

# The Liberating Secret Newsletter

July 2009

Volume 55

**The Whole Gospel, to the Whole man, to the Whole World.**  
(All of Christ, in and manifesting as all of redeemed humanity)

**A New Series on Spirit Broadcasting**  
[www.spiritbroadcasting.net](http://www.spiritbroadcasting.net)

Christ our Life Scriptural Basis is a 37 program series in which I have been compelled by the Spirit for some time, to do. Most of the commentary has been written by me, with some special quotes by Norman Grubb. Drink deep with the Spirit, and be further filled with Spirit understanding.

If you would ever like to have a Bible study in your home, but feel inadequate to be the teacher. This series is for you. These programs are 30 minutes apiece in which your guest can view, along with a written commentary provided for each program. Your inadequacy will soon prove to be the negative by which the Spirit's uses to prove to you that He will use you to proclaim these precious truths to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Someone once said to me, "If the church gets a hold of this, we could change the world." I believe that is true. So come join me and discover what my technician, Dave Moss thinks is the most complete comprehensive series ever. He said it put the whole picture together for him.

We will pray that you will be blessed, and set free from any shadowy places not yet lite by the Spirit of God.

## News from our "On The Road Again," trip

What a glorious time Dad and I had in Forty Fort, Pa. and in Stamford, Ct. Dad and I actually left home on May 31, and drove to Forty Fort and settled in at Ed and Annette Meade's house. I met Annette about 10 years ago through Clark & Deb Switzer's fellowship in West Pittston, Pa. Annette said to Deb, "The next time Scott and Sylvia come to our area, I want them to stay with us." And that we did. Annette is a spiritual mother to about 20 or more wonderful women who are discovering who they are. We could have a Pawley's Island women's weekend just with her contacts alone. We stayed at her house for about 5 days, meeting and counseling with people as they flooded in. We also had a wonderful "Day-Apart" the next day. One woman commented that she was getting "freer by the moment." That is what we long to see happen, and the Holy Spirit is surely bringing new light to folks in the Scranton, Pennsylvania area.

Deb and Clark invited all the radio listener to come to the Ramada Inn in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area where The Liberating Secret is being broadcast. We had a thrilling but interesting night of teaching, fellowship and just plain sharing Christ with about 50 people. One of the radio technician show up and commented that the meeting should have been taped. He wanted to play it on the radio...saying to the radio audience, "See what you missed." I gave him some of my teachings from another church service that I did, he said that he would edit them and play them on the station. The next time we come to the area, more folks will want to participate.

We were privileged to minister at Mahanoy Prison for men. There were 200 men at our two hour service. I have ministered at this maximum prison before but, This time their church choir had robes and even a new band. We also enjoyed a skit put on by the men. It was wonderful. At the end of my teaching I ask if anyone wanted to proclaim their identity in Christ. There were about 20 men who verbally proclaimed that they, **no longer lived, but Christ lived in them.** I left them with a box of my book and trusted the Holy Spirit to begin to form a nucleus of men who will begin to know the truth about themselves and strengthen and teach each other.

We also went to another prison called, "Retreat." Strange name for a prison. I found out that it use to be a mental facility, before it was made into a prison. I joked with my house guest, "I can't tell them that Christ lives in them, they will really think that they are God." Thankfully, the 50 men that attended our meeting were not mental patients, but strong Christian brothers. I always bless each man, when possible, with a smile, hand shake, and a word of encouragement. Several faces usually stand out to me as I do that. One man name was, "Sterling." I told him that he would have a special blessing from the Lord that night. After the meeting he was certainly "Sterling Silver" with a shinning glow on his face. To us, that is our reward making the whole trip worth it. There were also about 30 men who proclaimed their identity in Christ. I left another box of books with that prison too. Our cup runs over as we minister to God's precious people in prisons.

From there we went to Stamford, Ct. staying with Rick and Karie Boshka. Karie is the daughter of our friends Kent and Nancy Dement who lives in Lubbock, Tx. We ministered at an Assembly of God Church in Connecticut. It was exceptionally wonderful. The minister received us with open arms and a humble heart. He declared to his congregation that my book, "The Treasures of Darkness" was one of the most profound books that he had ever read. That is remarkable since some think the opposite. There was a lot of response that day, and they want us back to do a woman's conference in October. Later we went to the Boshka's house for a church picnic. Great fellowship and blessing to be there with most of the church.

Scott and I are going to do a **conference Oct. 23-24 in Paoli, Pa.** just west of Philly. Interesting, this is where the "Pearces" first settlement when they came to America from England in the 1700. We are literally going back to our roots. (You all knew that Scott and I are 7<sup>th</sup> cousins, and my maiden name was Pearce also....Oh, yes, you can do that in Kentucky, if you are bare footed when you marry, that is).

All fun aside... Burt Rosenberg, Helen Overly and I are invited by the Gerlach's to thankfully do their annual conference. You can find out more info by contacting Bob & Midge Gerlach at 717-

684-5913, or e-mail them at [bobmidge@juno.com](mailto:bobmidge@juno.com) .

If anyone want Scott and I to **come to your area**, just call us and we will but it on our calendar. Our number is 502-245-4581.

**Did you miss our May conference?** Well, take heart, it will soon be on our streaming loop on [www.spiritbroadcasting.net](http://www.spiritbroadcasting.net). Just a taste: The video's are just now being edited for viewing.

