does God have for you? EVERYTHING!
Why does God do this for you? Because He loves
you! He made you, He loves you, He wants to
spend time with you. Girls, you are God's
treasures...live everyday for Him and with Him!
And in exchange, everything He has is for you. This
girls, is true love. This He has for you.

SALVATION PRAYER

Father, I know that I have sinned. I repent of my sins and I ask You to forgive me. Your Word says that if I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me, I will be born again. I believe Jesus died for me. I believe You have a wonderful plan for my life. I thank You Father that You will use me in your kingdom to not only bring people to the knowledge of You, but You will help me to accomplish everything You have planned for my life and that through my life, others will want to know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

Father, I need You. I need more of You. I hunger and thirst for a deeper, more powerful relationship with You. By faith I invite You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit as You *commanded* me to be filled. You *promised* to fill me if I ask according to Your will. Your Word says that the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. I thank you for this gift and I receive it in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

GOD HAS THIS FOR ME:

His attention (Psalm 139:13-16 NIV)

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

A sense of belonging (1 Peter 2:9 NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Plans for my life (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Salvation (Colossians 2:13-14 NLT)

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God

made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Worth (1 Corinthians 3:16 NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Freedom from sin (Romans 6:18 NIV)

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

The ability to call myself God's child

(John 1:12-13 NLT)

But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

Guaranteed success

(Romans 8:28 God's Word Translation)

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God – those whom He has called according to His plan.

Power, love and self-discipline

(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

His kindness, wisdom and understanding

(Ephesians 1:8 NLT)

He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Forgiveness (Colossians 1:14 NLT)

...who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Hope (Romans 15:13 NLT)

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A voice (Matthew 5:13-14 NIV)

[Jesus speaking] "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

Peace (Philippians 4:7 NLT)

Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Security (Proverbs 3:26 NLT)

...for the Lord is your security.

Access to Him (1 John 5:14 NLT)

And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him.

A calling on my life (Ephesians 4:1 NLT)

...beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

A new attitude and a new lifestyle

(Ephesians 4:21-32 NLT)

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from Him, ²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God... ²⁵So stop telling lies... ²⁶And "don't sin by letting anger control you." ...²⁷for anger gives a foothold to the

devil.²⁸ ...quit stealing...²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language...³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live...³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

A thankful heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT)

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Strength (Ephesians 6:10 NLT)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

Companionship (Hebrews 13:5 NLT)

For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Mental stability (I Corinthians 2:16 NLT)

...for we have the mind of Christ.

The promise of eternal life (John 6:47 NLT)

[Jesus speaking] "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life."

Victory (I John 5:4-5 NLT)

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

A new life through Jesus Christ

(Galatians 2:20 NLT)

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...

Righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, also that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Healing (I Peter 2:24 NLT)

...By His wounds you are healed.

Freedom from condemnation (Romans 8:1 NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

Motivation (Philippians 4:13 NLT)

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Everything (Philippians 4:19 NLT)

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

TESTIMONIES

Angie is a true example of one who loves and "lives" Christ. Over the years her transparency, steadfast trust in the Lord, and "in your face" ministry of the uncompromised Word of God have helped me to grow in God, strengthened my desire to consistently pursue His Word, encouraged me in my identity in Him, and reminded me that He knows what He is doing...even when I don't! Angie has blessed me so much by seeing things the way God sees them (myself included) and always pointing me back to Jesus, regardless of the situation or circumstance.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a man (ANGIE) sharpens the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17

Shellie B. -Age 41

The wisdom Angie showers through her insightful teachings is amazing. She makes every person wake up to the realization to so many truths they never knew or understood before. Being around Angie's infectious zeal for God and life is wonderful, which is captured here also. You will greatly be touched through this book. Laura H. -Age 30

My life has been touched in so many ways. Angie has been there to listen and has always been there to help. I feel like Angie's an inspiration to many

people. She has inspired me to get back into what I'm passionate about and has helped me feel I can achieve so much more. When I talk with Angie ideas just run through my mind on goals I want to set for myself and she has taught me on how much God has done and will still do in my life! -Rachel, age 23

Through knowing Angie and the times we have sat and talked about the love of God, it has shown me that the desires of my heart and God's promises are not destroyed just because something drastic happens in your life. God can make Plan B better than you thought Plan A could ever be! Angie has showed me you just have to let God heal you and strengthen you and realize just how much God loves you and dive into it, then you can be a weapon of your past destruction and change someone else's life through your testimony! - Chelsea, age 23