



# 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 14

## POETRY HIGHLIGHT

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## EVENT SCHEDULE

Find the calendar for our meetings, support groups, and mentoring by visiting [www.shellywilsonministries.org](http://www.shellywilsonministries.org).

## EDITOR'S PICK

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### The Gardenias

We were in one of our meetings when 1, then 2, then 3 of the ladies began to smell the scent of gardenias. There seemed to be a presence of the Lord "flowering" and some could smell His scent at work in the room.

Because I know all creation testifies, I decided to look into why God chose gardenias that night rather than a rose or something else. I suppose I could consider it a blessing and move along but I've learned that He has reasons for why He does what He does and sometimes, not all times, He lets me search out the "why."

Gardenias have a strong scent. Some love the smell while it's too much for others. Let's take a look at 2 Corinthians 2:15.

The "fragrance of Christ" is a sweet aroma to those who embrace the Gospel and are being saved. However, to those who reject the message and are "perishing," it becomes a "dreadful smell of death".

In our walk with Christ some are able to receive The Christ in us while others not so much. Some have readied hearts who gladly receive Jesus while others seem to be offended at His life and love for them. There can be a lack of understanding that He is not only Savior but also LORD.

On another note, gardenias have a certain flowering

season and in other seasons they simply bear beautiful green leaves. In this season comes the Master Gardener who chops at the bush removing all the areas that are now browning. When the next flowering season arrives, the blooms will be more abundant and fruitful.

Woohoo! Lookie here: In John 15:2 it says, Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit].

Now, I was still curious about one more thing. Does a gardenia only smell when it's flowering? The answer seems to be, "Yes, while it's in bloom," according to the specialists online (to which I am not.)

However, it is the next thing I noticed that brought tears to my own eyes. The scent is especially potent at night. Think, if you will, prophetically for a minute. It is in our "night" seasons when the fragrance of Christ is best seen in our own lives as well, if we allow it. It is the valley that shall be exalted in due time, troubled season that opens a door of hope, and it is the

crushing of the wintry night whereby our hearts become more like His while also becoming more readied for comforting others.

Proverbs 31:15 also says, "She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens."

That word "night" in the original language actually can mean "adversity." It is during adversity that the scent of Christ is often the most potent. To us, and through us. As Jesus is so near the broken-hearted and the crushing seems more than we can bear, here rises His most potent fragrance. Just like when the alabaster jar was broken, the scent filled the room. It is the same for us.

If you'll take a breath you might catch the scent of Heaven on the wind, yet somehow, miraculously, He can also bring His fragrance into a room full of women worshipping, praying, and reminiscing about Him.

What a wonderful reminder through a surprising scent of gardenias.

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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](mailto: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.*





## The Swan

I was, not too long ago, asked to pray with a sweet heart. We talked a bit so I could hear her heart and all that was stirring in her.

As we began to pray I could see an image of the old cartoon The Ugly Duckling.

I began to share with her that the Lord was showing me she had all along been trying to fit in with places, spaces, and tribes that were similar to the group of ducks. The problem was...she wasn't a duck. She was a swan.

All that she had been looking and hoping for was in the wrong direction. Her very makeup designed by the Lord Jesus was altogether different.

Being a duck isn't bad if you're made to be a duck. But she wasn't. So she could never fit into the groups she desired to fit in with at times.

She began to tell me how the Lord had been teaching her through the story of The Ugly Duckling.

I thought to myself, "Look at Jesus, using the foolish things of the world again..."

It was so beautiful to see Him speak in a language she could understand.

She left with assurance that day of her unique design and also with the hope that God was directing her with His eye upon her.

She could now be comfortable in her own skin and all she was designed to be, as a swan.

It's moments like these that I'm so thankful for words of knowledge. We cannot live or minister effectively apart from the spiritual gifts.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."



## The Main Meal

I really hope you can hear my heart here but this needs to be brought to the light.

I have used many devotionals that have fed into me on a daily basis. Different ones in different seasons. Some have stayed with me and I re-read them yearly. But they are never my only source of spiritual food.

I write prophetic poetry and ponderings that will likely serve as confirmations and encouragement for what Jesus is doing, shifting, and desiring in your life. But, it should never be your main meal.

If a 5-minute devotion is your only source of Christ, then you'll grow very little in and with Him. I see a lot of leaders push "Just do 5 minutes..."

