

*A creative exploration of  
the beauty in the ordinary*

# Along the Way



EMMANUEL ONIMISI

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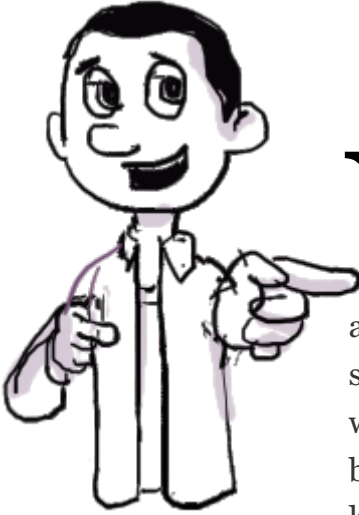


*To Dad and Mum,  
To Daniel  
To Sarah  
To Joana.*

*Thank you for everything!*

ONE

# Hi there!



**Y**ou've embarked on a remarkable journey, and there are so many amazing and wondrous sights to see and experience along the way. While this refers to this book, I'm also talking about your life, with its days and moments.

Do you have any idea just how amazing this journey really is?

Psalm 19:2 tells us that everyday speaks to the next about God's glory. Romans 1:20 also tells us that His invisible qualities are evident in creation, and Lamentations 3:23 reminds us that God's mercies are new every morning. All of these teach me that every single day is special because it's got a deposit of God's mercies available, and that every single moment was crafted by God to tell us about Himself.

Every day has a story to tell. Can you hear it?

I imagine life as a treasure hunt, and God has sprinkled

the corners of our days and moments with His wonders for us to discover. But we often don't see the wonder in the mundane, and we miss out on the glory in the ordinary.

Jesus was Someone Who engaged with life from God's perspective, so He was able to share stories from everyday life and tell us what they say about God's character and mindset. We call them 'parables', earthly stories with heavenly meanings. From stories of losing and finding jewelry, planting and harvesting, building houses, baking bread,

fishing, and so many others, Jesus was able to engage His listeners with God's message and show how God can speak to us through the ordinary.

The ordinary is ripe with so much depth.

This road trip called life has so many wonderful moments along the way. And I hope you get to enjoy and cherish every moment, with God at the wheel, like a tour guide describing the detail of the scenery before you as He drives you along.

Over the past decade, I documented some of the lessons and insights I was learning in my walk with God through life, sharing some of them as stories, creative pieces and articles on my blog or on my social media pages. I have

*Every day has a  
story to tell.  
Can you hear  
it?*

revised many of these articles, added some more and put them together in this book for you. You do not have to read it all in one go, but my desire and prayer for you is that wherever you start or stop, that you find something that is a spark for you.

That God speaks to you and that, in reading these stories and articles, the eyes of your hearts are opened to see better.

I'm really grateful that we get to take this journey together. Have an awesome time, dear friend.

Your brother,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Immanuel" followed by a smiley face emoji. The letter "I" is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke that loops under the rest of the name.



## TWO

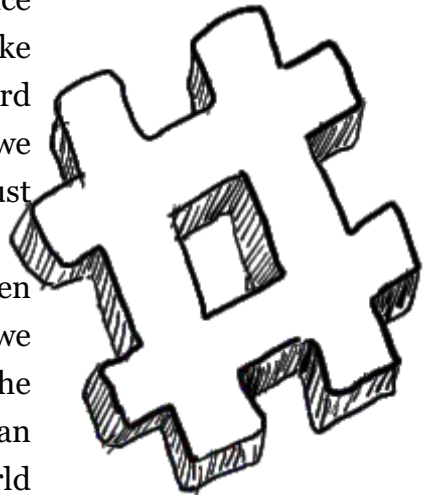
# #Hashtag

**T**he hashtag has become a very peculiar symbol, especially on the social media. Whenever you're typing a post or tweet, just place the hashtag before a word and, [#voila](#) the word becomes blue! OK, it's a whole lot more than that.

