

"THE SAFE PLACE"

Pastor's Testimony

The Lord took me to a happy place, and He didn't use drugs or alcohol because those places aren't happy. He took me to His Safe Place.

Included in this first chapter is an interview with the pastors who were present when the event occurred.

The day of a "church on the corner" is disappearing and needs to be changed. The vision needs to be changed. The body of Christ needs to reach the communities and the world. We need the same message and same Spirit, but we need to reach out, not reach in, to the people of the community. The Lord has a plan; He has a way to do this with His people all over the earth. But we need to seek His face and do what He wants.

When we first started Glory to God Ministries, we, the Lord and His people stepped out in faith. The Lord gave me a word out of **Job, Chapter 8**. The word was to always remember the humble beginnings. He said He wanted us to remember when we did not have two nickels to rub together, and how there were one or two people coming to services. I remember those times. We still have some of those people with us that have been here since the beginning in 1978. The Lord founded Glory to God Ministries, for the work He would do here would bring glory to His name.

He said, "Remember the humble beginnings." It is easy to remember the humble beginnings when they are humble. It is easy to remember those times because you are in those times, but He said always remember those times. In those times you continuously rely upon the Lord to do what He says He will do, to get His vision, to get His plan. We need to hold on to that plan and to hold on to Him, above all.

I never want to change having that style of living, and I don't believe I have changed since that day. If you stop relying on the Lord, then you have nothing and you have nobody. People in your life, as much as you love them, come and go. Things happen and change. Life is fleeting. One day you are here and one day you are gone. You never know what is in the plan,

but you want to live each day for the Lord and do what God wants you to do (**Psalm 39**).

Job 8:7 *“Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.”*

My definition of prosperity, as I understand it from the Lord, is knowing God. Prosperity is a personal relationship with Him like Jesus had when He said, "Father, I know You hear Me always."

It was not like Job (before He repented) who said, "I have heard about You with my ears and I worshiped You, but now I know who You are face-to-face."

It was that face-to-face relationship. It was knowing that God was just as real as we are. He is here with us. What He says is what He is. and He does what He says. You just know that because you have a relationship.

You can say like Jesus, "Father, I know that You hear Me always." The Father always wants us talking to Him, and He wants to talk to us and share with us His great and wonderful plans. The Lord has plans that exceed our greatest imaginations.

When you are prosperous, if you remember your humble beginnings, you will always remain thankful to the One who made you prosperous, blessed, saved, and delivered, and is always faithfully with you, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I live today to proclaim the Lord, Jesus Christ. I am here to proclaim the goodness of God and literally here to proclaim the goodness of God because the Lord showed goodness to me. He confirmed His Word.

I have always believed in **Psalm 34** and **Psalm 91**, being under the shadow of the Almighty, and the Lord put me under His shadow. He put me in His everlasting arms. Many times the thief has come to try to steal my life over the years in many ways (physically, with several attacks). He tries to take your reputation through the tongues of people. But this was actually an attack through a car accident.

I was going through a green light. I drove into the intersection and that is all I remember. I asked two of my brothers in the Lord to tell what happened. I had the privilege to be with two men of God, for I love to fellowship with God's ministers. We were sharing the Lord with each other at lunch and having a good time, and then we left.

I looked at my watch and it was 1:35PM as I drove around the restaurant parking lot and proceeded onto the street. One brother who was on a motorcycle went through the green light first. Then a car between us went through and I went through last. I did not make it through. That is all I remember.

Things happen that impact many lives in many ways.

Psalm 91 talks about the divine protection of God and how thousands will fall at my left and ten thousand at my right, but they won't come near me. And it talks about being under the shadow of the Almighty, how God will protect you and care for you.

Psalm 34 *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.” “Not a bone in their body will be broken.”* I am a living testimony of this. You might look at me and think I look pretty healthy. Yes, I have been saved by the Lord. Not a bone in my body was broken and I am still coming back to fullness, as God would have it. I was just in a happy place.

An Eyewitness Testimony

Brothers Max and Charlie have a ministry in Indio, and Brother Charlie will share what happened the day of the accident because I do not remember what happened. I will describe what the Lord did with me at that point, though.

Pastor Randy: What went on, and what the Lord was doing that day with all of us?