Certainly there are times for that and Christ is faithful but if this is a lifestyle then it is not really a heart learning, longing for, and loving well Christ.

It's just a check mark on our to-do list. You'll not find that theology here. Studying to show yourself approved is just that. Studying. It's like being in a classroom where you're digging into definitions of words, meanings of phrases, historical cultures, and tracing the very nature of God through stories, situations, and the scriptures.

Church is also not to be your only time or place for spiritual food. It has its place certainly but it is not the fullness of the relationship Jesus desires with us. A lot of folks are going astray because we really have not locked into the word and allowed the word to transform us.

We love videos, podcasts, sermons, etc. I do too. Again, all of those are wonderful partnering tools to growth in Christ. But even then, they should not be my only source of food.

Do you spend time with the King like you spend time with people? Breaking open the book? Praying in a way that is honest and intimate conversation because He knows you and you know Him? Or are we giving Him about 5 minutes? 5 minutes with me won't teach you a lot about me. You'll make a lot of assumptions, decide what you think I believe or don't believe, and likely misunderstand many things about me.

You'll come to a lot of conclusions that'll be wrong and you won't understand why I do what I do. But, once you spend time with me you will find out who I really am, what I really stand for, why I stand for it, and what my heart is really like. The same is true with Christ. Learn Him well. Love Him well. Linger with Him long. Let others just be helpers but He must be the main meal.

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst (John 6:35)

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

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## Stuck

One of the biggest hindrances to our destiny is the inability to "forget what lies behind." We pray earnestly for God to help us move forward and higher into His plan for our lives but we become quite stubborn when it comes to letting something old go. We often try a mixture of "reaching forward, while simultaneously dragging the past with us. But we soon find out, we are in an extreme exhaustion because He meant for us to leave the past behind in order to reach for what's up ahead.

We repackage old works instead of putting them to rest. It's become so familiar to us that we are unable to release it entirely. It's likely just filling an inner heart need of our own. Then we end up with our hands toiling in a work God called finished rather than letting it be done so the new thing can spring up.

So then we get stuck. Stuck in our own desires. Stuck in the old thing. Stuck in our own old emotions.

Stuck, thinking we need "more of this" or "more of that" when all we need to do is "forget what lies behind." The forgetting of what's behind could also be old disappointments, old pains, old unmet expectations. Old train wrecks. Old failures. Regardless, "forget what lies behind."

We might hang onto a thing to fulfill the desires of others (rather than God's desires) finding out eventually that their desire fades and we will be left holding the bag all because we couldn't, or wouldn't, "forget what lies behind."

Your fulfillment is on the other side of that release, you know. But you'll have to decide whether you want to continue up the mountain of God or stay stuck where you are. He does give you freewill to choose.

Philippians 3:13 reads, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."



## God-Rescues

I've seen many rescues by now with Jesus. Each has its own nuances and personal uniquenesses. But they all have one thing in common.

They all get a little bit messy.

Rescues don't look like we think they should. We think of the beautiful outcome and forget of the in-betweens. The in-between is the space between where it all started and where it all ends.

The hallway of despair before the sun rises again. The dark night of the soul before the oil of gladness is poured. The place of hidden screams no one hears but the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes rescues look like a divorce. Sometimes they look like some kind of loss. Sometimes they look like an unexpected relapse that leads us back to Jesus. Sometimes they even look like jail time where we can finally be still enough to hear the voice of the Lord.

While the devil may have provided the setup, Jesus will take full use of it for a grand Kingdom turnaround. But each time the Lord is reaching into a situation to set somebody free, free indeed.

He works all things out according to the counsel of His will I read in Galatians this morning.

Sometimes our will is not quite aligned with His. Sometimes He sees a place in us needing a bit of attention so He allows a few things that back us into a corner. It's in that corner where we seem to cry out to Him. Sometimes idolatry has crept in and that jealous God of ours comes in to take His rightful place back in our hearts.

