



The Sparrow

Even the sparrow finds a home...at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Psalm 84:3

Just a little bird encouraging you to fly...

VOLUME 13

POETRY HIGHLIGHT

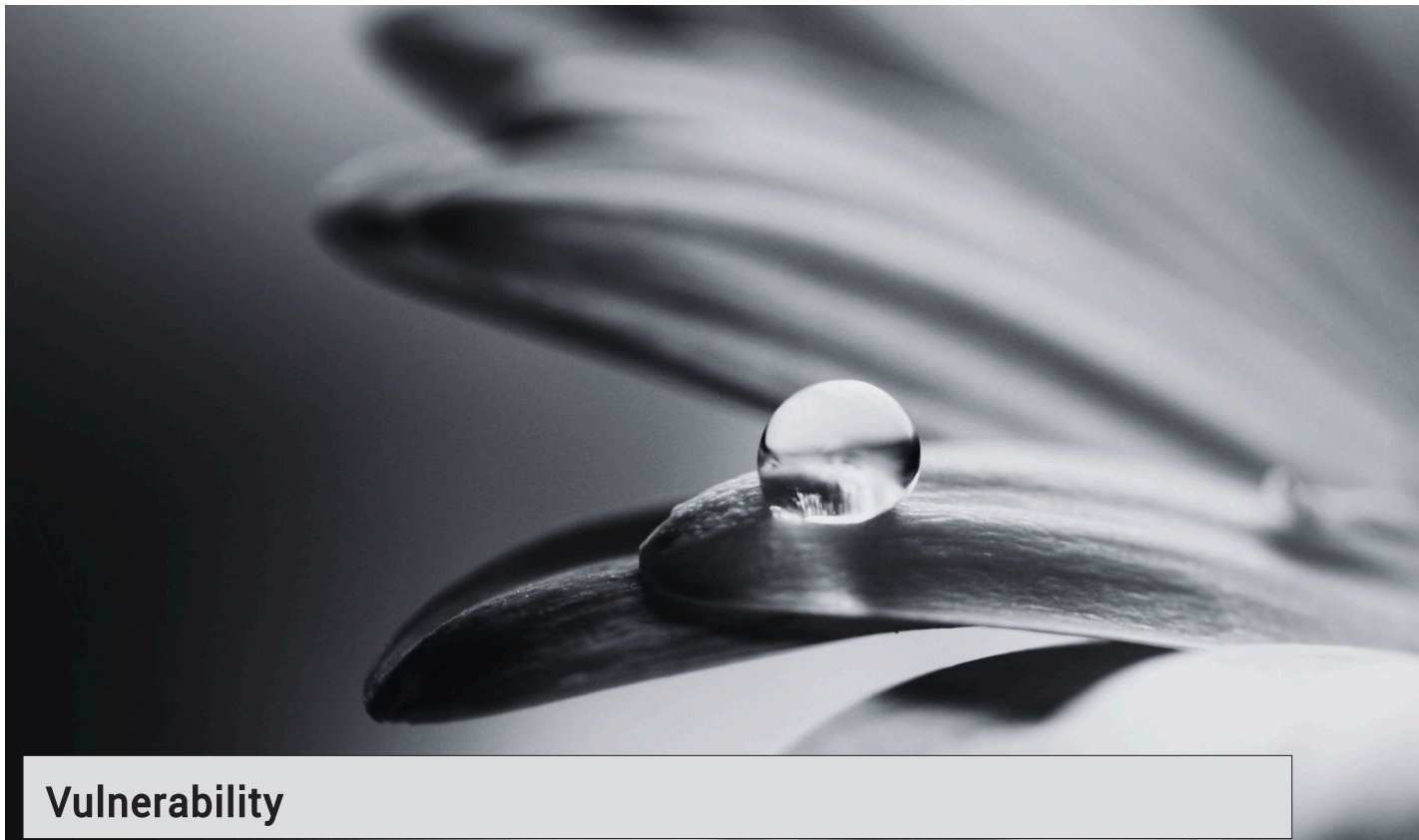
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EVENT SCHEDULE

Find the calendar for our meetings, support groups, and mentoring by visiting www.shellywilsonministries.org.

EDITOR'S PICK

The Bestest Best Friend
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Vulnerability

As we move into a healing process with Christ there will come moments where vulnerability really is necessary. It's part of the unmasking of yourself. The peeling away of that protective wall we've built to keep ourselves safe from harm.

Guarding our hearts is a very good thing, and also necessary, but this morning I woke up early with the need for vulnerability on my heart.

We had a strong meeting as of late with much deliverance. Pain covers so much up that Christ is wanting to reveal. Facades and mirages must shatter and the "real you" is who He is after. You know that very sweet one He formed in the womb, before all the pain came.

As we prayed for one after another I could feel the walls that had been built in our hearts out of survival necessity. I could feel the precious sadness of God at what many had gone through in their lives and He tenderly and carefully wanted to tend the needs hidden in the room. Over time we begin to protect ourselves in a way that makes inner vows of never loving again, never giving our hearts away again. There can be a lot of "Never's." Yet, we must let Christ pry open the doors to our hearts again so we can begin to live again.

Love is a good thing, when we're healthy enough to choose rightly. If we have heart needs that are unmet in ways that are codependent, rooted in loneliness, or

learned survival behaviors, well, then we will keep making the same decisions again and again like going on a merry-go-round. The landscape changes just a little bit as we go around but ultimately we end up at the same exact destination. Nowhere.

But there does come a time when the dam needs to break, the tears need to pour, and we need to be vulnerable with others who are safe, and especially with Jesus. As He breaks down walls it will feel scary. You'll wanna hide to protect yourself. You'll likely be afraid for anyone to even pray over you who may have the Lord's insight. It's just too exposing, or vulnerable.

However, when it's God's perfect timing to unravel us then we can count on a good coming of divine healing. I think when the Scriptures even tell us not to repeat prayers in vain repetition it could be because God wants to really hear your deepest heart cries and in order to get there it'll often be messy.

But, listen, loved one- Jesus is the Master of every mess. It does us well to offer it up to Him and start letting Him help us. There is no human, no matter how skilled, that can touch that pained place as perfectly as

Christ, Himself.