The hashtag makes the word become something more: not just a string of letters, but a hyperlink to a larger archive of posts or tweets online that include that word or that are about the theme that the word represents.

But to make it work, we don't place the hashtag after the word like `this#`, or in the middle of the word like `th#is`. Nah, to make it work we place it right before the word, just like [#this](#)!

It kinda reminds me of God. When we put Him first in our lives, we become something more than the ordinary. Not only that, we can become links, to God for the world



around us, channels for the people around us to see and experience His Life and His Love as we live for Him. That's a greater privilege and honour than just being another word in a sentence.


Let God be your highest priority.

Remember the Hashtag.

[#Put #God #first!](#)


THREE

# Our Words



Like rain that falls from the clouds above,  
our words have great effect,  
be it a whispered word or phrase  
that's spoken or in text.

Our words are rudders to life's ship.  
They determine where it goes.  
A spark to kindle, a key to open.  
A ripple whose reach nobody knows.



Our words are seeds that we are planting  
In people's lives. It's quite amazing.  
But words may be dangerous too, you know  
'Cause harmful ones can destroy from within.

Yet one thing about our words,  
be they meant to heal or to attack,  
is that, no matter how hard we try  
is that they can't be taken back.  
(Even the sincerest apology  
May heal the wound, but can't change history)

Our words are a product of our hearts,  
The spill from a pail filled to the brim.  
The result of a man's ponderings,  
The evidence of what has rule over him.

So my charge, dear reader, is to watch your words  
And, even moreso, to guard your heart.  
Make a decision to always choose  
To, with your words, only Life impart.

Heal the hurting. Lift the weak.  
Encourage them when life feels bleak.  
Celebrate the joyful. Mourn with the broken.  
How your words will bless. The results will speak.

Shine God's Light in your corner.  
Speak Life wherever,  
Whenever,  
Whatever-the-ever.

FOUR



# A Creator's Eyes

*"Yes! [I have] Big eyes, very big, because they are full of wonder. That is my center. It is what I was born with, eyes that have only seen the wonder in everything! Eyes that see lights in the trees and magic in the air. This wonder is what I put into the world, and what I protect in children. It is what makes me a guardian. It is my center. What is yours?"*

- Nicholas St. North

(Rise of the Guardians/DreamWorks)

**T**hat quote was by Nicholas St. North, the Santa Claus-esque character in one of my favorite animated movies, *Rise of the Guardians*. Nicholas was a big burly man with a kind and cheery personality. He made toys for kids all around the world, making them happy especially during Christmas time. In this particular scene, he tells us why he's able to do that ... because of his eyes. 'Cause of how he sees.

I know it's not Scripture, but his words ring true.

To create something good, you have to have good eyes. Like God, the First Creator. He saw beauty in desolation and emptiness, and He created Everything beautifully. Not just the Earth and its beautiful sunsets and flowers, but the galaxies and pulsars and comets too. There is wonder in creation because of the Awesome Wonder in how our Creator sees. (Guess

*There is wonder  
in Creation  
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in how our  
Creator sees*

that's why they say beauty is in the *eye* of the beholder, eh?...wink, wink).

In the same way, to live a good life, to create a good future not just for ourselves but for everyone

around you, your eyes must be renewed. Let the eyes of your heart be filled with His Light. He will change your very being till you begin to see as He does, and begin to think like He does too.

Perhaps when we begin to see one another and the world around us through God's eyes, not seeing the people and experiences as the imperfections they present but as works-in-progress with the potential to get better...

perhaps...