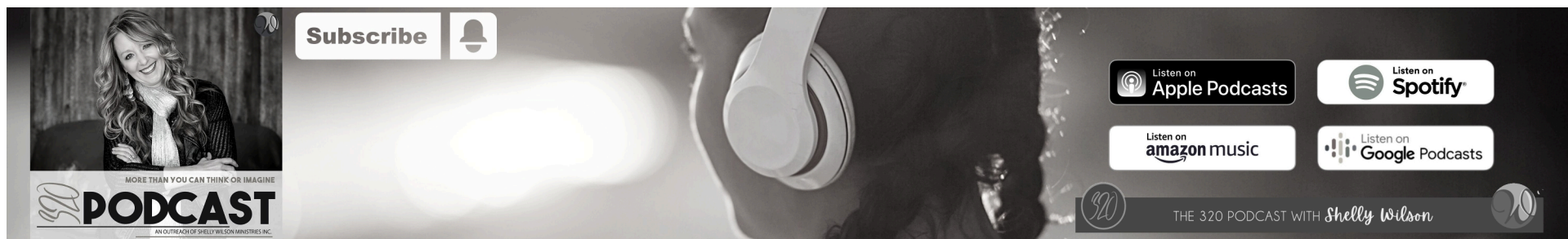
There's usually a lot of questioning and a lot of tears during rescues but time eventually tells the story they couldn't see sooner. When you're in the throes of a God rescue, you usually can't see the purpose behind it all. You can't even really say you're in a place to fully trust Him sometimes even when you try. Fear can override the ability to trust. Our own desires cloud our judgment and we often think what is bad for us is actually good for us.

So, hence comes the rescue of that dear one He formed in the womb.

I've seen some beautiful things happen in God rescues, despite all the mess.

And it's usually more than they could ever think or imagine.





## The Lioness

I'm always looking for the "you" to show yourself. Often hidden behind quietness is much wisdom.

I can see it.  
Jesus sees it.  
But you hold it still super close to your chest.

I often wonder is it the pain of the past that has silenced you, the rejection from others that made you go into that shell, or some lack of confidence that keeps you covered up.

Forming you in the womb was God's sheer delight. Part of your personality might well be a bit of shyness but I can still see the lioness in you.

One day soon the Christ is gonna roar and all that He placed in you will show itself. It might even shock you.

But... until that day comes I'll keep peeling back those layers of pain, reminding you who and whose you are, and just wait...for....it....

But, boy oh boy, that devil is sure hoping you'll stay in retreat mode. He spent years making sure you'd never speak, never see, never have the courage to walk in the authority Christ is handing you.

Yet Christ ordered your steps and made sure you'd be with others who would press into

prayer on your behalf.

What a really bad day for that devil that's coming soon. He knows it full well. That's why you're in the middle of that storm.

The storm is the evidence that the lioness is about to come onto the scene...

And when that happens, dear one, that unique, lioness roar of yours is gonna be a Hell-wrecking game changer with Jesus.

## The Grace Has Lifted

This has been a phrase the Lord has been speaking to me in one form or another for a couple of weeks, "The grace has lifted." It's something I've had to be praying into for His heart because once I know where the grace has lifted, I'll need to act speedily.

Grace doesn't always lift due to negative issues. Sometimes, a "thing" is simply finished. It has run its course. The work it was intended for has been fulfilled and it is time for a shift into a new direction of promise. Walking where the grace has lifted is dangerous, and exhausting. If God says it is finished, then we had best listen.

Sometimes grace lifts off of a very good thing. It's simply an Ecclesiastes 3 moment where the due time has come to move into something new and in that new place Jesus has a new grace for

you. Sometimes you're in the midst of a flourishing season and God calls you onward. We see this in scripture with Philip.

Acts 4-9 gives us a little glimpse of this scenario.

*"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city."*

What a revival! Who would ever want to leave that?!?! But look here beginning in verse 26.

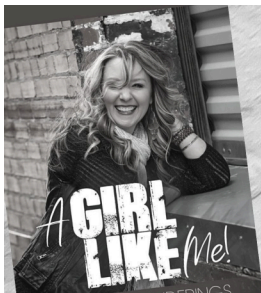
*Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."*

I have been saying in our meetings that we must learn to go from assignment to assignment instead of focusing in on some final destination. You see, there was an Ethiopian in need of the good news and Jesus is a master at leaving the 99 and going after the 1.