Within vulnerability is also a good humility which the Lord loves so much. It's where pride falls and honesty rises. In that place of truth can enter the Truth-Teller for your situation.

We saw walls begin to fall last night and God begin to rebuild human hearts one tear at a time. It is a process very often but one of the loveliest ones I've ever had the honor of participating in.

So, maybe head into prayer with Jesus today and get vulnerable with Him and if He needs to send you to a human for more help...be sure it's a safe room where you can also be vulnerable with them.



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Who we are...

Editor Letters

Nestled in Troup, Texas is an equipping ministry, founded by Shelly Wilson, mobilizing women for Kingdom purpose. Within the walls are intimate classes to dig deep into the Word of God, support groups to heal broken hearts, prayer for healing and deliverance, as well as a global print magazine and radio station releasing women and girls who proclaim Christ around the world.

Shelly's music and publications are tools to share Christ in a world in need of Him. Her magazines have been used as letters of encouragement to many a stranger. She delights in sharing her life with Christ with others through music, poetry, Love Letters by Mail and God's Word. She has a tenderness of heart for the broken and a desire to set captives free. She is known to be a champion for those who have lost their voice.

For mentoring, appointments, and class schedules please go to our website or call 903-969-5406.

MINISTRY MISSION

To see women healed and set free to fulfill their ministries. To equip women to walk in their ordained gifts freely and confidently with Christ. To release the voices of women proclaiming Christ through music, publishing, and radio media.

Dear Reader,

I pray so much The Sparrow newspaper will be an encouragement to your heart in this season. We would like to offer to you an opportunity to write to us and let us know what may have encouraged you in this particular issue. Jesus has a beautiful way of speaking to everyone uniquely and knows exactly what every heart needs. We trust that He has helped compile this set of writings for you in this hour with a right-on-time word. It is my most heartfelt prayer that every word written gives weary hearts strength, doubting hearts hope, and sleeping hearts the call to awaken to the King of Glory.

To write a Letter to the Editor you may either email us at info@shellywilson.com or by snail mail to P.O. Box 220 Troup, Texas 75789

We look forward to hearing from your heart.

Love Much,



SHELLY WILSON
MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL

equipping women & girls to take their unique place in the Kingdom.





Joy, Joy, Joy!

Some of you are beginning to feel a little something trying to bubble up in your heart. It's been so long since you've felt it, you're not sure what it is.

You may not have even realized it left.

Hope deferred has made the heart so sick that you're afraid to even hope again. The thought scares you. And the idea of yet another disappoint, well, triggers you before anything has even happened. You've already played out the worst case scenarios, yes?

The "What ifs" come running back and silence the living water that has begun to stir in you.

Friend, it's JOY.
JOY is coming home.

Christ is restoring the JOY of your salvation and the JOY that use to cause you to dream with Jesus like a little child.

You've become way too cautious now. Unable to walk in faith. To dream again is now a lost thought.

Ohhh that devil is so happy with himself. He has convinced you of a lie.

The lie that "good" happens to everyone else, but not to you.

The devil is a liar.

The very essence of God is good and He still has plans to prosper you, not to harm you.

There is no demonic plan that can erase the one God put in place for you before you were one day old, only believe.

Every mistake has been figured in, all free-will failures are covered too. Way back then, He made a way for victory.

I say a lot around here, "If you took a wrong turn with a right heart, God says He gives you every place your foot steps, so trust Christ and "just take that land too!"

Sovereignty is security no matter what happens in your life. Suffering comes to us all. Yet there is a Savior who suffered also to be able to help us in every season.



So, hey, let the JOY rise in you, friend.
Jesus is inviting you to "dream again" with Him.

He loves to watch you soar on wings like eagles.
But you must be willing, even if you're scared, to mount up.

So, here comes JOY, JOY, JOY!!!

A Simple Hope Dealer

I was thinking last night in our group about the goodness of God.

In the long hours and sometimes heavy work of healing, deliverance, and equipping I find myself getting emotional as I often look around the rooms and see such beauty of the Lord in the precious faces I get to serve.

I asked myself after a phone call appointment where I could hear the choked back tears of pain of a precious woman, "Is there anywhere else better to be?"

Giving hope to a hopeless heart is the business of Jesus.

It never seems too profound to me. Nothing really of expertise in a human way. There's a lot of listening. We've discussed this many times in our rooms.

Listening is a learned skill. A heart posture to help. There's a lot of waiting on the Holy Ghost to hear the right time and see the Lord's desired open door.

I'm still learning, daily.

There's something you can hear shift in language, shift in mannerisms, shift in demeanor when someone is dealt hope.

When all seems lost and that life can never be better, Christ rushes in with hope.

Hope through His Word, hope that allows a space of safety to decompress, hope that surrounds someone with divine purpose and all that Jesus says is true.

I can see the dimness of eyes change when hope is received. There's a glimmer that returns. It is quite evident.

I can see when depression flees because hope is moving in.

The countenance becomes lighter, the burden of the shoulders seems to lift, and clarity usually walks on in.

Sometimes you simply believe for people what they cannot yet believe for themselves.

I might sense a push back on my hope dealing at times. Meaning, they are unable to receive what I'm saying no matter how true it may be.

That's ok too.

I can wait on Jesus to pry open the smallest opening in a hard, or hurting, heart.

(Continued on page 6)

Join us to become stronger in Christ through healthy boundaries.

Learn how to use your voice and say goodbye to people-pleasing, codependency, and toxic behaviors.

Protect what Jesus has placed inside of you and fulfill your calling with confidence.

THE SPARROW

www.shellywilsonministries.org

Published Quarterly

VOLUME 13

Humility Cries

As I was worshiping this morning a phrase came into my heart,

"Humility cries."

It's okay to shed those tears. To cry until you scream. Praying to the lover of your soul who deeply cares for your every pain.

Every teardrop resonates a need for a Savior, a comforter, a King who tends your every need.

Humility really does cry...

It's the moment we break knowing there is nothing more we can do. Where we come to the end of ourselves and call on Jesus.

It's when we know that if He doesn't come, we're not gonna make it.

We need a divine rescue.