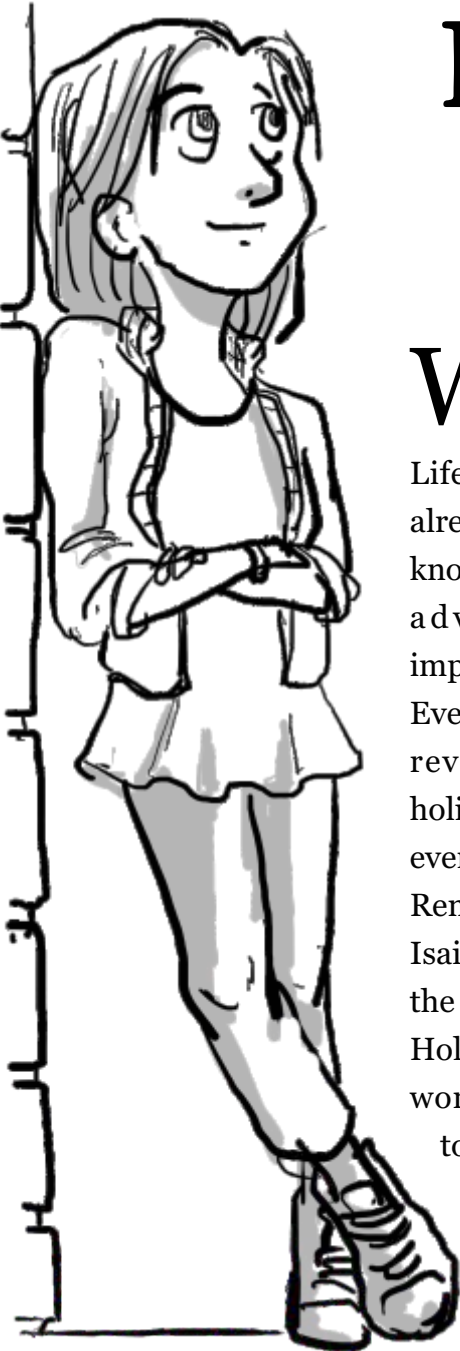
...perhaps then we can make the world much brighter.

*'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be  
enlightened in order that you may know the hope to  
which he has called you, the riches of his glorious  
inheritance in his holy people...'*

Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

FIVE

# In Wonder



**W**e don't know everything, and that's actually a good thing.

Life would be utterly boring if we already knew everything there was to know. There'd be no more room for adventure or discovery ... or improvement.

Even Heaven is a world of continual revelation of God's glory as His holiness is revealed more and more to everyone beholding Him.

Remember that part in Isaiah 6 where Isaiah was in God's throne room, and the angels were declaring, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God almighty!" The word 'Holy means 'without equal; totally unique; set apart from others because there's nothing like it'.

The angels weren't just reciting



a mantra, but they were expressing their sense of wonder as their understanding of God's Holiness was taken up another notch again and again, in multifaceted ways as they experienced His glorious presence.

Boredom doesn't exist in Him. Even in His quiet is calm delight and rest, conviction and a compelling to worship.

So please don't let your heart be hardened, and don't let your love grow cold. May we never grow too old in our hearts for our Father, the very Ancient of Days, to carry us and teach us, guiding us safely in His way.

Eyes open in wonder, heart impressionable to the Lord.

Please stay teachable.

And keep on growing.

SIX

# You are Not Alone

You are not alone.

You have never been alone. God has always been with you, waiting for you to respond.

He still is.

Remember the Man that cried, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" He said and experienced that so that you would never have to.

So think about it. If you had the ear of the Maker of everything, the attention of One Who sees Past, Present and Future in a glance...what would you tell Him?

More importantly, imagine what He'd want to say to you.

SEVEN

# Kitsugi



**T**here is this Japanese art form called *kitsugi* or *kintsukuroi*, where broken ceramics or pottery are put back together again, with their cracks filled in with gold, making something even more unique.

Seeing examples of how broken pieces were still seen as valuable with gold poured over their cracks and binding them, it all reminded me of what God does with us in our brokenness and weakness.

When we commit our present and past to the Master Potter, He heals us, binds us up, and makes something beautiful out of us.

In Matthew 5:3 Jesus said,

*"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."*

It's His assurance that even when we have reasons to mourn, He will comfort us.

And Paul also wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:4 about Him being the God of all comfort,

*"...who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

Those scars left over from the pain may become channels of encouragement and empathy for you to someone else going through theirs. They become the Overcomer's Badge, just like the nail-prints in Jesus' hands.