Acts 35 then says. *"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

We hate ending things or making changes but Jesus keeps moving, advancing, changing our environments, as well as the way in which we do things. Why? Because we are always on mission. Christ must remain the leader at all times. It's likely the hardest time to put down something when it is in a fruitful place. It makes no sense to us. We feel like it should keep on keepin' on. But Jesus says, "It is finished." We often know in our hearts when a thing is done but we tarry too long. Perhaps we are afraid to let go or we are still pleasing people and their expectations of us. Either way, let us be quick to obey, because listen...

You and I do not want to live in any place, or in any position, when the grace has lifted.



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



## The Giants

There is a moment of anticipation as you plan to step into your promised land. The long awaited space and place your heart has desired for so long. The terrain you have already plowed in prayer for years. Then suddenly you find yourself facing a heinous resistance. A giant the size of Goliath meets you at the door of your destiny. What now is there to do but fight?

Slowly you decide to draw your sword and the battle rages not for minutes but for hours. Those hours turn into days and months and you find yourself weary of the war. As one giant falls others rise and an entire army of squatters attempt to push you back off the property God has already given you.

Here, friend, comes a crisis of faith.

Somehow you expected to walk right on in uncontested. What a mistake of the mind. For this is the place of your greatest battle yet. But if you listen closely you'll hear the Spirit of God speak, "I have given you every place your foot steps..."

This is the battle of all battles and you will be pushed to the point of exhaustion. Challenged to the point of tears. Marred past any recognition of who you once were. And this, too, is the point. For you are finally stepping into who you were meant to be in Christ Jesus.

This is a Potter's wheel, historical moment. Heaven's gaze is upon you and the King has hedged a bet "for" you while the devil has bet "against" you.

"Consider Job..."

One trial after another comes. One battle "here" and one battle "there." In between, you must learn to "take a knee" and catch your breath. Jesus is with you. Get some rest.

You're about to face your greatest fears. But Christ has already planned a way of escape.

The giants of anxiety will now bow to Jesus. The giants of depression will flee at the name of Jesus.

Every assignment sent to delay and derail you will now be cancelled and every witchcraft devil will fall as the blood speaks a better word over you.

You will now see who exactly Jesus is in you. How He carries you through the wilderness, how He provides at times invisible shields between you and the enemy, and how sometimes He whispers, "Slay the Giant, baby girl, I've given you all you need for this hour."

You'll have moments of despair because your soul is so tired and you'll beg God for it all to stop. Yet, He smiles gently and says, "You are more than a conqueror..."

Tears might fall on your shield of faith as you run towards yet another giant but when you glance over your shoulder you'll suddenly realize how much you've advanced onto that kingdom land of yours.

In that moment Holy Ghost fire is lit in your belly as God renews your strength and one giant after another falls with a greater ease.

As you look up ready for the next battle, you hear the voice of the Lord proclaim a passage of scripture you've not thought of in a while...

Then Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid! Take your stand [be firm and confident and undismayed] and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for those Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see again. (Exodus 14:13 -AMP)

With that word comes a holy hush. You didn't realize that this was the very valley of trouble that led to your door of hope. The very gateway into God's greater.

...she will sing (testify) there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

Hosea 3:15

## By My Chains

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

-Philippians 1: 12-14-

What has happened to you, friend?

That suffering place which almost took you out has the power to break chains. Placed in the hands of Jesus suffering becomes salt seasoned to love well the broken.

I do very little today in ministry that I set out to do in the beginning.

The most fruitful places where I have seen the power of God made manifest has come from what I learned in my suffering seasons. Seasons where I would have said, "Nothing good could come from this." Seasons where I prayed myself out day and night but the pain lasted still for years. Seasons where I felt so alone and misunderstood that I wondered had even God left me. Seasons where the voice of Hell was audible and loud doing all that was possible to put me and my destiny to a certain death.

But I can also testify like Paul that all the things that happened to me also turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.

Those seasons brought out a vulnerability and authenticity that have helped others. I never meant it to be this way but somewhere along the way I learned the power in my pain. The purpose that pleases the Lord and the ability He has to pour from the place of crushing. Thank goodness He removed all shame from it. All unforgiveness from it. All condemnation from it. He simply has used it as a tool. Because of His help in this area, it has like Paul says, become evident that my chains are in Christ.