It's the "end of the rope" moment where we're hanging on by a thread and we humble ourselves before a holy God and whisper, "I need you Jesus."

Where pride is no longer. Where the mess is about to become a message of grace. The place of a triumphant entry where once again the King rides in but this time into our own hearts for help.

As I write this I can see His hands going into many a heart to perform heart surgery. It's so lovely.

You're on a surgical table and He is restoring your health and healing your wounds. I can see the tools in His hands.

His work is a perfect precision. He is going to the root of the problem. Not just treating symptoms.

The surgical light is the brightest I've ever seen and no one else is in the room. He, alone, is

tending and mending you.

Isn't it humbling knowing that you are so loved by the Great Physician and God of the universe?

There is none like Him.

His hands are full of healing and deliverance. Love and joy.

Some of you are receiving a heart transplant. He is restoring your joy in its full measure.

Where the pain has clouded its coming the Lord is blowing His wind and it blows in joy to replace all the sadness.

His work is full and final.

Clearing out all unnecessary debris of life. Anything not planted by the Father is being removed.

All because humility cries.

Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for His help reached His ears.

The Undoing

Definition of Undoing:

-an act of loosening : UNFASTENING
(Unpin, detach, unbuckle)

There are often deep places of pain hidden even to you.

However, you can look back over your life and see some patterns that are pointing to those places of pain.

Some I've seen often and have felt myself are being startled by a sudden and unexpected touch. Rising anxiousness with any kind of illness. Panic overtaking your body even when all is well.

Some of these symptoms speak to a moment or moments in time that God now wants to perform an "undoing."

There was a day the devil came and sowed into your soil some things that need to now be uprooted.

Jesus desires to undo the damage.

Undo the residual effects.

Undo the emotional responses.

Undo the anger.

Undo the feeling of being unsafe.

Undo their residency in your life.

If you've been abandoned some of these will sound familiar. If you've been abused in any form some will to you as well. If people have been unkind to you, you'll likely have some protective behaviors in your life that we call walls.

There comes an appointed time when Christ decides to come for some good, deep, healing. It actually might catch you off guard. You may even get super frustrated that the need showed itself. You'd like to ignore it. We call that running from it.

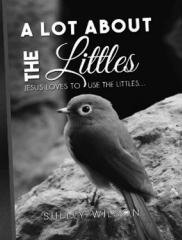
But the Great Healer, Jesus, wants you free, free indeed...so He comes to place His sweet finger on it and begins a beautiful "undoing."

Sometimes that "undoing" happens through prayer. Sometimes through a processing of honest pains. Sometimes God gives us an encounter without using any humans at all. Regardless of how He chooses to do it, He knows best how to perform the "undoing."

We love to "do" a thing. But many of us need a good "undoing."

If the Lord comes for a dear "undoing," let Him.

He has come to make you well.

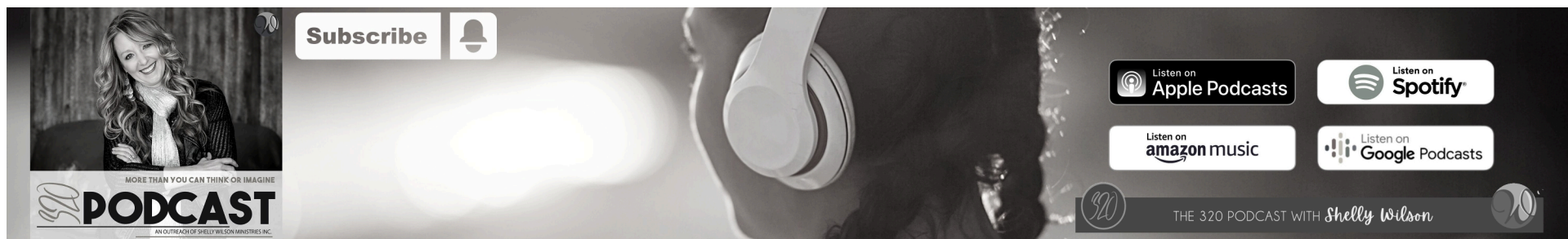


A new poetry book from Shelly Wilson

A LOT ABOUT THE LITTLES
JESUS LOVES TO USE THE LITTLES...

It seems over the course of time the Lord has seen fit to give me many poems and writings about "The Little" something, or another. Compiled here are many "Little" ones who Jesus thought well of. So much that He used some as modern day parables to put to words what, perhaps, our hearts may be struggling to say. I hope you might see that no matter how little you feel, how little your gifts seem, how little strength you have left, or how little others have made you feel that you might know how precious your little heart is to Jesus.

www.shellywilsonministries.org



Daisies and Dandelions

Jesus has His way of speaking to us in a language we can understand. Each crafted uniquely to hear in a unique way the voice of God.

He is no cookie-cutter King.

God has used often daisies and dandelions to let me know when I'm on track and right in the center of His will.

When I've doubted hard decisions He reminds me to stay in the seed blowing business.

Recently I smiled as a heart began to tell me how the Holy Spirit came upon her as she entered our building. Then she shared how His eyes from the large canvas on our wall seemed to gaze directly at her. She began to weep telling me God was showing her that she was seen by Him.

Even on the way to the bathroom her eyes caught a glimpse of a "whimsical thing" and God whispered yet again.

She couldn't outrun Him. Every which way she turned, He was there waiting for her.

I've marveled as we approach 5 years here in our building at the seemingly "foolish" things God has used to love well hearts. From flowered chairs that seem to be some favorites of many to sayings that sweet ones bring in the house

that remind us to "Follow the wind." God is always right on time for the very heart in need of that Word.

Sometimes I don't have to say a single thing because He is doing all the talking through every painting, every poem, and every skylight.

And sometimes He chooses to speak through creation by sending a sweet message through daisies and dandelions.

Blow, baby, blow
Watch the flowers grow
Plant the seeds of life
Uproot the hidden strife.

Water well the hearts
I will do My part
Gentle as can be
Protecting every seed.

Too Soon

I could see two words in highlighted letters in prayer today.

"Too Soon."

I had been asking for an answer to something that has lingered for many years now. One of those things where you see God answer a million other prayers while leaving "that one" still undone.