**Pawleys Island Women's Retreat-- Invitation and flyer for the fall retreat -**  
<http://theliberatingsecret.org/pawleys/Flyer%20Fall%202009.pdf>

## **Meredith's Crosses:**

[http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user\\_id=5534054](http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=5534054)

## **Norman Grubb's video**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv8V2JnC48o&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCkS9ne9Wwg&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-SeEewvDeo&feature=related>

Enjoy this video, it portrays **Psalms 139** in picture form.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgIFLJzs-h4&feature=related>

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# Letters

## **From a radio listener in Nashville!**

Hi Dear Friend Sylvia:

I just wanted to thank you for continuing in your ministry. Oh how this world needs the truth and God hand-picked you and is using you in a mighty way. I stand simply amazed at the things that

come from your sweet mouth. God is amazing Sylvia. What strength and wisdom He has shown you and thank God you are still 'in the game and fighting' for the truth.

My life turned completely around that day when I was driving down the road as I always do and there you were...precious voice on the radio and I still thank God and pray over your ministry. You changed my life that day Sylvia. How can I convey in words my gratitude. God is truly good and all the time.

May He continue to give you what you need in order to do what you do and make known to Christians and unbelievers alike the liberating truth of Christ in them.

I love you Sylvia,  
Suzy

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This from Nicholas Pujdak

We all need to learn that Chris IS - Christ is our spiritual life - not us independently trying to have a deeper spiritual life - He IS and always will be our spiritual life!

The scripture says - "who WAS, who Is and IS to come"

I believe the answer is in Romans and other areas in the new testament- its Union- Christ as our person.

Its a total surrender of sorts or recognition that not only are we hopeless but that Gods only purpose and intent was for us to be co-crucified with Christ - and on that cross was nailed all our trying to be holy - trying to be spiritual - For He is all those things for us and in us - Apart from Him I can do nothing - a total reliance on the life of another - now that will thrash anyone's ego for sure..

Our part - what is our part - faith in another - not ourselves..the vessel He lives in - besides what choice does a slave have - and we are slaves of Righteousness..

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## God's Unchangeable Love

Brian Coatney

I woke up early and what stays on my mind since Bible study is the unchangeableness of God. While in Boone, I happened to glance the last chapter in a Kierkegaard anthology I have, almost

by accident, and read what is an essay on the unchangeableness of God, in which Kierkegaard talks a lot about how in time we hope God will forget things we've said and done, like humans tend to do, but that God, being God, never forgets anything. Time does not affect him because He's not in time.

Now as humans, we find this threatening since there's a lot we'd like other humans and especially God then, to forget, that we've said or done. We think that time heals things, whereas it never does. Yet though this seems startling and disturbing to consider, it is healing as well once we let ourselves get pressed through to the sunny side of God's unchangeableness.

The sunny side is that He is love, and so He never loves us more one day than He does another—never loves us more when we think we've been good, like when we operate on a Santa syllabus, and never loves us less, like when we think we've incited His disapproval. No, He never has loved us a whit more or less than He has always loved us, since He's incapable of being anything but love.

This love isn't an arbitrary or random nature in God, as I once thought, even thinking it unfair that we humans have to choose love, whereas God seemed to be just automatically love. But here is where my old Bible teacher Norman's teaching finally sunk in, that we learn from the Bible that God wills to be what he is; thus, He is who He is by choice—an eternal choice to be self for others: following then that He is completely conscious of His eternal choice to be only love, and therefore, in scripture, even the darker looking side of justice and judgment in the Bible can only be His love.

Now on our own, we'd be done for when it comes to justice and judgment, but we need never fear that in Christ, His eternal Sons, made manifest in our world, and known as the lamb slain before the foundation of the world to God and the trinity, even before the birthing of our present world. The Cross was always in God's heart as His nature, and nothing could ever change that or ever will.

Last night studying Noah's generation, the story could look like God is one way in the Old Testament and another way in the New Testament, but not so. The only changeableness in the Bible is the unfolding ability of mankind in history to receive the fullness of God's revelation of who he is in Christ. We think, "God has changed," but no, He knew the conditioning the world must undergo to be open to who He is.

In Noah's day, only Noah believed, and he looks like a tiny minority, but the point of Noah is that he did believe God and walked with God by faith, and so found grace, which has never not been the case, has never not been true. Why even when Adam and Eve fell, God was right there with a promise of redemption, so God has always been the initiator, even when we've gone and his from His unchanging love.

The implication of this is that in our worst tragedies, He is always right there present, not a hint of separation, and His love is the same as it was yesterday, and the same as it will be tomorrow and forever. Nothing we do changes His nature.

Our response is everything as far as we're concerned, for our ports being open, we receive the

precious cargo of His love every moment. Death does not change that: even in the moment of accident and death, His love guides us through it 100%, and that is what gives us rest and freedom from anxiety. When our souls and bodies are shredded from feelings and thoughts of great disturbance, the risen Christ in us, even bearing what we go through as us, is our comfort. The wisdom of God keeps shining upon the risen Christ, and in that wonderful image turns into Him, not apart from us, but joined to us bearing in us the load.

God never changes. That means any promise He has given us is bankable today and forever and can be imported into past memories to redeem them as well.

Amen,

Love,  
Brain

## **Jenny's Devotionals**

### **Proverbs 9:10**

Jenny Fienning

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

As a child my concept of "fear" was very, very "fearful". It conjured up all types of ideas about losing a parent, being physically hurt, not being accepted, and of course "monsters" in the room at night... I feared many things... so, when I first ever read this Proverb it was a little "scary". How could "fear" bring wisdom? Combining "the fear of the Lord" and "knowledge of the Holy One" made me afraid of God in my little brain... BUT within me was this desire to know Him, for if I could get to know Him maybe I wouldn't be afraid of Him. I wonder if anyone else thought that way...