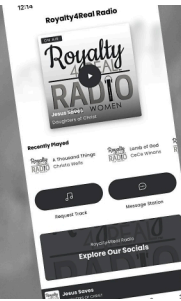
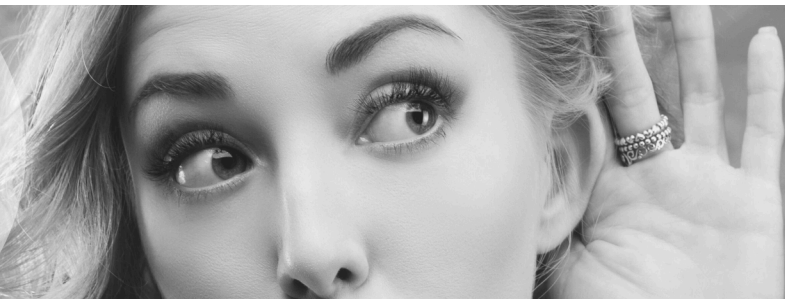
I am a one track woman because of all that has happened to me. It has been beneficial, and in some miraculous way only Christ can do, it has caused others to become confident (by my chains) to also be bold and to speak the word without fear.

When you look within the pages of scripture, you'll see lives laid bare for the cause of Christ. When trials come, they preach. When pain comes, they preach. When suffering hits hard. They preach. When in their own personal prison, they still preach.

Whatever, friend, has happened to you will be used for the furtherance of the gospel, if you'll let it.

Keep preaching so that others become more confident "by your chains."

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 SPARROW

www.shellywilsonministries.org

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## The Display of His Splendor

I wasn't taught in a seminary. I was sent to a school of suffering. It was a place of higher learning although I hated most of the classes.

I begged God would graduate me sooner than He did. From the moment I stepped into it, I wanted out of it.

It was like a long hallway that never ended, until one day it just did, slowly.

I didn't get a diploma. There wasn't a party at the end of my studies. No crowds gathered around me in celebration.

It was just me and Jesus.

As I stood up again He braced me with His strength. Clothed me with His power. And we started walking forward, again. One hard step at a time.

It took a lot of convincing for me to come out of that cave. It had become a safe place of refuge. Part of me wanted to stay there.

In that place the way that I heard Christ was new and fresh.

There was a tone to His voice of such gentleness that was deeper than I had known. His kindness was more than I had ever imagined. I would find Him stroking my hair when I wept. "There, there."

Now I have some of my fondest memories of Him from that place. I've not known Him the same as when my heart was broken into a million pieces.

"He is near the broken-hearted" means more to me today because I've actually seen deeply the truth of that scripture.

I've lived it. Felt it. Cherished it.

When you finally exit the valley something interesting happens.

You won't expect it really but you will notice it at some point.

The very valley I hated became something I actually missed later.

I know that seems strange, and perhaps it is.

Don't get me wrong. I don't want to do "that" again.

But when you've seen the way the Good Shepherd tends and mends your wounds you find that you are nearer to Him than you have ever been.

You can smell the fragrance of His healing balm. Feel His presence as He comes to comfort you. You know for certain while you sleep He is there singing over you.

I know some of you are in that kind of valley right now and I know you hate it like I did.

He knows it too.

But there are ways about Him that you are about to learn. Ways that others won't know until they, too, enter a deep valley.

Your intimacy with Him is gonna go to a sweet, sweet place only you and He will share. You can't explain it to people. They can't know it until they live it, personally.

You're gonna hear Him different. See Him different. Learn more about His character and nature.

Look for Him in the mess. He is there. Take a long walk and let Him send you His wind. Close your eyes and let Him teach you how to hear His coming to you.

When the grief won't let you read, He knows. When you can't focus to listen, He can still break through.

You won't have to strive.... He is your Helper.

One thing I can tell you from personal experience, is that everything He says in His word really is true.

Your graduation will come just like mine did and you'll come out of that place with wisdom you didn't have before.

Then you'll "go" and tell the people what He showed you in that classroom and you'll watch Him pour oil from your own tears onto others in need of all that you learned.

Then you'll watch them "make it through" just like you did and you'll see Jesus fulfilling Isaiah 61 with your own life.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. (Isaiah 61:1-4)





## The Puzzle Called YOU!

As a young girl the earliest I can remember, people's suffering troubled me. I always instinctively wanted to make it better. Help, somehow. Comfort them. Acknowledge them. Go to them.

I always felt compelled to "do something."

Although I felt helpless most often, that which God placed in me from the beginning was already at work in my life. I just didn't know it.