I believe His message to me and to others today is that it's still "too soon."

There is a season for everything under the sun but for some things it is still "too soon."

He knows you want it now. That breakthrough. That victory. That assignment.

But it is yet "too soon."

He has a divine timing for all things and within the wait is training, equipping, maturity, and growth. You think you're ready but it's "too soon." Maturity is necessary so you have integrity for that assignment. Gifting is beautiful but you must learn to steward it well.

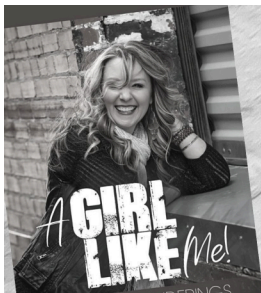
It's often "too soon" for some things because our faithfulness has not been proven just yet. We're still teetering very often between the world and the Lord. He is still straightening our paths and moving us into arenas that will teach us better, and more godly, responses to life situations, relational divisions, and healing us from all manner of pains, seen and unseen.

The "too soon" is not a punishment but a phrase full of love and grace. Grace keeps us safe from others and from ourselves. It also keeps others safe for us. For if we launch out "too soon" before Christ gives the green light then we might well leave a heap of wreckage in our wake. He needs to hold us from that platform until our heart needs are healthily met or that platform will become a toxic pacifier. Yet it will feed others nothing at all. Within us our gifting is being cultivated and molded into the exact recipe Jesus desires for us.

The shepherd David had to learn how to care for the flock well before becoming a King. He had to learn to slay the bear and the lion before slaying Goliath. He had to know what it meant to lay his own life down for the sake of the sheep.

He also had to learn wisdom in God's ways with a Saul spirit on his heels. How does one keep a gentle heart when a murderous spirit is always barking at you?

Battleground training does this for us. But should we take our post entirely "too soon" we might well end up like Saul rather than like David.



It is no small thing to answer the call of God. I believe this generation needs the nurturing hearts of women. Many need spiritual mothering. It is critical that you get confidently into your assigned place in the Kingdom. May this compilation of writings give you the encouragement you need to say "YES" to Jesus.

SHELLY WILSON



A Simple Hope Dealer (continued from page 3)

It doesn't take much for hope to sneak on in, you know.

Hope deferred makes a heart sick.
It is very true.

So we need people to remind us of seasons, timing, and divine due dates.

God will finish what He has started.

I had a lot of plans for my life. We discussed this last night in group.

But ultimately Jesus had a better plan and it was more than I could ever think or imagine.

The same will be for you.

One thing is for sure. When you're in the assigned spot for your life, miracles, signs and wonders really do follow those who believe.

Hope rises from ashes, hearts are healed, and captives are set free.

You won't care about titles or positions so much anymore but you will be grateful that God saw fit to make you a simple hope dealer.

And when the day is done. You'll be utterly exhausted, yet, fulfilled.

"It was such a beautiful week, Lord."

Job 14:7 - "For there is hope for a tree,
When it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
And its shoots will not fail.

Psa 31:24 - Be strong and let your heart take
courage, All you who hope in the LORD.

Psa 33:18 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is
on those who fear Him,
On those who hope for His lovingkindness...

Psa 38:15 - For I hope in You, O LORD;
You will answer, O Lord my God.

Psa 39:7 - "And now, Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in You.

Psa 130:5 - I wait for the LORD, my soul
does wait, And in His word do I hope.

The Beautiful Garden

You've had no idea that all of your seasons were growing something that would be beautiful in His time.

You've cried the "Why's" and sobbed through screams but while you did those tears watered well a soon coming garden.

The seeds being planted were waiting for a deep watering season and rain would have to pour strong in order to grow well some of the flowers prepared to one day bloom in your life.

The lilies of the valley would mean little to you until you saw the place where they grew best. Likewise, the person who is The Lily of the Valley would now be more fully understood by you as well.

With the beauty of those lovely flower buds was a humbled frame and bowed head. Christ came lowly and humbly and walked perfectly the valley of the shadow of death. His own blood, sweat, and tears sowed salvation for all of humanity who might accept Him and follow Him.

The lily is a pure white and represents the purity and perfection of Christ who came as a man yet fully God, still.

The valley was the soil of suffering whereby that lily would soon thrive and multiply. How is it that a place so harsh can be full of flowers?

The beautiful garden was planned for a diverse harvest that gives life to the sower and would be watered by Heaven.

It is a promised land filled with moments in time whereby all manner of joys and sorrows would grow together to form a picture of faithfulness.

In some seasons God would need to remove a thing or two, clear out unnecessary weeds that choked the new life, and cause well growing blooms to multiply more effectively after a good pruning. Some of these things, well, hurt you deeply and He knows it full well. He stayed nearer to you in those moments to see you through the pain.

Yet sovereignty saw a need
For you to have greener leaves
For water to fill your thirst
With life coming from The Word.

So this garden He tends so dear
Is watched over far and near
Not a second does He miss your tears
Some day joy will replace your fears.

This life is full of mountains and valleys,
rainstorms and rainbows. Lush landscapes and wild rivers. Waterfalls and breaking dams. Butterflies and spider webs. Hidden seeds and unseen flowers. Stinging bees and singing birds.

Yet within the scope of God's work is a focus on your dear heart. Through each season comes a road leading from glory to glory and strength to strength.

Some roads seem longer than they should be while others are too short for your comfort.

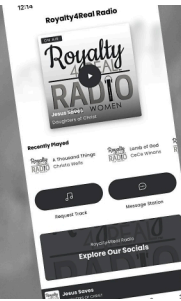
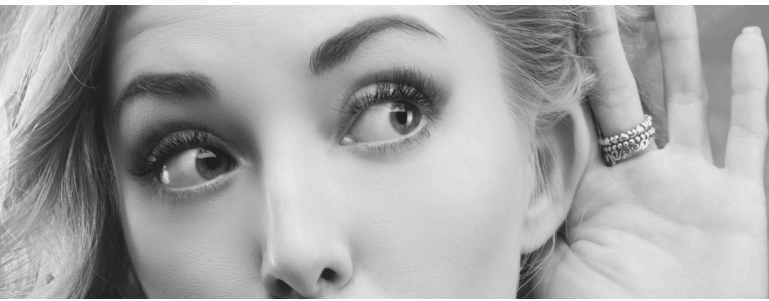
But, listen. Stop a moment and look around, slowly.

Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the beautiful garden you are standing in.

One day you'll know the answers to the "Why's"
And all the flowers that bloomed from your cries.
So hold the hand of Christ who is so wise.
He will never leave His treasured prize.



You can now enjoy our free Shelly Wilson Ministries app to listen to Royalty4Real Radio for Women, The 320 Podcast, and the latest writings and events.



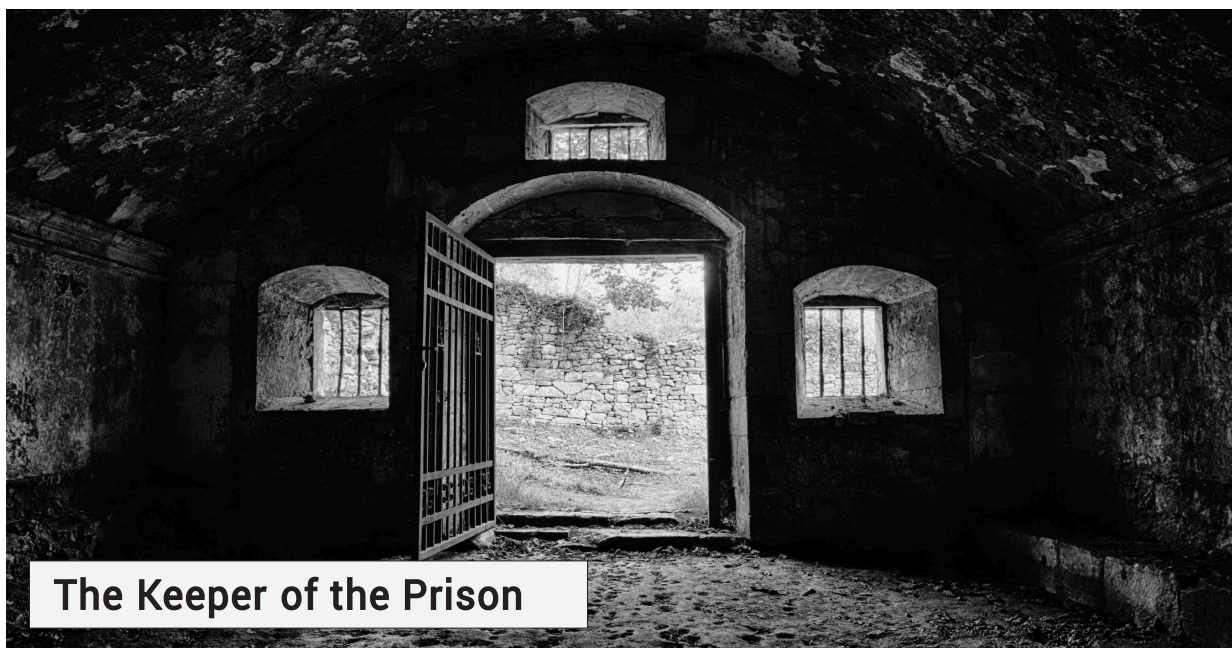
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The Keeper of the Prison

In Acts 16:25-34 we see a beautiful scene play out. Paul and Silas are in prison and they begin to worship.

You know the story. The prison doors open after the prison shakes and everyone's chains were loosed.

But here's the part that starts really touching my heart. Acts 16: 27-28, And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

Then in verse 31 Paul instructs the keeper of the prison to believe in the Lord Jesus and he and his household will be saved.

Then watch this:

Verse 33: "and he took them that same hour of the night and washed their stripes."

Ahhh, the evidence of a transformed life. Suddenly compelled to tend the wounds of humanity.

Sometimes it's the "keepers of the prison" who need deliverance, yes? The very ones guarding the captives and keeping watch over the flocks.

When Jesus is working in a place and among people, needs are met, hearts are being tended, and prisoners are steadily being released.

Instead of merely standing watch and preaching

at people we wash those sweet wounds and don't mind getting our own hands dirty. Our words are backed up by our actions. The way we treat people becomes more Christ-like. We begin to understand the frailty of the human heart and our responsibility to not cause unnecessary wounds.

Many of us would have immediately left that place if we had been Paul. We would have thrown up our hands and our hallelujah's and went about our business happy for our own release. We would have rejoiced over our own needs being met and our own safety being secured while overlooking the heart needs of a man. But not Paul. He knew the implications for the keeper of that prison and he must have weighed carefully that consequence with the help of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus is really in you and the fruits of His Spirit are truly at work, your safety and your security will be laid aside for the needs of other people. You'll scan in the Spirit to see in advance the possible "fall-out." It's no longer an "every man for himself kind of kingdom." It's a "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" kind of kingdom.

The Kingdom of God then comes to earth in that every life becomes precious. Perhaps we need a good pondering before God to see if we might see ourselves within this passage somewhere. From every angle of the story we find nuggets of truth to swallow whole should we choose to.

And perhaps it even points to the possibility that many "keepers of the prisons" today are indeed also in need of some sweet deliverance that begins to open our own eyes to the need of washing wounds.

Whatever

Last night during worship with some friends, a song came on with these piercing words,

Make me Your vessel
Make me an offering
Make me whatever You want me to be.

As worship continued the word, "Whatever" seemed so highlighted in my heart.

"Make me WHATEVER..."

It's the "whatever" that can trip us up often because we usually have our own idea of what we are going to do in the kingdom. But the WHATEVER life submits to the will of God at all times knowing that He is the Master and I am the bondservant.

Are you willing to do WHATEVER Christ desires whether you like it or not? Whether you go alone or with a crowd? Whether others approve or not? Whether it costs your life or leads to your death both figuratively, and possibly, literally?

WHATEVER is an openhanded surrender. An "I'll give you everything."

It's the life of the true request of a pure heart, "Make me a vessel....make me an offering. Make me WHATEVER You want me to be."

It's where the shift becomes all about Him because it is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me.