Well, time has past, and the faithfulness of God is so awesome for He showed me some years later in my early twenties what "the fear of the Lord" was all about and I began a journey of coming to know Him that continues to this day and will continue throughout eternity.

"Fear of the Lord" is a reverence, an awe of Him. It is a realization that the only uncreated, independent self (though three in one) desires to make Himself known to His creation, precious humanity...to indwell and fellowship with human beings. THE HOLY ONE wants communication with you!!

That is a fearful and wonderful relationship...and it is meant for you this day. For, since we are in Christ Jesus, He is In You to reveal Himself to you... You and He are One. (He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him, I Cor. 6:17). As you see who He is, you will see who you are and the understanding of this wonderful union will change the way your life is lived on this earth.

Now, go forth and watch what Jesus does to show Himself to you and to live as you in your world.



## Music

Brian Coatney

Speaking of music, I watched a 2 hour special on PBS on scientists working to discover why humans need music; is it inherent in us or evolved? There's a lot of foolishness in all of that, but there were some good notes in the program (pardon the pun), esp Brian Greene, the physicist, saying that string theory asserts that the universe is vibrating strings. Another guest on the show talked about how intimate sound is since vibrations from a talker's mouth enter the listener's ear and vibrate the hearer's body parts. I had never thought about how in talking to someone, we touch that person physically and how invasive or glorious that can be.

This reminds me too of the line from a hymn, "the music of the spheres." This reminds me too of Psa 40: 6, which according to a note in my Bible reads in the Hebrew, "ears thou hast dug for me, "making the ears sound like canals, and thus receptacles, or containers; and then to I get the idea of the ONE STRING in the universe, the original, sounding the love notes of GOD onto the spiritual hammer, anvil, and stirrup in our ear canal. How stirring that sound finds its receptors, how sad to have ears and hear not, but how glad, as new creations in Christ, to hear the good news of our incorporation into the body of Christ, literally His very body, such that our ears are no longer alien, but beautiful hearing marvels of His grace.

## Nancy's Gems

### Why we must know faith

by Nancy Fitzpatrick Gilmore

Why we must know faith. Is there anything that destroys us like "having no faith"? I know that statement is not good English, but perhaps it makes the point best. The absence of faith destroys us. Faith is vital! Faith is critical to our well being!

What is faith then? I mean, "Real Faith" – God's kind of faith?

Without faith you can do nothing!

Faith isn't just 'something' to believe...- but faith is the very substance of God whose believing is in us! God not only believes in us, but God believes **that we'll** believe on His believing in us. Faith is God at work in us. Faith is God's operation in us producing His Liberating Life. Faith not only knows what to believe, faith knows who to believe on. Faith is the evidence; God evidence of things not seen. Perhaps this explains the attack on faith within us. Explains why faith suffers long! Did you ever think about the suffering that is in you is God's faith suffering for you to believe ON HIM?

## Richard Krupa's Ponderings

Christ, The Sum of all spiritual "things". Seems to me this is a title of a book by Watchman Nee.

Think of it.

HE, HE ALONE IS the SUM.

HE IS the WHOLE AMOUNT.

HE.

HE IS the UTMOST DEGREE.

HE IS *UTTERLY* the UTTER: ABSOLUTE; TOTAL.

He is preeminent

He is the preeminent ONE.

Not scripture

Not doctrine

Not teachings...

Now enters this, Union, this most mystical, Union.

God, man. Here we stand.

We proclaim Him, Christ the Lord.

## Quotes

Justice demands the punishment of the sinner, but it may also accept the vicarious sacrifice of another as in the case of Christ. To deny the freeness of mercy is to annihilate it because it returns to a matter of debt and then it is no longer mercy. Unknown

Every negative has its hidden resolve in God, and faith is the key that makes manifest the negatives, hidden positive. **Sylvia Pearce**

Faith looks beyond the pain, wrapped in veil of time, and sees God's eternal purposes beyond it all. **Sylvia Pearce**

'With all sorts of doubts I am familiar, and the result of them is, has been, and will be, a widening of my heart and soul and mind to greater glories of the truth ... .. I cannot say I never doubt, nor until I hold the very heart of good as my very own in Him, can I wish not to doubt. *For doubt is the hammer that breaks the windows clouded with human fancies, and lets in the pure light.*' **George McDonald**

**C.S. Lewis** once said that there are two equal and opposite errors that we can fall into regarding Satan and his demons. One is to act like they don't exist; the other is to be unduly and overly interested in them.

"True and perfect obedience is a virtue above all virtues...obedience has no cares; it lacks no blessing...When I give my will up to the care of my Lord and Master and have no will of my own, God must will for me; for if He were to neglect me, He would be neglecting himself. So it is with everything; where I do not chose for myself, God chooses for me. What will he choose for me? That I shall not choose for myself." **Meister Eckhart**

Meekness is not weakness but power under restraint, for we see ourselves as we really are, and see him as he really is." **Fred Williams**

**St. John of the Cross** says: "(This wound is delectable (i.e. delicious)." John of the Cross goes on to say: "After the dark and painful night of the spirit there is...a divine awakening...the soul uses a similitude (i.e. an example) of one that awakens from his sleep, and says, 'how gentle and loving is...thine awakening, O Word and Spouse, in the center and depth of my soul...wherein alone, secretly and in silence, Thou dwellest as it's Lord. This divine awakening is an inspiration of the Word manifesting His dominion, His glory and His intimate sweetness."