The same is true for you.

Within your makeup and wiring by God's design is your calling.

The eternity set in your heart is always pointing to the needed Savior who can only fit into that place, yet, it also in subtle ways points to who He formed you to be.

Your likes and dislikes both give critical information for the plan unfolding in your life. Even as a child it was already there. Your heart was moved by certain things and pained by others. Again, critical pieces to the puzzle called, YOU.

Every season is unwrapping a piece of who Jesus is in you.

Today I get to spend time tending those same hurting hearts that use to prick my own heart as a young girl.

All the while also partnering with Christ to unfold that which is hidden within each of them.

Every season throughout my entire life has led to this.

I had no idea I'd write for the broken, sing to the suffering, or hug on the hurting. But God knew it all along.

My life and purpose is nothing I expected it to be. Likely, yours might be the same.

But I can tell you this:

Your big dream will fill a big need and it will be more about others than about yourself.

You were innately designed for a secret mission. Every single one of you.

Day by day is unfolding God's plan for your life, even when you're not aware of it.

You might not even be pursuing the Lord who made you, but, He is pursuing you.

That eternity in your heart will always be calling you back to Him and into your Kingdom destiny upon the earth.

Don't waste your life.

You were made for more...

You'll never be satisfied apart from Him and doing what He formed you to do.

## Unlocked

A few moments ago I would sit at my desk to edit a newspaper issue when I realized I was seeing a short vision. I saw prison doors begin to unlock and swing open.

Some of you have been locked away in prisons with no bars. Prisons of the mind. Prisons of pain. Prisons of sin- whether it's your own or the sin done to you.

Listen in the Spirit to the "click" I could hear as those prison doors unlocked! Jesus is coming for the rescue.

For that prison that has had you bound.  
Unlocked.

For that prison which has caused you doubt.  
Unlocked.

For that prison which has cursed your life through peoples words.

Unlocked.

For that prison which has confined you to settle for lesser than what Jesus died for you to inherit.

Unlocked.

For that prison erected because you were labeled wrong by others.

Unlocked.

For that prison that has kept you silenced.  
Unlocked.

Oh Hallelujah! The prisoners are now being released in Jesus name!

## Love the "Little"

Sometimes we are looking for big moments, massive moves of God, and grand entries by Holy Spirit. But let me share a secret.

I've learned to love the "little."

The "little" moment where a familiar face turns out to be my receptionist at a health appointment. We end up talking about Jesus with another heart after my visit. Or maybe my most favorite this week of driving through a place and hearing God tell me to give a "little" scripture to the one tending to my needs. I find out it was a little hug from Jesus so she knew He had plans for her life in a moment of stress. A moment I could never have known about. Or maybe the moment someone messages me that a "little" podcast episode met them in their exact place of need and Jesus did His thang in their sweet life.

Listen, you'll encounter the big things for certain. We serve a big God. But don't ever overlook the "little."

The "little" moments.  
The "little" unctio'n's.  
The "little" nuggets of encouragement.  
The "little" blowing of the "wind."  
The "little" miracles.

God does a-lot with a "little."

## The Nobody

I'm more of a nobody than I've ever been  
And I honestly love the view  
For seated with Christ in heavenly places  
I don't need to be known by you.

It's a precious peace to finally release  
The demands of those in the flesh  
To be so hidden under His wings  
Just helping others find His rest.

It's the sweetest scent that comes on the wind  
When Holy Spirit enters the room  
Calling you into a needed place  
To help breathe life into tombs.

As "Up from the ground He arose" sings its notes

I see new life come from the graves  
And Jesus again walks in with the win  
With this nobody every day.



THE SPARROW

[www.shellywilsonministries.org](http://www.shellywilsonministries.org)

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## The Keys

God has given us keys to serve as answers to problems. He divinely placed them in our hands.

A few years ago I had a dream and I was preparing for a royal ball. I looked down and in my hand were 2 ornate keys. They were huge! Then suddenly in the dream I had lost the keys and was looking for them frantically.

Over time this dream came to pass as the Lord showed me I had laid down the authority He had given me.

Because I love taking others with me I seemed to always wait for others to get on board. Jesus gave a serious rebuke one day that I was to pick my keys back up. Because I was a recovering people pleaser and concerned about losing people it could easily cost me to lose my keys. That word in itself is for some of you.