Wow!

So you really don't have to pretend or act like something you're not. You don't have to pretend the hurts never happened. You can be authentic.

That you, the REAL YOU, that's the person Jesus loves and died and rose for. That's the person that can get better. That's the person that can be His delight and a blessing to all.

Be you. He sees you, and He's working something out in you, through you, and for you.

And like the pottery, it shows the glory, awesomeness and wonder in the heart of the Master Potter.



EIGHT



# The Star of Bethlehem

**D**o you know that the stars we see at night are much farther than they appear? To measure the distance to the stars, using 'miles' wouldn't do. The 'kilometer' wouldn't even come close. We use a measure known as the Lightyear, a measure of how far light would travel in a year.

Just as an aside, have you heard the one about the light particle that was travelling? It did not carry any baggage, because it was ... travelling light.

Anyway, in just one second, Light can cover a distance of up to 300,000km (!) and it's the fastest known force in existence. So a lightyear would be a distance of about ... get this, 9.5 *trillion* km (9,500,000,000,000 kilometers?!! WOW!)

While most stars are hundreds or thousands of lightyears away from our Earth, the Sun is the closest star to us (that should make the Sun a celebrity!). The nearest star to us, after the Sun, is just 4.22 lightyears away, so when we see the star tonight we are actually looking at how that star appeared at least 4 years ago!



Every star we see is literally a photo image of a past event. Talk about a throwback. Imagine what we're looking at on a starry night; we are literally peering into the past! It's a boundless sight that blows the mind if we let the thought sink in.

I was thinking about this recently when I thought about the star of Bethlehem, the star that shone to guide the Wise Men to meet the baby Jesus. At first glance we accept this as a supernatural occurrence. And it is. Some scholars have tried to theorise this however as a comet or a burning meteor that popped up just in time. But what if it was just a star? A star like the others in the sky that God put there to signal the location of the birth of the Savior? This line of thought doesn't take away the supernatural theme of His birth or of the appearance of the star.

For a regular star to be visible that night, the Wise Men must have been seeing an image of the star from years earlier, for it takes about that long for light to travel from the star to Earth. That would mean the star had been put in place looong before the Jesus was born.

Long before the Wise Men saw it, the star had been up there in the sky.

And then it hit me: Jesus also did not just pop up on the scene. God had been working on His coming over many centuries.

From the beginning, when mankind fell because of temptation, God had already told the serpent that He would cause someone called the Seed of the Woman to defeat the serpent and set humanity free.

*Every star we see is literally a photo image of a past event*

Another little digression here, the term 'Seed of the Woman' has always sounded weird to me because, if high school biology is anything to go by, the seed for reproduction usually

comes from the guy not the woman. Except a virgin were to give birth without a guy's seed, but we all know that could never happen, right? God couldn't have been talking about that unless He knew in advance that a Virgin Birth was possible (wink).

It really is amazing.

God inspired the prophets in the Old Testament times to speak in advance about Jesus, Who was coming to be God's own solution for our sakes. He chose and prepared a People, Israel. Within the nation of Israel, He chose and prepared a family: the Davidsons



(descendants of David). His prophets gave details on His origin, His death and His coming resurrection. And just as the time approached for this Man to be born, God caused the rulers of the time to declare legislation on a Census, making this Child to be born in the very same hometown where Micah the prophet had said He would be born (Micah 5:2).

And in the fullness of time, just when the time was right, the Child was born. The Literal Light of the World arrived on Earth.

So just like the star had been put in place long before, the Lord had inspired His prophets to talk about this long in advance. And inspired words from God will always come to pass.

He really is the Only Wise God.

When I think about the wisdom and detail God put into the Plan for our Redemption, I marvel at His creativity and glorious excellence.

So for a takeaway here is the rundown:

**1. God is never caught by surprise.** He has already set in motion what He has said He would do. His Word has the ability to do exactly what it says it would.