Faith builds Heaven in the midst of Hell's despair!

Heirs of the Kingdom are those who die to *achieving* and live by *receiving*!  
Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.

**Corrie Ten Boom**

"Good must be sucked out of the bitter root of seeming evil." **Brian Coatney**

"Life's disappointments are veiled love's appointments." From "Streams in the Desert", Feb. 1st.

"Sometimes God calms the storms, and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child."

The expression of true everlasting life procures itself contented as the vessel or container of Christ alone. **Jennifer Cormack**

In the pasture of the King, freely bloom two trees. One offers sacrificial unified life; the other cloaks itself in the good works of death. If the sheep of the pasture cannot produce their own righteousness, then conversely they cannot produce their own iniquity. Will you be so entwined by the false independence of goodness you fail to express the true liberty you possess? The only good and just King tarries for your reply.

**Jennifer Cormack** Short Story Excerpt

## Religion is guilt with different holidays- **Danny Pearce**

"If we cast aside the suggestions of Satan, the delusions of our own feelings of separation, the sense of weakness and ignorance: if we boldly possess our possessions in Christ, draw the sword of the Spirit upon the deceiver, declare by God's word that we are one with Christ and with one another, one mystic organism, one divine life flowing in and through all: then we *are* strong by faith, for His strength is in us; we *are* wise, for His wisdom is ours; we have love, joy or any other needed grace of the Spirit, for we are permeated with Him; and all we need to do is to go forward in this faith, as having and possessing, and we shall find that what is true in the realm of the Spirit, through our faith becomes manifest in the realm of the senses, whether it be power, love, joy, knowledge, or any other needed resource. Christ the head thus becomes manifest in and through His members."—**Norman Grubb**

Everything fulfills the word spoken over it, whether negatively or positively. **Kathryn Magnotto**

Break confidence in oppression! Break fellowship with fantasy. **Shirley Weaver**

What is a oak tree, but a acorn that held its ground! Author unknown

## Poem of the Month

Who's in Charge?

As usual, I'm not in charge  
of one single thing in the universe.  
For that, also, I can show you  
chapter and verse.

I know this already, but reminders are frequent,  
like the commuter who takes the plane  
every day from New York to Boston,  
though it's a bit of a pain.

An old proverb says something  
about the best laid plans of mice and men—  
a touch of salt for the day-timer who obsesses  
like an epileptic hen.

Today, it's one thought about what to do next—  
a bit of wisdom, underpinning, from God's word.  
Tomorrow, we think again, maybe get new insight  
on an old truth we've often heard.

One thing's sure; life certainly speeds along,  
from fiery trial to trial, never dull  
except to one under the weather with addiction,  
falsely hoping for a lull.

So, sweetly we go on in our faith,  
with Christ our Lord and captain of all,  
the Spirit and our heavenly Father in charge,  
letting us stumble perhaps but never fall.

BC/5-30-09

## Prayer Request

### Tandy Coatney progress report!

The cancer is a shock, and thanks be to God for that word in **Isa 46:4**. She had been seeking a word during the week(s) things first broke with the cancer but seemed to get nothing. Then one morning she came in from the patio/garden in back where she has her coffee and reads the Bible and said, "I got my word." It was so great! It's her word, and I ride it too.

So we know that she will be fine and live on to bear fruit here, but we know too that unpleasantness on the body level will accompany the chemo, radiation, and all that. She starts her chemo this Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. But her faith is the main thing and the fruit that will come in others thru that. A whole host of people with cancer or a cancer history are springing up as support, and God's tenderness and love are poured out. I noticed too in our first visit to the marvelous cancer center here in Hopkinsville, that there's a statue of an angel by the entrance, and an angel on one end of the reception desk across the room. The whole vast waiting area has an atmosphere like a station between heaven and earth. I commented to T, "The angel by the door reminds me of an entrance into heaven, with an angel there at the gate." She replied, "I'm sure a lot of these people are headed there soon." We're all headed there soon we know, and the spiritual, heavenly atmosphere, like the lobby of a train station, I found supernatural and edifying. We know the Lord has us here now, and evidently for a while, to keep bearing fruit, but apart from that, it's good to have bags packed to take that train when our whistle blows.

About Tandy's folks, Billy's was a mild stroke, in the hospital 9 days, and we thought for a bit he might have to rehab in a nursing home, and it was a close call, but the thing always seems to be that he and Mimi continue miraculously at home as a gracious place for the word of life that our little flock shares with any who come.

They did have a sitter for several weeks, and Billy now is much better, though his speech shows traces of hesitation not evident before the stroke. Mimi still drives, so the angels work hard, though for the

angels, they doubtless relish the assignment. The angels probably make jokes about Billy & Mimi's aggressive posture on independent living skills (not independent of God) and how all that is fine, fine, but buttressed by divine aids, and how true for us—if we only knew the extent of these messengers that Psalms and Hebrews speak of.

Blessings,  
Brian Coatney



**"Lord, I am boldly interpreting this need as an evidence that you have the supply already on the way. I believe it. I receive it. Thank you!"**

This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome." **"Prayer is where the action is.** John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

**A great illustration** is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is. Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

## This Month's Article

**Let me know if anyone would like a written copy of this booklet.**

This article is written for Christians who already know their identity in Christ. But now, what does it mean to be a mature other-lover? And what does it mean to lay down your life for others?