It's the same thing as selling your birthright.

My keys were mine and assigned to me alone. I had to learn to stop thinking I needed others to accomplish what I was mandated to accomplish. I also had to learn I was fully equipped to do the job.

The idea of shrinking back so others have a chance is like a deception. At God's table and in His Kingdom there is room for everyone and everyone has been assigned to divine jobs.

We are to help others find their God given keys but we are not to lay ours down.

There will be times God asked you to stay in the shadows for others to fly but this is done out of obedience not out of a deception whereby the devil is using your goodness and kindness against you.

Listen he knows your tender hearted. He knows you care deeply for others. He also knows if you are susceptible to laying your keys down as some kind of loyalty to others. That, sweet friends, walks us right into disobedience.

The enemy is a master at twisting things isn't he?

So what keys have you laid down today? Remember there are lives attached to those keys of yours.



Another dream I had was me taking a key and unlocking a heart-shaped door.

In other words I had the keys to some needy hearts. What I carried they needed. If I kept handing over the keys assigned to me, they might not ever get what they needed.

So let's forget all the false humility and the bowing down to the devil, Okay?

God's will is for you to carry those assigned keys with His power and authority and you don't need to apologize for it. Simply walk in humility.

So if you've laid down some divine keys...today is the day to pick them back up.

## The Name of Jesus

There is a sadness and sorrow that stills the night  
But healing can come through the light of Christ .

When all hope seems lost  
Hope is still alive  
And Jesus has plans  
In place for your life.  
Where pains have oppressed  
Your heart and your soul  
The dear blood of Jesus  
Will come make you whole  
Where demons have reckoned  
With your destiny  
The mere name of Jesus  
Can now set you free.





A NEW MUSIC SINGLE  
EMERGES AS A  
DECLARATION OF  
FAITH.



## The Weakness of a Warrior

A preacher unwilling to preach from their own pained position may not be too effective. They will soon run out of things to say or at the least will be a dry place void of anointing.

For the gospel of Jesus is about the transformation of lives and how the Shepherd does indeed walk us through many valleys of shadows.

Some of my favorite preachers share openly of their struggles and how Jesus revealed Himself during each trial. It is so encouraging for us walking through winter seasons.

In the scriptures we see Paul often sharing his trying moments, inward struggles, and constant need for Christ.

Show me a man, or woman, with a limp and I'll show you a likely effective minister of the gospel.

They've had to cling to the hem of His garment to live and not die. They've had to fight demons on every side to forge new territories for the generations ahead. They've been baptized in an anguish many either haven't lived or pridefully hide.

They're not just reading, or quoting, those scriptures, you know. They've had to swallow every morsel whole and live, or die, by them.

Be sure that part of my payback for all the devil does in my life is to put the oil from my crushing to a work he had wished he had thought through.

If you haven't been crushed yet, you'll likely be

more religious about Christ than relational. There's a lot you don't know yet. Someone sobbing their way through a divine message will bother you instead of move you with compassion. You've not yet learned of the tenderness of the Spirit at work.

There's power hidden in pain.

You see, God is making a warrior out of us and humility will be embedded in the fabric of that warriors being.

They know how to wield a mighty sword against all of Hell while also bending low to help the hurting. They place themselves above no one and instead tend to the least of these. They can see clearly the need of humanity while carrying their own pain.

Weak, yes.  
But still a warrior, nonetheless.

One minute they're flipping tables and the next healing the broken.

One minute their slaying 400 prophets of Baal and the next minute under a broom tree too tired to fight.

They've wallowed in prayer with a desperation that is precious to God because it throws their deep need for Him over His healing altar.

Like a limp dish rag goes their frame falling forward onto Grace.

They've got nothing to hide any longer because

it is Jesus alone who does a single thing of value in, and through them.

There is weakness in every warrior and it must be so. After all, we are still flesh and blood.

For if when I am weak He is strong then it surely might be something of value in weakness to me. Otherwise, we tend to get a bit too big for our britches. Apart from Him I can do nothing. It is true. If that is not settled in the depth of your heart, you'll be exalting yourself very soon. That nugget of truth never changes. It doesn't matter how long you've followed Christ or how big your ministry seems to get. It is Jesus and Jesus alone who does the work. I need not touch His glory to even think of exalting myself.