**2. God is trustworthy.** If God has/had said you are someone/something, and you do not yet see it apparent, trust in Him and in what He has said. It may take time for it to cascade into our sights, but if He has said it, it will come to pass. You are who and what He

says you are. You will see what He has said about you more and more, better and better, if you trust in what He has said (His Word), no matter what. Don't be discouraged. Just be patient.

Like it says in Hebrews 10:35-37 (NIV):

*Therefore do not cast away your confidence,  
which has great reward.*

*For you have need of endurance, so that after  
you have done the will of God, you may receive  
the promise.*

*“For yet a little while, [and] He who is coming  
will come and will not tarry.*

**3. God's Word lasts.** Isaiah 40:8 (NIV) reminds us,

*'The grass withers, the flower fades, but the  
Word of our God stands forever.'*

Four years ago, when light left the closest star to our solar system, the world was different. By the time the light arrives on Earth, as we see it today, things have changed. As at the time of compiling this book, 4 years ago would have been 2018. We had no idea what COVID-19 was going to be, or what imposed lockdowns looked like, what would become of the EndSARS protests, or of exactly who would be the president of the United States by 2022. So much can change in 4 years.

We can live our lives based on the latest fads and trends,

or on what is popular opinion in our times. But these things are transient. They will change and will eventually fade to give way to new realities. But if a man lives his life based on God's Word and faith in Him, what happens to the Word is what would happen to him. He will outlast and live beyond the expectations, heights and limitations of these present times. He will outlast the systems and endure, no matter how hard things may seem.

**4. *God wants to shine through you.*** In

Matthew 5:16 Jesus said,

*'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

God's plan is not just for His Light to just shine down from heaven, but for it to shine through people like you and me. He portrayed it when He became a man to show and tell and be to us all He wanted to show and tell and be to us. (Someone once said that Jesus is called the Word of God because He is ALL God ever wanted to say to us. Simplistic, yes, but WOW!) Now He lives in and through everyone that has believed and received Him. Through you, God wants His Light to shine to men, not from a distance but right where they are, right where you are. No time barriers like a distant light, just to shine. If we shine His Light, people will see Him through us. You may have heard/or read this

somewhere before, but reading it again does not make it less true:

You may be the only Bible some people will read.

You, with all your quirks and 'personality' are specifically-located and expertly-designed to be used of God to shine His Light somewhere, to someone.

We shine in our words and in our actions.

*You ... are  
specifically-located  
and expertly-  
designed to ... shine  
His Light  
somewhere...*

It is an outflow of a life that constantly beholds the Light and is changed, mind renewing, love growing, Christ glorified. Be deliberate about letting His Light shine, and you would be more effective in

it.

Wow.

I should probably pump the breaks here and tell you that we are not to look to the stars to dictate your future or to explain your 'destiny'. Horoscopes are deceptions. Stars are simply, like in the timeless words of Pumbaa the warthog in Disney's Lion King,

*"...balls of gas burning billions of miles away."*

PUMBAA

(The Lion King/Walt Disney)

And that's that. But there is a lot we can learn about God when we look at His Creation through new eyes, in a mindset of His Word.

David wrote in Psalm 19:1,

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."*

And Paul also wrote in his letter to the Romans,

*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that [men] are without excuse..."*

(Romans 1:20)

As astrophysicists and the other wise men of our age continue to explore the cosmos and the reaches of the Universe, there is so much more to discover, but God has made it all already. The more we discover, the more I imagine He goes,

"Wait 'til you see what else I've got in store."

And be it a comet, or a meteor, or a regular star, the Star of Bethlehem was an example of God's sovereignty in creation.



NINE

# That Good Thing

That good thing you're doing,  
that God-inspired thing you've got going,  
even that seemingly ordinary thing you've got in your  
hands that you sometimes wonder why you even  
bother with, but you do anyway because it's the right  
thing...

Don't stop, unless you know you should.

It's adding up into a whole.

Some people are better for it.

Some people are waiting for it.

Don't be weary or give up.

Please don't stop.