**"These things we write unto you that your joy may be full."  
(I John 1:4)**

I dedicate this booklet to my precious husband Scott, whom I have called "Dad" for 49 years, and I believe is the greatest man on earth!

## What Every Wife Needs to Know!

(You guys can read it too)

Sylvia D. Pearce

### God called us help-mates, not fix-mates

What wife doesn't want to **FIX, CHANGE OR REARRANGE** her husband? I certainly did. Our good friend, Burt Rosenberg once said, all new marriages are like "two ticks and no dog." What a laugh, but so true. Someone else said, "New wives want to change their husbands, while new husbands pray that their wives will never change."

What a joke God plays on us married folks—He challenges us in Ephesians 5:21-25—Wives submit to your own husbands, and husbands love your wives. But then He rebukes us in Luke 12:51-53 by saying, "Suppose you that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, No; but rather division." He tells us to love and submit and then He comes to divide family member from family member! What is that about? Only the Holy Spirit can unravel this mystery of seeming contradictions. Hopefully, we will unravel some of its mystery in this pamphlet.

We all sincerely, yet naively promise to submit, and to love one another on our wedding day. But, do we really know what we are doing? No, not at all. "For better, or worse?" "Of course," we say, but how worse? We can't even imagine.

First love is so blind and yet so powerful in its newness, that we think our passions and feeling of love for each other will get us through anything. Yet, what we don't understand is that this first love is mainly self-indulging, self-centered, and self-motivated. Under the pressures of family responsibilities, time consuming tasks, and demands from our children and mates, we all fail to really love anybody but ourselves. All we can think about is our need to somehow control our lives so that we will be pressure free as well as pain free. Impossible!

God called us Eve's "helpmates", not fix-mates. Big difference. Fixing means to change him so that I, the wonderful wife that I am, will get all my needs met, and basically I won't have to give up myself for him, or suffer any emotional pain from his inconsiderate behavior. On the other hand, being a "helpmate" as God intended means: I will have to give up myself and what I think that I deserve, and be spiritually and bodily for my husband whether he deserves it or not. Ouch! How can I do that? You can't, only Christ can be the unconditional love required to be a true "help-mate."

Am I saying that we wives have to be door mats letting our husbands walk all over us? No, I can tell you from experience, door mats are boring, non-persons. I use to be a non-person, you know, I hardly had an opinion, stuffed all my emotions, and did begrudgingly whatever my husband said. I guarantee you that my only motive was for self-preservation and keeping peace. Even though I rationalize and justified my actions, it was still **SELF** on the throne of my own life. I was just as wrong as my husband who was displaying obviously bad behavior, while my good behavior was subtly just as self-centered as his.

God had to deal with me first. Self-centered good behavior is hard to expose—it looks so good and so right. My good friend Therese Thurston calls this kind of self-goodness, "**plastic fantastic.**" However, God's light exposes it all.

I stayed depressed for a good three years dealing with my deep insecurities, self-hatred,

and unmerited fears of losing my husband. Finally, as God drug me through a dark night I reached the end of my own self activity, and miraculously discovered who I really was in Christ.

My true identity is Christ living, not me living at all. With that discovery I lost my fearful insecure self, and found my-true-self joined to Christ. It seemed like I lost myself, as Jesus said in Matt. 16:24 that we should lose ourselves, but eventually, I got my humanity back. I am Sylvia, a true person with opinions, feelings, thoughts of my own, and a true power for living, yet it was not me living at all, it was Christ living as me. Christ was using my precious humanity to express Himself through, yet I was just commonly me, yet not me, but He (Gal. 2:20).<sup>1</sup>

Christ wants us to be fully ourselves, yet fully Christ at the same time. That takes a radical reversal in our consciousness. I move from "me" centered, to Christ centered and then to others centered. That kind of mind has to be "the mind of Christ." Philippians 2:3-5 says: "Let each esteem others better than themselves, look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Now let **this mind** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who humbled himself and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." How do we let this mind be in us? By recognizing that through the cross you already have the "mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16), and trust Him to manifest His other love through you.

Jesus was an intercessor, and He is calling us to be co-intercessors with the Holy Spirit who calls us to intercede for our families and be true help-mates to our husbands. Let us look at what an intercessor is and what is the call of an intercessor.

God said to Moses, "I will send you to Pharaoh (Ex. 53:12); God said to Isaiah: "Go, and tell this people (Isa. 6:9); God said to Jeremiah "This day I have set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant; God said of John the Baptist, "There is a man sent from God" (John 1:6); and God said of Paul, "He is a chosen vessel to me to bear my name before the gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he **must suffer** for my name's sake" (Acts 9:15).

Maybe you think, "I'm not a Patriarch, or a Prophet, or an Apostle! Well, at the time, none of God's men and women of faith considered themselves anything special either. Yet God called them as intercessors. Think of yourself as Esther. Remember Mordecai's words to her, "Who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

All intercession starts with a call from God. The call usually is so overwhelming that you immediately know that only the Holy Spirit Himself can fulfill the intercession. Sometimes it is so overwhelming that you, like Jonah, want to run from it, or like Jesus Himself, ask to have it taken away "take this cup from me." That is normal human reaction, because it **is** impossible for the human you to undertake it. The impact of its immensity is scary and too big for anyone. "Why me, and how can I?" are our first questions. Sometimes the Holy Spirit doesn't even show you what He is going to accomplish through you. I've had Him say to me, "this is none of your business". Looking back, if I had known, I couldn't have taken it anyway. One more point to consider is that you need not look for intercession, it or they will find you.