It's where the knees bend fully and your whisper is "WHATEVER, Lord, my life is yours to do what you wish."

It can be a bit risky to offer up the "WHATEVER" because it often is not what one's heart desires.

The western Church is bent to go her own way following often her own heart. Yet, this is not way it was meant to be.

We were meant to bow to the King of all Kings and say, "Make me WHATEVER YOU want me to be."

In the WHATEVER, no matter how difficult, is a flourishing land of milk and honey whereby no matter the consequences of following The Way, the joy of the Lord becomes our strength.



Don't Settle

I know you've been waiting on someone to notice you. But you've gotta die to that dear one. This life in Christ is about obedience to Him alone. Loyalty to Him alone. He must be your first love.

He is the God who sees you.

Anointing often brings much rejection with it. Remember the life of Jesus.

If you don't understand this now, then you'll be deeply hurt again and again and become bitter. But let this set you free to just be His and to know that the gifts will make room for you in His perfect time. He has purposed you for a reason and a season.

There is a reason we are told do not look to the right or to the left. Keep your eyes focused on Him alone. Set your face like flint.

Your race won't be like everyone else's and if you begin to move into places and spaces because you've got an inner need to be seen rather than a calling that's positioning you divinely you'll die on the vine because it'll never be enough.

There won't be enough applause.
There won't be enough fame.
There won't be enough accolades.

The next church won't be enough.
The next role won't be enough.
The next job won't be enough.

You'll always end up empty, still.

Why? Because you're looking for the acceptance of man and that dear heart may well lead you

outside of God's will for your life.

We can often make things happen ourselves when we want something bad enough.

But listen. You want the beauty of God supernaturally positioning you into those areas, locations, positions, jobs, and ministry assignments that have been marked just for you.

Search your sweet heart to check for hidden motives of why you do what you do.

Because what God has planned for you is exceedingly abundantly above all you could ever ask, think, or imagine...

Don't settle for less.

He is Making Room

It's been in my Spirit for a few days now that the Lord is making room for many.

Some of you have felt overlooked, forgotten, and set aside but the devil is a liar.

All the while God has been setting tables for you in the presence of your enemies.

Your seat has always been secure but Christ is again making room.

While in prison God made room for Joseph's gifts. Who would have considered that his present "hell on earth" would be a place of positioning and a step to destiny. Yet, it was.

There is nowhere you can go that Christ is not already there.

Nowhere too high and nowhere too low. Wherever He is, the river will flow.

What you've not yet understood is that you're in the middle of this scripture coming to life:

Psa 18:19 - He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

In other words, He is making room for you and that place you're being positioned into is broad and beautiful. Its boundary lines are set and it's a greater measure than you've known in the way of landscaping and lush meadows.

Psa 16:6 - The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.

There are vineyards beginning to fill with fruit and every tear has played a significant role in its now flourishing crop soon to be seen.

There has been a "growing wide" occurring in your life. It's been most often unrecognizable because your expectations have been set in a way that is humanly limited. God's ways are indeed higher and when He expands and enlarges a thing it will be as much an inner work as an outer one.

Your heart will be one of His targeted places of enlargement. You'll be infused with more love, more kindness, more gentleness, more self control and other fruits of the Spirit. You'll not notice it all at once, perhaps, until you walk out of the doors of your past places and present troubles into the open field and pasture where you can frolic in the meadow and remain hidden in Him.

He has brought you into a greater place where safety is sure and refuge is now under His wings.

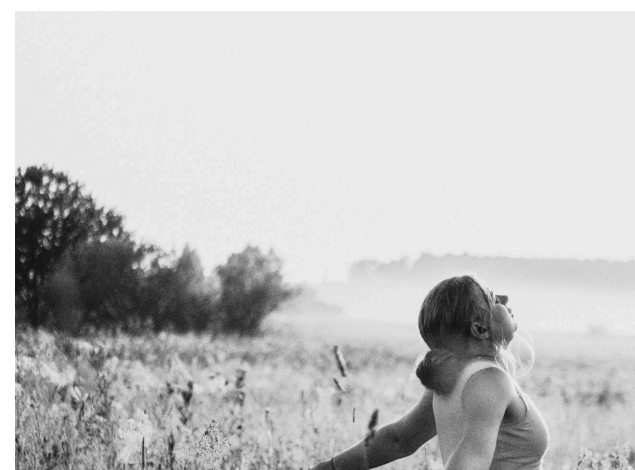
Indeed, He has made room for you.

Some of you are about to be tossed out the back door into wide open spaces. You've had to fight devils and slay giants but Jesus has always declared your victory by His own blood.

It'll look different than you're used to, it'll feel different than you're used to.

But it will be more than you could ever think or imagine...

Because that's what happens when God is making room for you.





THE SPARROW

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The Sling and the Harp

We often look for the most profound gift, the higher thing, the elevated mission. We long for the gift of another. Something different than what we carry. Never often satisfied with the Christ in us. Isn't that sad?

Listen. I am a big dreamer too. I believe in immeasurably more but I think we've lost an important matter in all the hustle and bustle.

It was two simple things already in the hands of David that pushed him towards the throne he was anointed for.

It was a sling that served as the tool used to take down Goliath and it was a harp that brought him into the palace to chase away evil spirits from a tormented King.

What, dear one, is already in your sweet hands? It might be a little more "ordinary" than what you think, or desire. But wait till the anointing comes upon it. It's a game changer.

You keep searching for that which hasn't yet arrived while overlooking the very simple things God has given to you.

Faithfulness is key.

Sometimes our pride thinks what we have is too small, less important, not respected enough. We want bigger. Some of us are looking and looking, striving and driving, all the while overlooking that which seems "too simple" to us. To you.