And thank you so much for it.



TEN

A  
Palm  
Poem



Remember the One Whose palms  
were nailed  
so that yours won't have to be.  
Through His sacrifice, He paid  
the price,  
so that we could all be free.  
In his hands he bore our  
infirmities  
took the pain for the sins of  
humanity  
To give us a sure hope for eternity  
and a life that's Truly Free.  
Indeed.  
He hugs away all our fears  
In His hands he holds our every  
tear,  
In all times, through every year  
He shows us that He cares.

If ever you wonder if He's still  
there  
Let faith remind you that He's  
always near.  
He died so that you could  
ALWAYS have peace.  
So look at your palms, and thank  
Him for His.

## ELEVEN

# It is Done!

God knew what He was doing.  
Just when the enemy thought He had won, it looked  
like God had made a mistake. His Son was killed.  
But He had a plan.  
And in the midst of the turmoil, Jesus looks up and  
says, "Everything is done."  
The enemies still didn't get it. They had lost.  
He won by dying.  
He endured the Cross because of the joy set before  
Him.  
He saw you and I as perfect, as God wants us to be.  
The only way was for Him to die.  
For our sakes.  
And he died.  
And rose.  
It is finished.



TWELVE

# Line Upon Line

**B**ack in secondary school I had this group of friends – Akin and Funmbi— and we all had one thing in common: a weird penchant for lame puns. I've heard different names for this puntastic talent. Some people call them dry jokes, a few call them wisecracks, some call them wastepipes ... but no one calls them 'Steve'. It didn't matter what anyone said, we always found a way to turn it into a joke, or could recognize a pun in there. It was weird. It was crazy. But we owned it.



Oh, some of our jokes were the worst, but they were all clean

But we also had some good ones that really made sense. We got better at it over time.

One time, Funmbi cracked a joke and I smiled and nodded, even

though I didn't even get what he shared the joke then. And I didn't want him to know that I hadn't gotten it either, so I smiled.

About 4 or 5 years later, the scenario presented itself in my memory once more, and then, all of a sudden, I got the punch line ... of a 4/5-year-old joke! At that moment I really laughed; not just at the joke, but at how long it had taken me to get it.

Why did it take me so long to get the punch line?

Well, in those 4 or 5 years, I had never stopped the puntastic streak (believe me, I tried to stop, but I guess I didn't really want to). I also was drawn to stories with characters with similar punny abilities, so that probably influenced my thought patterns as well. To this day, as people speak I tend to detect humorous potential in the mundane, even in the most serious of conversations. I have gotten much better at puns

b e c a u s e I w a s practicing them. So a joke I did not get 5 years earlier was so much clearer to me now.

The joke remained the same, but my mind had gotten better.



It's kind of like our minds in relation to God's Word and the things of the spirit.

The order for things, both physical and spiritual, is based on His Word. And His Word does not change. There may be some things we do not fully understand right now, but some day we will as we grow in Him.

In Hebrews 5:14, it was stated that

*'...solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.'*

And, no, that wasn't an excerpt from a First Century Food Blog. The writer had been explaining and uncovering some eternal mysteries about Christ but paused for his readers, considering that they would not fully understand some of what he was about to express, but would rather do well with simpler concepts which he referred to as 'milk'. He states, however, that these deeper things (i.e. solid food, as opposed to 'milk') would have been much clearer to those who have grown, who have built consistency ("...by reason of use...") in training their minds ("...senses...") to discern both good and evil.

As believers, we need to train our minds to be receptive and impressionable to God's Word, deliberately. When we have fellowship with God, in the reading and study of the Bible, and give ourselves to prayer, we allow ourselves to be influenced by His mindset, as our

thinking, our will and eventually our actions are gradually transformed to be as His. Paul calls this 'the renewing of the mind' in Romans 12:2. When we do this, not only do we get to know His will, but we also allow ourselves to receive the strength and mindset to actually *do* His will, eventually realizing that the power to do it has been available to us all along.

