

Chapter 1

MY EARLIEST MEMORIES

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Romans 11:29

I'd like to start off with the words of my mother. It all began with her swatting from the front seat of our car towards me sitting in the back seat saying, "Stop that, Jennie, sit back and be quiet. You know how you are." I was approximately eight years old. According to my mother's words to me, I undoubtedly had said things that came to pass in the past. On this day, I remember exactly where I was when I heard those audible words, "You are going to wreck." We were crossing over a bridge about seven miles from where we actually did wreck! God spared us as no one was hurt and there was only a dent in the bumper.

Encounters WITH HIM

Let me try to explain what I meant by, “I heard,” on that particular day. From that day to this day, I can still sense the voice that spoke to me in my right ear. It was audible. I heard it just as if a person was sitting behind me. I was not afraid. When we look at the Bible’s incidents of people hearing God’s voice, we will see it happened pretty frequently all through the Bible. God is always talking to His children, though we seldom heed His voice. Let’s look at where He spoke in Genesis 3:9:

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

Then in Exodus 33:11, we see where God spoke to Moses:

So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

One of my favorite stories of God speaking is in 1 Samuel Chapter 3 where Samuel hears God’s voice, but thinks it is Eli calling him. Sounds a bit like me hearing my mother’s voice call me at an early age, which you will read about further in this chapter. Back to the Bible, in 1 Samuel Chapter 3 we see God calls Samuel three times before Eli figures out it is God’s voice calling him. So, Eli tells Samuel what to do in Verse 9:

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.”

MY EARLIEST MEMORIES

This so reminds me of the times as a child, I would hear my mother's voice call my name, and upon going to her to see what she wanted I'd find that she actually had not called my name. However when I would hear this audible voice that sounded like my mother's, she would actually be in need of me, or I would have been taken out of harms way, by going to her to see what she wanted.

As we look at the incident in 1 Samuel, we see Samuel also had a vision, which we will cover later in this book. Speaking of visions, since dreams are sometimes called visions, one night as a child of ten years of age, I was awakened to my Dad sitting on the side of my bed. When I awoke, I knew instantly that my grandfather, my Dad's Dad, had moved to Heaven (*that's how I like to say someone in Christ has died*). He had not been sick, and I knew nothing of this in the natural, therefore my "knowing" was supernatural. Maybe you also have times when you know things that otherwise you would not, except Holy Spirit had told you. All through the Bible there are instances where people knew things that if it weren't for angels or Holy Spirit, they would not. This is a gift of God. Some may try to make it seem spooky or even scary, but if it's of God, peace will be your barometer, 1 Corinthians 14:33:

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—
as in all the congregations of the LORD's people.

Encounters WITH HIM

and you will find your confirmation in the Word of God.
2 Corinthians 13:1:

This is the third time I am coming to you. By the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

From that early age, I had begun to be awakened in the night to the supernatural knowledge that someone had moved to Heaven. I sometimes knew the person, as with my grandfather, but most of the time I'd just know that someone had died, and then I would hear that "whoever" had entered into eternal life. Remember, when I say, "moved to Heaven," I mean passed on, died knowing Jesus. In these instances, I would have a "knowing" in my spirit-man.

From these stories you can tell my walk with Holy Spirit teaching me how to move with Him started at a very early age. God has placed it in man to "know" Him. The Biblical text on this is found in Jeremiah 31:33:

But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And the Biblical text for Holy Spirit teaching us all things is found in 1 John 2:27:

MY EARLIEST MEMORIES

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Holy Spirit is the best Teacher. He has taught me all along the way. I have learned through the easy way and the hard. I'm sure you can relate! There is nothing in this world that compares to the loving, leading of Holy Ghost.

On a side note, you need to know that I also started journaling at an early age. I would write down my thoughts, visions, dreams, and what seemed strange then, but are now understood through the Word of God. It seems our interest in the things of God are counted as honor to Him when we take the time to write down the things He is conveying to us (Habakkuk 2:2).

As I am even now reminiscing and thanking God for His great love and trust in me and for others, I can't help but thank Him for the greatest gift I have received, outside of Jesus and the gift of Holy Spirit. It is the gift of prophecy. However, I must remember to always walk in love according to 1 Corinthians 13:2:

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and

Encounters WITH HIM

though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

This gift brings me so much joy. To be able to pray over someone and tell them things that only they and God knew—just excites me to no end!!! Because He loves them so much, that He would allow me, someone who knows nothing, yet He speaks His words into their lives through me! That is so overwhelming to me.

When it comes to prophesying, there will be times when you may keep hearing in your spirit-man, the same words, or a verse, or see an image. These are the times to ask God what He wants to say to the person He has laid on your heart. Most of the time, probably all the time, what you hear, see, or sense will NOT make sense to your natural mind. Also, the majority of the time you will know it's Him trying to speak forth into someone's life because you will be – *minding your own little business* – as I like to say. It's then that out of nowhere He seems to just suddenly show up with an image, a face, a thought, or a verse that will not go away till you act on it.

For instance, one day I was—*minding my own little business*—and an acquaintance of mine kept coming to mind. I prayed for her almost all day before I finally asked Father God what He wanted to say to her. He said, “Tell her I have people praying for her.” I began to explain to God that she was a pastor's wife, and that she would know people was praying for her. I am so thankful that He is merciful to our “back talking.” Well, you know

End of Sample