How do we know that we are being called? It all starts with desire, God's desire in you. You desire someone to be saved; you desire a Spirit break-through in your work-place; you desire your marriage to be healed, or you want someone to be set free. Or maybe it is bigger than your loved ones, maybe you desire for people to know the truth of union, or maybe your

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<sup>1</sup> My testimony is in its fullness in my book "The Treasures of Darkness," Chapter 10 called: "A Severe Mercy" page 64. You can find my book available at the [www.theliberatingsecret.org](http://www.theliberatingsecret.org) bookstore.

church is still preaching legalism and you want more for them. It will be suited just for you, for it is the Holy Spirit groaning in you desiring transformation, and liberation.

For me personally it was my husband. He was not a free man, he was bound by **his** ferocious temper, **his** total control over the family, **his** flirtatious lust towards women and young girls, and **his** total control over **his** hard earned money. Does that sound like your husband, or someone you know? All this is pretty common behavior for un-discovered independent-self.<sup>2</sup>

He was a Christian, that was for sure, but he did not operate from who he really was, as Christ. Nor did he see anything wrong with his behavior, at least if he did he surely wouldn't tell me. But I got glimpses of how much he lived in self-condemnation. Every problem that he had, he blamed me. It is pretty typical of people who condemn themselves to take their frustrations out on others, especially those closest to them.

But you know, I just loved him-I know, that kind of love had to be supernatural, and it was. That didn't mean that I escaped the pain of dark days, and restless nights, no intercessor does that. Pain is a part of it. "If you suffer with me, you will reign with me."

That did not mean that I was a doormat either. No, Christ as me is no doormat. Jesus said that, "No man takes my life from me, but I will lay it down of myself." I wouldn't let Scott take my life from me. I couldn't! One day, he was reprimanding me for losing a renter's check. I took the responsibility, but he wouldn't stop preaching at me. I didn't need to take that so I said, "The only reason that you condemn me like this is because you condemn yourself, I don't deserve this kind of treatment, and neither do you." "Stop taking condemnation from the devil." He stopped immediately.

My job is not to condemn him, or correct him, just to tell him the truth in love, nothing else. Recently, to my surprise, I over heard him say to someone, "you can tell Mom anything and she won't condemn you." I thought to myself, I sure felt like condemning him, but somehow the Holy Spirit keep that from him so I take it that he never felt condemnation coming from me. That was a total miracle.

So then, what did I tell myself or what was my self-talk? That's real important. I told myself that Scott was perfect for me, just the way he was. I based that on the fact that God ordains all things in our lives for our good. This is not because God ordains evil for evil's sake as that would make God sadistic. God means all things to work together for our good. As I took my husband's behavior as **God's very best for me**, then I had peace with God, and peace about Scott. Some would say, "Well then that justifies Scott." Scott is responsible for Scott. My faith stand doesn't justify any of his wrong behavior. And if he would dare say that I was perfect for him too, there wouldn't be much fight left.

One of the first thing I had to learn was that I was not his Holy Spirit. He was really strong willed and prideful so thankfully he wouldn't let me be his Holy Spirit anyway. Actually, I always say that the greatest gift God ever gave me was a man who I could not even in the slightest way, change. He was my impossible brick wall. However this impossibility is the perfect condition for producing desire in me--a desire so strong that I cried out one day, "Lord, you have to set Scott free, whatever it takes, he must be set free. If it takes my life, I will give it, if it takes our children's lives, then take them. If we all need to suffer, then let it be, but set my husband free."

The Intercessor, the Holy Spirit has to first do a cleansing work on the one who is called to

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<sup>2</sup> My precious husband has given me permission or should I say insists that I write this. His comment was, "I will never say no to God." "This might help others to know how to believe the impossible." I believe I have a miracle man for a husband.

<sup>3</sup> A fuller presentation is developed on this mysterious, but glorious point in the chapter called "Strong Negatives," number 34.

intercede. That meant that I had to be transformed first. All had to be laid on the altar, and the Holy Spirit, Himself would detach and cleanse me where necessary.

I had walked through my own dark night of the soul some years earlier. I had been set free from fear, uncontrollable jealousy, self-hatred, and deep insecurities. Christ was my life now and, He filled all the holes of insecurity and scars of self-hatred with the presence of Himself and I knew it. My life was complete in Christ. I was satisfied beyond my wildest dreams. It was a miracle. But, I reasoned with the Lord, "What good is it if I have all the glory and my husband is still bound? I want the same thing for him. But how?"

### **My Journey of Faith**

My own journey had been a journey of faith. When I was in my craziest darkness, I began to just confess who I really was. That was absurd in the condition of madness that I was in, yet it was my only hope. I spoke, and I spoke, and I spoke the truth about myself, and by the law of faith, what I took by faith, took me and I knew that Christ and I were one. A law or principle only means, "How a thing works." All of life works by faith, and my life certainly proved that. All my fears, insecurities, jealousies, and self-hatred were swallowed up in Christ who was my life, my breath, my food, my mind, my health, He as me was the new me, and I experienced glory.

Now if the way for me was simple faith, then that was the way for Scott. Except he couldn't believe for himself, I had to believe for him in his place. I remember thinking at one point, "The only way for me to be free was for him to die, and I pictured him in a casket, dead. But little did I know that I had the wrong person in the casket. I had to die. Actually there is a verse in Romans 6:7 that says, "He that is dead is freed from sin." The only way for me to be free is for me to die to how I saw him which had been in unbelief.