Every mighty warrior has fears. Every warrior has strengths. Every warrior comes to a moment in a season where they tremble while facing their giants. Every warrior worries if they will have the courage to make it through.

Few in the Bible whom either God called mighty men of valor or whom God enlisted for great exploits agreed with God. Moses tried to talk his way out of becoming a great deliverer telling God the reasons why he was the wrong candidate. Gideon couldn't see past himself as the weakest of his clan when God called the greatness out of him.

David went from giant-slaying to pouring out his deepest sorrows through the Psalms confessing his weaknesses before the Lord. We also see that although he was a mighty warrior that he had weakness in his flesh. Sin could still overtake the man after God's own heart.

We see the same God-ordained warrior, Samson, weak in his discernment as he gives away his strength to the hand of a woman. Seduction snatched his heart. Yet, in the end, the warrior in him rose again. Joshua had to be told more than once to be strong and courageous by God. He must have seen into Joshua's heart to have to repeat this three times within the same chapter of scripture in Joshua 1.

Two things can still be true at the same time. You can still be a mighty warrior and still carry weaknesses. One does not cancel out the other.

So, do you feel like a weak warrior today? If so, good! You are! But when you are weak, He is strong.

# EQUIPPED

Mobilizing Women for Kingdom Battle

WORSHIP  
WORD  
PRAYER

THE SPARROW

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## The Broom Tree

There's a place that many of us are now familiar with. It's called "the broom tree."

It's the place you run to when you've had "Enough." Where you beg for it to be over cause one more valley feels like it's just too much.

It's a place that might make you feel like you're blowing your testimony for Christ. But He loves raw honesty in His people and you're just in a season of "I can't do this anymore." He knows exactly where you're at right now.

1 Kings 19:4

But he himself (Elijah) went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

However, I see something beautiful at "the broom tree."

Elijah is having an honest conversation with God. He doesn't sugar coat it so that he looks like a mighty warrior because God already knows him intimately. The good, the bad, the ugly. The strengths and the weaknesses. The disposition and the disgraces.

He doesn't over spiritualize it either. He merely says what he feels. Nothing is hidden.

He gets out of the frying pan right into the fire again with a word sent from Jezebel.

(1 Kings 19:2)

So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

Elijah had just slaughtered 450 prophets of Baal. They ate at Jezebel's table the scriptures tell us. So, she was on a mission for murder.

I don't really judge Elijah here. I am him. You

may be too. I would be looking for a little break. Maybe even a celebration for the Lords victory... but that wasn't in the plan.

Even the psalmist is recorded with a cry of "How much longer, O Lord..."

The broom tree isn't an unfamiliar place for soldiers on the frontlines. It's likely a place we've been again and again.

Because the truth is...we can't make it without Jesus. Not one more step, not one more battle, not one more anything.

It's the "I'm done" place.

The place where you don't feel like showing up. You don't feel like raising your hands. If you open your mouth the only thing that might come out are inner groans of a well of sorrow.

"Why does the enemy keep taunting me." "Why don't you handle this one yourself, Lord." "Why can't I catch a break in at least one area of prayer."

Sound familiar?

But here's where the beauty is. Elijah goes to sleep.

God doesn't grant his request to die nor does he rebuke him for a lack of faith. He isn't even found trying to "drum up" some kind of false faith to guilt the prophet into snapping out of it.

No, the angel of the Lord comes and bakes him a cake and gives him some water. It's nourishment because he knows he is weak and tired. He tends to his needs. He is just a human fashioned by God and what a kind God we have.

There's an interesting nugget about the broom tree, also known as a juniper tree. Its wood is good for fuel. It is recorded in history that if travelers used the wood for fires for their food they might return a year later to find the embers

still alive.

The broom tree is a place of fire and fuel. It feels like you'll die there but you actually will soon thrive "from there."

Your stent there is giving you a sustenance that will last. Refueling you for the next leg of your journey. And all you have to do is go to sleep.

The broom tree is a "giving up" place where you don't have anything left for the human striving. Either God supernaturally carries you or nothing at all will happen.

Perhaps this is the point.

You've reached the end of yourself. So now God can work.

The broom tree. The wilderness.

The very place that Jesus refuels His warriors.

1 Kings 19:7-8

And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.



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

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*From  
My Closet  
To Yours*

POETIC  
MESSAGES

*Vol II*

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