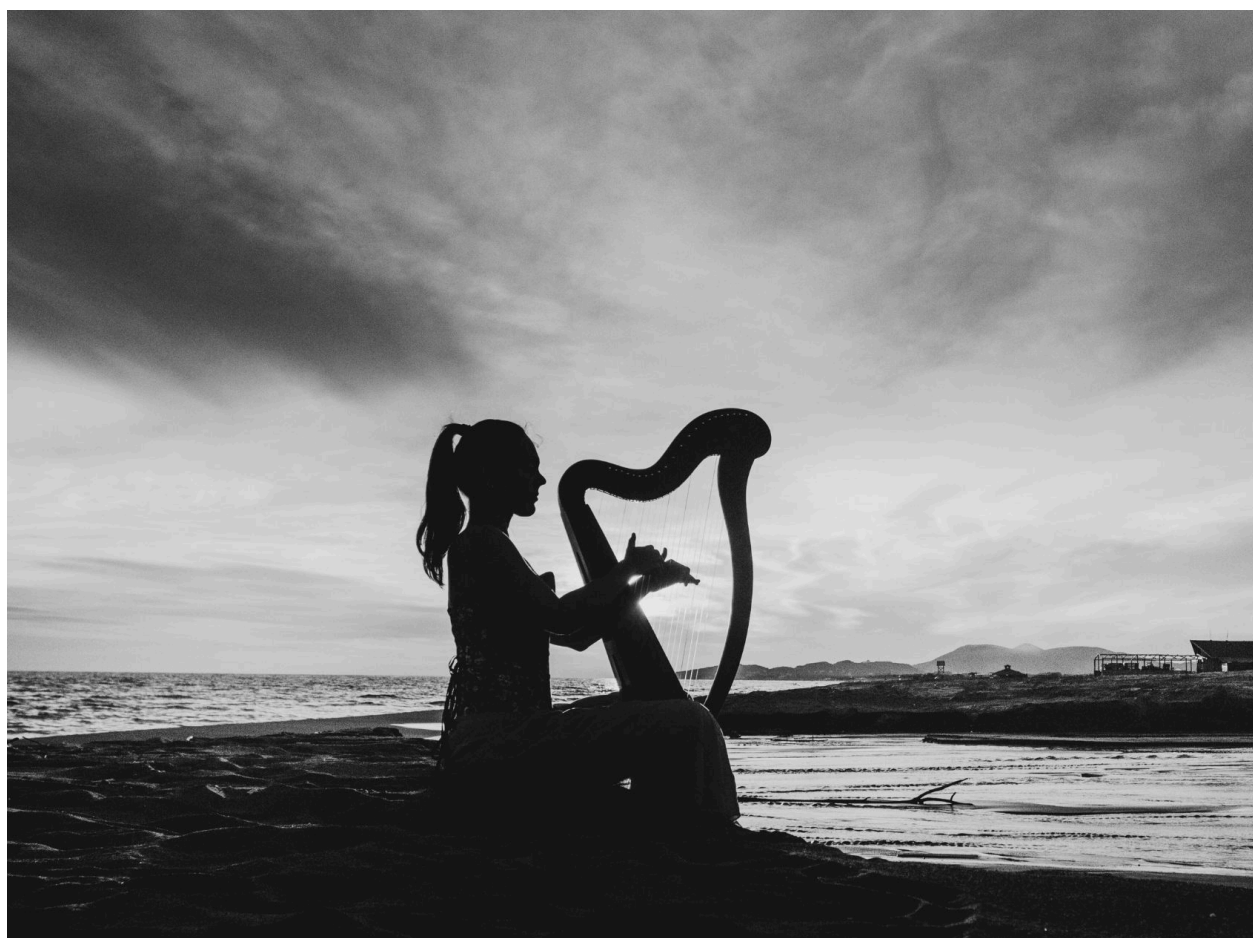
Do you want to be in God's will? Backed by power and provisions? On the trek to promise?

Then go back to what He has placed in your hands.

You have a sling you've been practicing with without even realizing it. It is now ready to kill your giants.

And that harp has been secretly positioning you in prayer and worship. You had to learn no platforms were necessary, only His presence.

Let go of the grandeur that this world sells and grab hold of the "little" that God now plans on using to confound the wise and secure your destiny.



Not too long ago I was struggling. I knew God had called me back into worship that would be very different but I couldn't seem to find the "lane."

I felt I needed a pianist, a band, etc. Then the Lord said, "You are the instrument."

He showed me how the years in my secret place had cultivated worship that came directly from my own heart. It was intimate and personal.

I sang honestly unto the Lord. There was never a plan prepared, only a longing heart posture to listen. Prayers became songs, scriptures came forth, visions came alive.

The last few months we've implemented this into our Equipped meetings. No plan. No agenda. No band. No known lyrics for a time.

We have stepped into a prophetic worship where we are seeing God deliver simply and fully all because I finally surrendered to what was always in my own hands and heart.

He knew it before I did and He always intended on pulling it out of me step by step. I kept looking for what we've known as normal-which would not be how I would personally operate in this new season of ministry.

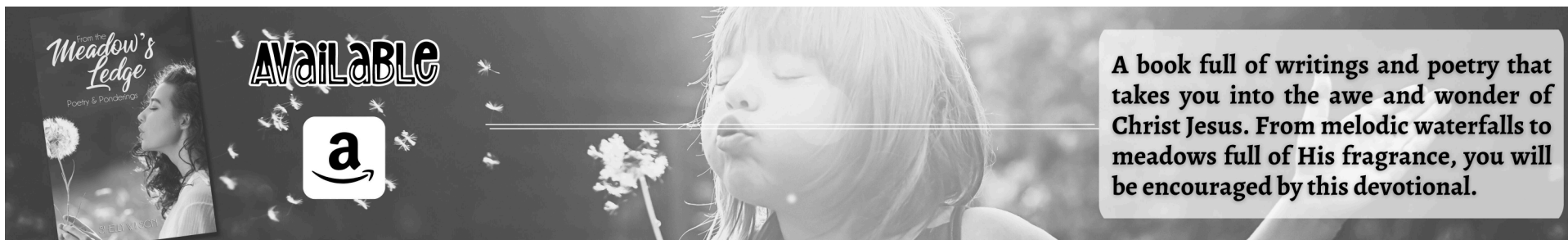
I found my sling and harp.

Perhaps you are the same today?

Maybe it's time for you to head to your secret place and ask the one who designed you to reveal to you your sling and harp.

Then watch as the wind blows and demons are defeated.