It is a real death because all my flesh would scream out to me, "he is the problem, not you." Yet, **if I hadn't died to looking at him in separation, he would never be free.** Sometimes I think we hold people in their place of bondage because we refuse to see them as God see them. So it began there. I had to die to my own understanding, my own hatred of his actions, my own rights, I had to die to my self reactions regarding him and his behavior. Basically, "I had to get over myself", but how do I do that? I simply believe that I have already died to sin and unbelief (Rom. 6:2), and Christ in me sees him perfectly whole and therefore by faith so do I.

All life springs out of death—There is hardly a page in the book of nature which fails to emphasize the fact that all life springs out of death. Not a tree, not a blossom, not a shrub, not a fruit, but what cost the death of a seed. Just think of what we eat and what we wear—every plant, every animal which gives up its life, does it to give life to others. Do they do it voluntarily? No, only Jesus can do that. But I must say that there is something deep inside every living thing that knows it is being sacrificed for others, and therefore fulfilling a higher purpose for living.

The whole purpose of our existence now as intercessors is to be for others, and that means as Jesus said, "taking up your cross." It may cost you your reputation, your ambitions, your family's understanding, your fellowship's understanding, your personal possessions, your marriage, or even your health. But as Paul says, "the love of God constrains me," in a sense we can't help it. The new nature is other-love, and God's love drives us to be sacrificial. Our joy as Christ filled Christians is to lay down our lives for others which fulfills our purpose as intercessors. For death works in us, but life births in others (II Cor. 4:12).

## How Does This Work Out Practically?

Before I begin to tell the stories let me say that I never had an agenda, I walked in the moment with the Holy Spirit and He spoke these things out of me. It often surprised me, although I knew that there is no way I could have thought these come-backs up myself. Jesus as me handled each situation in wisdom and love.

Scott was a junk collector. Not by trade, but simply due to childhood fears of losing and not having. The junk was everywhere. There were barns, basements, attics, garages and our yard filled with junk (You get the point). Needless to say, I hated it. One day I cried out to the Lord, "Why does he have to have and save all that junk?" The Holy Spirit said to me, "**The junk is in you.**" What? The junk is in me? I didn't understand, but I was open.

Several months later, I was going to paint some cabinets in our family room with his stuff in it. I knew better than to move his stuff, so, I asked him very carefully to please put all his stuff in boxes and place them on our back porch, and after I painted the cabinet, then he could move it all back. I thought that I had covered all the bases. But to my surprise, he went nuclear. I thought his reaction was totally uncalled for in the face of my reasonable request. I was crushed and went to my room. I declared to the Spirit, "His identity **is** his stuff. When will he see who he is?" The Spirit quickly answered, "When will **you** see who he really is? Is that stuff really his identity?" "Oh, I see. No, it isn't his identity." So, I was the one who got to sweep away the cobwebs of unbelief in myself, and clean up the junk in me. Ok, I will confess who he really is, and not give power to who he is not even though the evidence of appearances testified that his junk was his identity. I will believe for him and "call the things that be not as though they already are" (Rom. 4:17). Therefore, Christ is his true identity, and now his junk has no power over him. Today Scott's heart is to minister to God's precious people taking the gospel to the world. His things mean little to him, because now he is more eternal minded, than temporal minded.

Another problem was his uncontrollable temper and uncompromising demands which he used to control the whole family. I believed that he would even scare God with his threats and temper tantrums (just kidding, but it was that bad).

The first thing that happened to me was that I was no longer afraid of him, and that was a total miracle. As I settled into my true identity, Christ took away all my fears. Scott would scream, and I was calm and fearless. I was not trying to get back at him, rendering temper for temper, and acting like he did. I just peacefully loved him in the middle of his ferocious temper fits. It surely was Christ loving him. There is no way I could have done that. It almost made him madder when I wouldn't react in fear, because he was beginning to see that I wasn't being controlled by his fits of anger. I would quietly say, "Scott this is not who you are." He would stop almost immediately and get humble and sorry, but I would never hold any of this against him or condemn him for his behavior. How could I? I had been the same way in my own crazy time. God didn't see my fits, He saw who I really was. How could I do any thing less for Scott?

Once Scott told me that I would no longer have his money for ministry travel. He was tired of having me gone ministering to others. Quickly, I said, "Oh, Scott, you **really do** want to give me the money. I couldn't bless others without your part." He stormed out of the room. Two weeks later without any other words said about it, we were in Sam Club shopping. He said to me, "Mom, I have a surprise for you." "What is it"? I said, "I have opened up a savings account in your name. Money will be taken out of my check each week for your travels." The Holy Spirit transforms in His timing when we dare to believe what we do not see, and call into being that which doesn't exist in the visible.

There became a rod of strength in my back given to me by the Holy Spirit. The rod helps

me not take what the devil was pouring out, but I speak the truth in love and God would defeat the devil's activity in him. I love the verses in Psalms 149:6, "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand." When all goes crazy, let praise be in your mouth, but do not give place to the devils lies. Cut them to pieces with the truth of who we really are in Christ.