*Consistency  
must take time  
for stability to  
result.*

This is how we become more effective in it.

It's a submissive act, subjecting our mind to His training, but consistency in these builds us up.

Now, don't expect this mind-transformation to happen in an instant. Consistency must take time for stability to result.

Remember, for me to get a punch line it took 5 years. And that was just for a physical construct.

But thanks be to God for His Spirit within us. The same scriptures that we read today, we will see in higher definition and more dimensions with time. You will get those divine concepts that may appear to lie hidden, but God's Spirit will open them up to you. We call that 'Revelation'.

Remember, like Funmbi's joke, the Word of God remains the same. But He builds us to come to a place where we can better see all that He is saying. We will see

and understand His Will in more of its goodness, and in more of its perfection.

I should add that you don't need to look at scripture and assume that the meaning you always see is insufficient. Receive it as it is, but stay committed to the training. Even if you are reading John chapter 3 and you know verse 16 off-head, off-hand, by heart and by ventricle, please don't just skip it. Value God's Word, for yourself. If I may dare add, let your desire not be just for 'more rev'. Seek Him. If He is your desire, He will show you and lead you into more. If He is your desire, He will set your mind to desire and see the things that will build you up.

With God, knowledge is not for show, but for building up so that you too may soon also be a channel for others to be built up as well.

And with Him as your desire, you will desire more, and He will reveal more.

You will get His point.

And you will see it better and better and better.



The fact that you are still here on earth is hope and an opportunity, for there is more for you to discover and to walk in. You will see Him more and more. You will see

life's situations and see the God-inspired undertone indiscernible to the naked eye and mind. You will see people from His perspective, and love and treat them the way He would.

It is a change.

And it is to the end that the purpose of Christ's sacrifice in His death and resurrection may be evident in all of you. In your speech, in your actions, in your thoughts and in your life. In your conduct. In effectiveness. In power.

A free flow.

It is yours.

Just stay and be consistent.

## THIRTEEN

# Called

**L**ong before you existed, God called you.

Now when we hear the term 'the Call of God' we often think it refers to a call to ministry or clergy or missionary work. But it's bigger than that. God knew us all before the foundation of the Earth and He planned ahead for us to come close to Him so that we can share in His Eternal Life. And He calls us. His call is His way of saying, "Come to Me."

When we come to Him, we come to Life because He is Life. We are dead outside of Him, and haven't even started to realise what Life really is. But when we respond, ah, we come into the Abundant Life, the Eternal Life, the *Awesome* Life that He prepared for us.

In Romans 8:29 and 30 Paul writes,



*'For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom*

*...the closer we come as we respond to His call, the more like Jesus we become."*

*He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.'*

Do you remember that time when Jesus was walking on the water? (Matthew 14:25-31) Peter called out, "Lord, if it is

You, let me come to You on the water!" And Jesus responded, "Come."

And do you remember, Peter walked on the water too! Ordinarily, that's impossible. But he walked on water because He had faith in the Call of God's Son.

And did you see that part in Romans 8:29 up there? God's plan from the very beginning is that He is calling us so that we can be 'conformed to the image of His Son'! That means, the closer we come as we respond to His call, the more like Jesus we become. We come to become (wink!)

Life on earth will have storms and waves. But when you respond to His call, His call gives you power to keep walking over the waves. His call IS the power to keep you walking over the waves, just like Jesus would.

In Romans 1:16, Paul also writes:



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

God's Call is the Gospel. Jesus dying and rising from the dead was God's way of calling us to His Higher Life by making it possible for us to receive it. When we believe in the Gospel, we respond to His call. Like with Peter, the waves may come, but you will live a life that 'overcomes' because of what Jesus has done, as we respond to His call. It's a Life that beats anything this world can give.

This is how God purifies us. As we listen to His Word and obey, we are responding to His Call, getting closer to Him, abandoning the habits and bonds that have kept us from pleasing Him. Our victory over sin is in our submission to His Call.

And it's free for everyone.

