

It was in the summer of 2001 when my journey began. However, I had no awareness at that time that any such thing could occur to me at this late stage of my life. I was 52 years old and rocking along like so many others of my Christian friends. I was happy with life. I was making a good living. I was giving generously to God in terms of both money and time. I was well respected in my business, religious, and family circles. And had no problem with who I was or where I had been or was going. It was just "status quo" for me. Why change a life that is pretty darn good anyway.

My wife had just attended a Christian Women's conference in Charlotte, North Carolina not far from my daughter's home. She had traveled from Winston-Salem with friends to attend the conference. I had agreed to pick her up after the conference, have a meal with her and her friends and then bring her back home. And then I was set back on my heels by a comment she made to me on the road home. "I don't suppose we could afford to go to Athens, Greece for the video taping of the 'Beloved Disciple' Bible Study by Beth Moore."

Well, I am a generous man, but also a frugal one. She was 'dead on' to assume that such a trip might well be too extravagant for our current budget. However, as I pondered it before the Lord, He reminded me of the tremendous spiritual growth of my bride during the three years and 5 Beth Moore Bible Studies in which she had participated. Immediately, it was in my heart to borrow money for the trip if necessary in order for her to participate in a "live" Beth Moore Bible Study. And, to be honest, a trip to Greece and a cruise of some of the Islands was quite appealing. So I booked the trip as soon as we arrived at our home.

We continued with our participation in mission trips and she in her Beth Moore Bible Studies. We had attempted to reserve a cabin with a portal window, but discovered that they had all been reserved ahead of us. But then when the terrorists flew airplanes into the World Trade Towers in New York City on 11 September, 2001, many dropped out of the video taping tour and we were able to upgrade. Although this may seem extraneous, since my wife had some motion sickness issues, the window was a life-saver.

In the spring of 2002 we found ourselves in Athens, Greece. We had a hotel room that faced the ancient Parthenon among other amazing historic sites of the city. And Beth taught the powerful messages which are now the 'Beloved Disciple' Bible Study, published by LifeWay. The trip was for us rather surreal as we had never anticipated such an extravagance. Yet, to be up close and personal with Becky's favorite Bible Study author was a delight to behold. And although Beth would not likely ever include us in her circle of friends, for those two weeks, she did come to call us by name. The tour was planned for 800 to 900 but only included 650 because of the fear caused by the tragedy of 9-11. But for us, it was next to heaven.

As the time passed quickly, we not only took in the tour events, but also took time for several of our own 'side trips' to see other sites. We found a taxi driver whom we could count on, and call for his personal services to whisk us from place to place and remain on schedule for all of the Beloved Disciple Tour events. Well, I missed one of the teaching sessions, which became lesson nine. I was with our taxi driver, gathering up all of our souvenirs to ship them home by way of one of his favorite shop keepers. When I returned to the hotel later that night I was overwhelmed by the plethora of comments about how this was the best ever lesson taught by Beth Moore. Well I moped like a school girl for over a year at spending so much money to travel so far to miss the very best lesson. However, God had something dramatically life changing in store for me related to this "lesson nine."

Life rocked along pretty uneventfully for the next 15 months or so. Until, in August of 2003, I was deeply disturbed one morning in church. I have no idea what spawned these thoughts, but I was

suddenly aware that my 40 years as a believer, with a strong mission mindedness, an ordination as a minister to youth, and many years of lay service in churches for over 35 years, while vocationally employed as a computer scientist, I had NO GRAPES on my part of the vine. And I was mortified by this thought. How could I have borne no fruit in 40 years as a believer in Jesus? And I was surrounded by 5000 members in my evangelical, fundamental, missions-minded Baptist church, almost none of whom could cite a single name of anyone they had led personally to faith in Jesus. Fewer than 25 decisions for Christ had occurred that year, half of which were the children of members. All I could think was, "This is impotence!"