Scott is very dyslexic and has attention deficit. Therefore he never finishes any projects that he started. One day, he said I am going to build a patio in the back of our house. "Oh, no," I thought. That means he will dig up our yard and it will be under construction forever, and I will never be able to have company come because they will be looking at lost dreams in the form of at weeds, holes, and bricks. I was not at all for him doing it, but he was determined. He ask me to help him mark off the new patio. I thought, here we go! I helped him, but my body language spoke volumes. As I made my way back into the house. The Holy Spirit spoke to me these words, "Believe in him." "What! How can I don't you remember how he never finishes anything?" "Believe in him," the Spirit said again. I got the point. (The Holy Spirit was asking me not to believe in his past history, and not to look at anything in the future, but simply believe that it is in him to finish the job.)

I did it. Like a child, I simply believed. It immediately changed my attitude, and all of a sudden I got positive. I started telling him how excited I was that the patio, was already finished. It put new power in him and today with our children's help, we have a beautiful patio where we amazingly have our annual May conference.

I remembered the verse that said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them" (Matt. 18:19). I saw that that was also true in the negative. If I agreed that Scott was a loser as far as finishing anything, and he also believed it, it brought defeat into being. But, if I dare believe and declare the impossible, and remember Christ and I are two, (although, as I believed it, Scott started to believe it), then it shall be done, and it was done and beautifully done.

Faith is so powerful, but it works both ways negatively and positively. One time a friend of mine came to vent negatively about her husband to me. I let her say it, then I said to her. "Lisa, why don't you believe what God says about your husband?" (He was a Christian). She said, oh, no, I can't have that kind of faith. I said, "Why not? You are already in faith. Your faith is in the negative, but it is still faith." She frowned at me and left my house. Today, sadly, they are divorced.

These stories are only a few of many more incidences that God came through in powerful but loving ways to Scott. As I look back, I realize that it was God all along who was after Scott, I couldn't have love him that much.

### **His Awakening**

The ways of God through faith for my husband have been wonderful for me, and it has certainly taught me what intercession is about. But, the day came for Scott to believe for himself. I was carrying him on eagle's wings, but he must fly himself. Final deliverance comes when we personally take the truth about ourselves against all that we see, all that we do, and stand on the truth of who we really are in Christ.

That day came for Scott. It began by him seeing that all had come to the light; he could not be in denial anymore. He must face the man in the mirror. (Now know the Holy Spirit does that in stages...too much light would make any of us want to commit suicide. The exposures must come to us by the Spirit, and then by inner revelation we all must say, "Yes, it is me, I am

guilty, I am acting and living from self-centeredness, but praise God, it isn't the real me, it is Satan disguising himself as me.")

Scott said to himself one day, "Is my wife right, is Christ really my life? Is it true that I no longer live, but Christ lives in my place?" Scott took it by faith, the Spirit confirmed it, and now he is not even the same person. Yes, he is the same Scott, but instead of him trying to live a life apart from Christ, he lives a life joined to Christ. Everyone is so amazed at the transformation. He is now a ministry partner with me in Christ, Our Life Ministries. We travel together, we have the same burdens, and believe together for fruit. He personally began our radio ministry, which by the way is reaching thousands in 9 different cities. There is also, two TV stations, internet radio and TV, and Short Wave all over the world. Scott is all that I could have ever wanted, and even much more. Actually, he has the gift of faith. If I am not in faith about something, he certainly causes me to remember.

Recently Scott apologized to us all on Father's day, he said, "I am sorry that I didn't know that Christ was my life when I was raising you all, but I do know it now. Forgive me." The children were so loving and forgiving to him, I know that some real Holy Spirit healing came into being that day.

Does the old still pop up occasionally? Oh, yes, but it is now our opportunity to see the glory of God come through these slips, not to justify anything, but see that God is greater in us than any of our puny flesh slips. We don't major on the slips, they happen with both of us, we major on who we really are.

This testimony is a testimony to God's faithfulness, and **His** keeping power. There is no way that any of us can keep ourselves, nor can we keep each other. Scott and I praise God daily for keeping us and causing us to walk in His ways. Our good friend Brian Coatney says, "I will commit any sin unless God keeps me, and by the leap of faith, He **is** keeping me." It is not until we stand by faith and declare that "**HE IS KEEPING US,**" that our confidence is totally in **Him**, and not what we see, feel or think. We like to call Brian's statement, "**THE KEEPERS CREED.**"

The miracle is that God actually uses these weaknesses in us as a calling card of faith. Now we can co-create with the Lord, as God rightly uses our weak humanity-filling weakness up with strength (II Cor.12:11) and creating opportunity for God's glory to be manifested. What the devil misuses, God rightly uses for His glory.<sup>5</sup> By the way, this year we will be married 49 years, and it is greater than ever before.

A word to all you Dr. Phil buffs: Yes, Scott was an adult child of an alcoholic, and that is why he was so controlling, and yes, I was never loved by my mother and was withdrawn and co-dependent and that is why I tried to get my identity from Scott. Well, so what? Who doesn't have dysfunctional beginnings? Jesus had to die for something, it might as well be dysfunctional families. Knowing all the psychological reasons for our behavior does help us to understand our behavior patterns. But, insights concerning our behavior patterns don't heal us, nor does our ability to change ourselves (impossible anyway). By the way, self-change is the recommended method used by most Psychologists.

I'm not knocking Psychology, nor Dr. Phil. Psychology is God given and God used. But, it is not the healer, or can we heal each other, nor ourselves. Jesus in his own body took all the sinful dysfunctional behavior patterns and died to them at the Cross, and in his resurrection we are made free from all family dysfunctions. (The Bible calls them iniquities)--"He was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5). Apprehending these facts by faith alone, heals all our dysfunctions and makes manifest in us, as well as in our family members this reality today.

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