You are called according to His purpose. But you've gotta respond. He's rooting for you to respond.

Through all the noise...  
Can you hear His voice?

FOURTEEN

# Water Walker

I call you out upon the water  
Break through the waves and  
stand with Me.

It seems bizarre? It doesn't  
matter

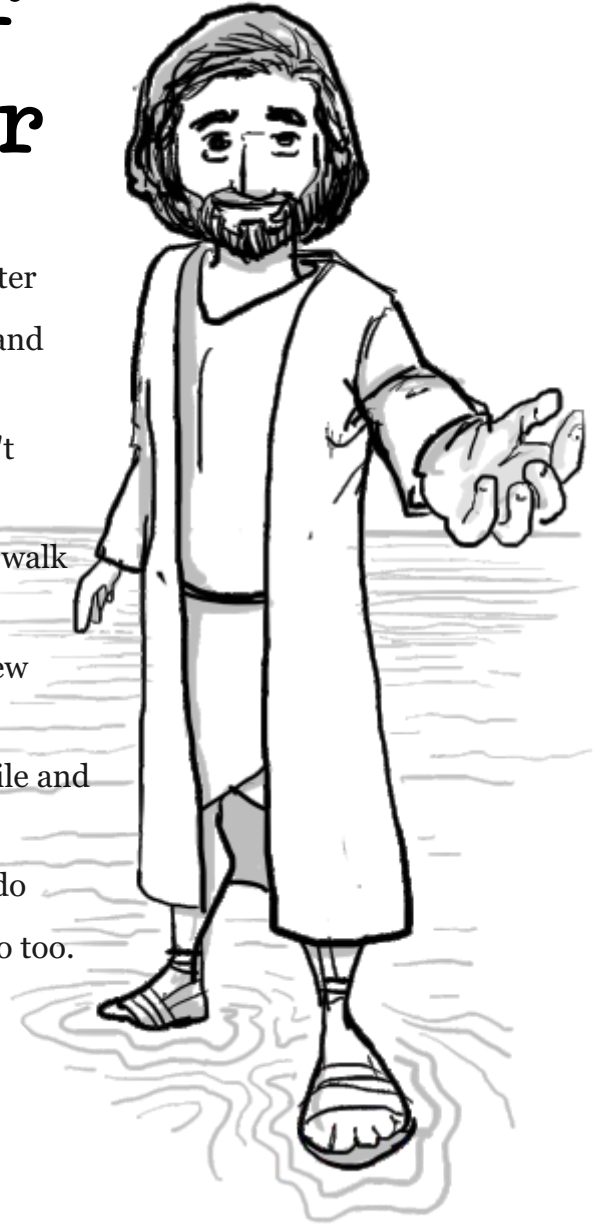
Come, take My hand, and walk  
with me.

It's a new dimension. A new  
operation.

A higher way for the Gentile and  
Jew

Come and see what I can do

Come, see what you can do too.





# Finish that First Draft

**I** borrowed the term 'First Draft' from the world of writing, but it applies to all creativity.

The First Draft is the first translation of your creative idea in a raw form. It's just as if your idea were gushing out unimpeded on to paper, on computer, or on your futuristic holographic data capturing device (hey, those could come in handy in the future).

Basically it's like this: Johnny had an idea, and he wrote it down. C'est finis.

While this sounds easy, it's really one of the most difficult parts of the creative process because of the risk of discouragement. At the time of composing the first draft your work may be riddled with a couple of errors -- scratch that: chances are there WILL be many errors. The idea may no longer make as much sense as it did in your mind. And the biting comments of well-meaning critics may not help at this stage.

But it's your responsibility to hang in there and finish it because the First Draft is the most important part of the

creative process.

Without it, your idea remains in your mind. No one can see how awesome it is or could be, and certainly no one can be blessed by it, unless it is communicated.

But with the first draft, your mind finally has something concrete to work with. And that's a good thing.

*'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep.*

*And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.'*

GENESIS 1:1,2

And those  
are just 15  
chapters out  
of 93!

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