Once I gathered myself from this preponderance, I told God that I was leaving this "fortress of believers" which obviously was not effective in completing the great commission, but I was taking Jesus with me as I was not wanting to leave my faith in Him. To this verbal "grenade" which I had hurled at God, He replied, "You stay right where you are in that church and I will change your experience of Me to bring fruitfulness." I sat through the rest of the service in wonderment about this brief but profound dialog with God.

After this conversation with God, I reflected on how I, and most other believers I knew, would point to Galatians 5:22&23 as the fruit of my Christian experience. But I could no longer ignore the John 15 analogy of the vine which produces other grapes (believers). I visited the churches of some of my friends and found the exact same scenario being played out, almost no fruit, almost completely impotent with regard to bringing people to saving faith in Jesus. And I became even more intentional with God to find fruit coming forth on my part of the vine.

Well, when God walked onto my stage, at my own personal invitation, to reveal His best role for my life's play, things began to change dramatically. It was a wild ride to say the least. And the best analogy I can cite is that God changed me from an ugly crawling caterpillar into a beautiful fluttering butterfly. And fruitfulness beyond my wildest imagination ensued. The most fascinating part of this entire journey to fruit-bearing is that it contained no principles for living; it contained only new perceptions about God, myself, and others.

In September of 2003, I found myself, along with my wife, on the floor of Phillips Arena, in Atlanta, Georgia, at a Living Proof Live teaching by Beth Moore. The message is available on CD and is entitled, "Full Redemption" or "The God Who Was, Who Is, and Who Is to Come." The most amazing part of this event was that it was centered around the teaching of "lesson nine" of "The Beloved Disciple" which I had missed in Athens, nearly 18 months before. But even more dramatic was that God had told Beth before the video taping in Athens that there would be an Atlanta event for 20,000, and then God had continued to expand the message up until two months before the Phillips Arena event, that God had only told Beth a couple of weeks before this event that she would be teaching that lesson to us in Atlanta, and most shockingly that this "lesson nine" was a departure from LifeWay's script as Beth had received its content directly from God on a hilltop in Athens that Thursday afternoon in April of 2002. And the finger prints of God were particularly evident as Beth explained that her tour guide had attended lesson nine and had received Jesus as Savior that night in Athens.

As the message unfolded, I wept as God made it extremely clear to me that He had prevented me from hearing the message in Athens. He revealed that he withheld the message until its content was complete for me and at a time when my heart was open to receive new perceptions from God about Himself. The message rang true to my assault on God the month before in the fourth pew of my church. And the message has been used several times in retreats that are now conducted for women who want to walk in freedom in Christ and who want to have the peace of God to replace

their usual anguish of soul in their traumatic circumstances in life. The retreats are entitled "WALKING FREE."

(Please listen to the three messages of "Full Redemption" by Beth Moore and follow along with the PowerPoint slides of the teaching. I could not hope to improve on the message God put in her heart to deliver. I have created sound slices from the CD messages to play automatically with the slides, the presentation in both PowerPoint and Keynote are auto advancing, but can be stopped to accommodate discussion from the group.)

In October of 2003, we found ourselves at The Cove, the Billy Graham Training Center, in Asheville, North Carolina. At this venue, we experienced the teaching of Louie Giglio from North Point Church in Atlanta. His topic was, "Worship, That Thing We Do." His organization, Passion, has this message in DVD in six lessons. I have boiled this down to one approximately 20 minute video clip to capture the central theme and primary focus. In short, Louie's teaching helps correct misunderstandings about worship in general. I have since discovered that worship IS NOT what we were made for. We were made to be LOVERS, not worshippers, not servants. But all of our LOVE is expressed as WORSHIP which may sometimes include SERVICE, but encompasses far more.

The journey kicked into really high gear in May of 2004 in Baltimore, Maryland during the video taping of "The Patriarchs." My wife encouraged me to come through the reception line to meet Beth after the taping was completed. As I stepped up to Beth, she recognized my face from our other encounters with her teaching and travels, but did not know my name. She still does not. But that is not significant. I thanked Beth for the amazing growth my wife had experienced by going through her video taped lessons and for the blessings there were mine as she had shared them with me. Then I reached out to hug her. And as we embraced, the most amazing sensation came over me. I uttered these words, "I feel like I am hugging Jesus here!" I wasn't talking to Beth or anyone else in particular. It was as though the words just gushed out as I felt the strong presence of Christ in Beth.