A book full of writings and poetry that takes you into the awe and wonder of Christ Jesus. From melodic waterfalls to meadows full of His fragrance, you will be encouraged by this devotional.



The Bestest Best Friend

When in prayer you can find yourself entering into the very heart of the Lord.

Occasionally, I can see hanging linen and my hands pry back each curtain of beauty to go yet deeper into His heart.

It reminds me of the movie Narnia and the wardrobe that led from a modest room to another place entirely where adventures await and imaginations come to life.

Yet this life with the living Christ is very real.

The secret place is a sacred place. It draws a heart into it. It's where you step into the realm of the supernatural where nothing is impossible for the Lord.

His presence is felt within the walking through His heart and He has hidden secrets that He is longing for you to find.

If I seek, I will find.
It's just that simple.

Often, we pass by His door and leave treasures unfound.

How sad.

Cultivated in that space is the ability to hear His voice. You don't learn the sound of a voice you never sit with. How on earth would you recognize someone you don't know? When my phone rings and I answer I either recognize the voice of the one who called or I realize I'm speaking to a stranger.

You'll begin to learn His patterns in your life. His specific ways with you. The unique language He speaks into you...

He becomes very familiar to you.

Eventually you become a friend of God. A friend who is known to you and by you. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. You become a friend who is known for obeying what He says. One who takes joy in His mission and in His assignments.

When He walks by, you'll recognize His presence. When you see a thing with your own eyes, you'll recognize He has grasped your gaze. When you notice a scent or sound suddenly arrive, it might well be the King of Glory coming for a sweet visit.

When He whispers to "go here" or "do that" you'll listen and obey. You will be delighted to fulfill His heart desires.

The more time you spend with Him, the closer you get to Him. It just like an earthy relationship.

It takes a while for someone to become a best friend, yes? They become "your person" over time. You've spent enough time together that trust has been built. They know things about you that no one else does. You've learned to trust that they love you on your good days and also on your bad days. They've proven trustworthy with your heart pains and you've understood there is a sacred bond that is a divine gift.

Jesus is the bestest best friend.

He never leaves you or forsakes you.
His ear is always ready to listen.
He never breaks a promise.
His hugs are full of healing and His perfect love casts out every fear.
He knows exactly who you are and how He has gifted you.
He knows your specific role in His body and in His Kingdom.

What a friend we have in Jesus, indeed.

Do you know Him, today?
I mean really know Him?
Or do you only know of Him or about Him?

There is a very real difference.

John 15:14 - "You are My friends if you do what I command you."

Jas 2:20 - But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that Faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

Psa 25:14 - The friendship [secret counsel] of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Little Sparrow

For every little sparrow
who'se lost your flock
Jesus sings over you.

For every little sparrow
Who'se tears won't stop
Jesus is weeping with you.

For ever little sparrow
Tormented in your mind
Jesus speaks "sound mind" over you.

For every little sparrow
Who continues to rise
Jesus is so proud of you.

EQUIPPED

Mobilizing Women for Kingdom Battle

WORSHIP
WORD
PRAYER

THE SPARROW

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Published Quarterly

VOLUME 13

Hidden in Christ

Colossians 3:3

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Once born again you come into a safe place in Christ. A place where you become a new creation and you are now hidden. Secure. Never to be removed from His hand.

John 10:28

-and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Hidden in Christ is a way that provides a new way of life, a new purpose, a clean slate. Yet, certainly, we are still in need of the purifying fire that keeps forging us into more of His likeness.

From now on you are covered by the blood of Jesus. Hidden in Him. You've become a child of God brought back to Him where you were born into sin until you allowed Him to become your sin, for you.

2 Corinthians 5:21. It says, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

He begins to teach you and you will begin to hear His voice when He is speaking to your heart. You'll have to cultivate your relationship with Him by spending time with Him, sharing your heart with Him, reading His Word and instruction manual and worshiping Him for the God that He is.

John 10:27 says, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

He has of course become a Savior to you, but so much more, indeed.

Hidden in Christ as you are is an adventure to finding who you were designed to be. Sitting with Him regularly will help unfold your ordained purpose upon this earth. There have been good

works stored up for you to do.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Others may be gifted to see who Jesus designed you to be or you may have some kind of clue in the way you feel or move in giftings and talents but only the ONE you're hidden in has a firm grasp of who you actually are.

Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..."

The Lord is the one who knit you together in your mother's womb. Chosen on purpose for purpose. A co-heir with Christ seated in Heavenly places should you decide one day to follow King Jesus.

I had a sweet moment with my grand-daughter this past weekend. She saw a tiara I keep on display and asked if that was my princess crown. Then she said, "I want to be a princess."

Woohoo. The open door.

"Well babe, the moment you received Jesus into your heart you became a royal princess."

My grand: "You mean I'm a real princess?"

Me: You sure are. You have been given a royal inheritance as a royal priest by the King of Glory. You are now His servant and made for a mission that He has designed just for you.

I wish every adult had the same joy she shined in that moment. For we have taken much of our inheritance and simply squandered it for so many things of much lesser to no value.

Hidden in Christ is an inheritance for you. While Christ is the pearl of great price and He, in essence, is the promised land please be sure you are here for a reason. There is life to its fullest even after salvation.

When you come to Christ you're walking through The Door straight into His heart. It's like entering a deep and wide wardrobe closet of possibilities that only He fathoms. He gives you a robe of righteousness and dresses you with a brand new attire for the work He has called you to.

As we error, and at times become prodigals, Jesus waits to meet us again. Patiently He sees every ounce of struggle and desires you to "come to yourself." He premade plans to draw you back to Himself. He is a good Father with His eye always on those He loves.

It's a wonderful mystery to be "hidden in Him" yet never "hidden from Him."

Something I think we might not fully understand until we arrive to our final destination with Christ.



If you would like to give your life to Jesus and begin a brand new life with Him simply tell Him so. The Holy Spirit will come to live inside of you and help you to walk in the light of the truth and freedom Christ died to give you.

For questions or help you can call or email us.
Jesus loves you dearly.

The Sparrow

To be added to our free newspaper service send us your name and address.





*From
My Closet
To Yours*

POETIC
MESSAGES

Vol II

SHELLY WILSON