When I left the reception and got in my car, I realized that such a presence of God within me was what I had desired my entire life, but did not know that such was possible. I now knew by experiencing the Presence of Christ in a real live person that such could be mine. I told God that I had formerly assumed that such a deep relationship with Jesus was reserved for people such as Billy Graham, Mother Theresa, Beth Moore and others in "full-time" Christian service. He told me at that moment that it was for every believer. I asked Him to give it to me. His reply was shift and sure. There was one condition I must meet. He asked me to take copious notes and organize my gleanings, inspirations and revelations such that I could share them with any and all who asked how they could become passionately in love with Jesus.

Two months later, God brought me to a mentor. It was a man from Jordan. He had a great love for Jesus and a Middle Eastern way of understanding the Word of God. I sat at his feet for nearly 2 years drinking in his teaching voraciously. My hunger and thirst continued to grow as I listened and did each thing my mentor advised. Our mentoring process culminated in a mission trip to La Mosquitia, Honduras. I was one of a four-man team. The journey was arduous but rewarding with a climax which included a personal prophecy for each man on the team.

The prophecy over me was this:

"You are standing on a hillside in a grassy meadow. You have tall meadow grass in your hands. People come from everywhere and you dispense the grass to everyone. And the grass keeps growing larger in your hands."

Having never received a prophecy before and considering the strange content, I had no idea what the prophecy meant. I simply told God that I would await His revelation as to what the prophecy meant. About 18 months later I became aware of its fulfillment. Once I had returned from Honduras, God began to bring particular books to my attention. I procured and read each one. As I read them I realized that these books contained the entire revelation of what I had come to know in my journey to intimacy with God. Instead of writing my "own" life story to give away, I began purchasing copies of these other men and women's books and giving them away. And as I gave them away I would purchase more copies to give away. At the same time I began to accumulate digital media versions of books, messages, videos, audio tracks, text and other forms of great God insights and revelations. To date I have amassed nearly one Terabyte of data. (That is a thousand Gigabytes.) The sharing of all this collection has enabled scores to find intimacy with God and to live in a furious love affair with Him.

There is far more to my story, which will be forth-coming in a series of messages articulating portions of the story, which fit together into a beautiful mosaic of God's design for the life of every believer. God has not reserved His deep relationships for Billy Graham, Mother Theresa, Beth Moore or other full-time ministers of the Gospel. He wants every believer to learn to Love Like Jesus Loved (NOT Do What Jesus Would Do).

(NOTE: All expressions of our human soul are the overflow of what is in our hearts. If we are full of love, then our expressions will be loving. If we are full of selfishness, then our expressions will be selfish. Thus we will be doing what Jesus did, when we are loving like He loved. Any other mimicking, of what we think were Christ's behaviors, is posing or play-acting and not genuine or authentic.)

(Please watch the Louie Giglio video WTTWD "Worship, That Thing We Do.")

Once you have gone this far, you will be ready to embark on the full teaching of the PowerPoint / Keynote presentation entitled, "reLIFE - Living Loved with Grace." It has imbedded video and audio clips. Another .PPT / .Keynote presentation you may want to view is "reLIFE Perception Change Shop February 2014." Both of these are on the 32GB aVg Digital flash drive volume 1.

Once you have listened and viewed these audio and video files and the two PowerPoint / Keynote presentations, you can begin to explore and view the myriad other audio and video clips on the flash drive. If you have loaded the flash drive onto your computer, you can run all of the media files directly from there. Once you have exhausted these resources, you can notify us by text or email that you are interested in volume 2 and beyond when they become available.

Please contact me if you want to use any of these resources to teach others in your circle of influence. We have workbooks and other resources to accompany these lessons which help in understanding and confirming the validity of these teachings which have either been extracted from the teachings of very respected spiritual scholars or which teaching is confirmed by their teachings.

Thanks,

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