Brother Charlie: First of all, I want to say, I'm happy to be here, in this happy place, fellowshiping with everyone. I had a phone call and we conversed and I said that I'd sure like to meet you some day. I am a youth pastor. I told Pastor Randy about the particular kids that we were discussing

and he said, "Sure, why don't we do it this coming week?" It wasn't in our schedule, so we postponed it to the following week, and when we arrived at the restaurant, we met with him. Amazingly, I was running some errands and I ran into my own pastor down the street from where I was. I said, "Hey, I am going to meet with Brother Randy Brodhagen, why don't you come with us?" I thought he would probably say, "No, this is your thing," but he said, "Sure." And he even bought lunch.

Total blessing. I went there and on the way there, I said, "Lord, what do You have for me? Use Your anointing, speak to me, Lord. I need help." For a while, it seemed like things were going wrong with our youth and we sat there and we ministered to one another and we began to share our hearts with the brother and he gave us big golden nuggets, big ones that were heavy, pure. And we said that we were running with them.

We were ministered to, we were blessed, we were excited. Then we got into our vehicles, each one in his own vehicle. We don't believe in carpooling around here yet. Anyway, my pastor left first and then I made a U-turn on my motorcycle, and Brother Randy honored me and let me go first. Then I went by and he was still behind me in the parking lot. When we got to the light, I was turning left and Max had already gone in front of me and he turned right. Suddenly I could hear this car coming really fast. I heard an impact and I saw in my rear view mirror Pastor Randy's vehicle on two wheels tilted towards the passenger side and going like it was going to roll over. For some reason it just fell back down and then took off, real fast, and hit the curb.

I pulled over on my bike and usually I have a hard time taking my helmet off, but I just ripped it off and threw it on the ground and took off running. I ran a pretty good distance. By this time as I was running, I saw the car go airborne; hitting the curb and it went in between a big steel sign and a palm tree, with not very much room. It squeezed through, in the air kind of, bounced into a trench that they have there for water drainage, and when it bounced it bent the vehicle. When it bounced, it went up in the air again and landed through a brick wall.

I tried to get to Pastor Randy as soon as I could, but there was a giant palm tree right up against his vehicle, right by his body, and the truck was dented in this way. So I ran around the other side, and it is smoking. I turned off

the key because you could hear the engine running and I said, "Pastor Randy, Pastor Randy, are you alright? Do you feel any pain?"

All I could hear was Pastor Randy speaking in tongues to the Lord, so I was scared and I just held his hand. I started praying, "Oh Lord, protect him, do not let anything be wrong with him Lord, help us Jesus." I was scared for him. I thought for sure that he was not going to be alive in his vehicle, not the way that it happened.

After I finished speaking to the Lord, I looked at Brother Randy and said, "Brother, do you know who I am?" And he gave me a smile. And then he went back to worshiping the Lord. So by this time, it seemed like everything that happened took a long time, but it happened in only the few seconds that I was there. I was telling him that everything was going to be okay, and the ambulance was coming. The next thing I knew, the paramedics, the police and the fire department were all there.

What I remember, Brother Randy, is that I was grateful to the Lord that He spared you. I just could not believe it. I am still in awe every time I drive by there how God's power, how His hand could guide your big vehicle through this sign and all of those palm trees and land on top of a large fence.

It broke part of the fence down. I was like, "Whoa." And I said, "Lord, Why? Why?" And I felt that the Lord had answered me and said, "It could have been you, but you were not ready, this brother was ready." And I said, "Lord, I want to be ready." That is what I remember.

Pastor Randy: I want to thank God that Charlie and Max prayed for me, for the paramedics, the rescue people, the emergency ward people, and everyone who did such a wonderful job. From what I understand, it took 20 minutes to cut me out of the vehicle, which was an Explorer utility vehicle. The insurance people said that it was a severe impact and the vehicle was completely totaled. There is nothing left of the thing. I don't remember a thing from the point where I saw brother Charlie pull around on the motorcycle through the intersection and Max go the other way, and the light was green. All that I remember is the green light, I went into that intersection, and that was it.

I was someplace else. I asked the Lord later whether I died and He said, "No, the thief tried to take your life again, but I took you with Me to the Safe Place," which is the way that He described it. It was kind of a catastrophe, a tragedy when you see everything. I guess it was a mess. I don't even care to see the vehicle, and I don't care to see anything about it. I don't remember it.

The fellow, was running the red light and came up and hit me right on the driver's side, but I don't remember it. I did not hear anything. I did not feel anything. I did not see anything. I just felt something envelope me, and I was in this happy, peaceful, Safe Place.

The Lord has explained everything to me now, and He has given me Scriptures about the Safe Place and being under the shadow of the Almighty. I believe in this. You know that I have been through a lot of things over the years, and God has always kept me. That is why I am still here. The Safe Place was just this incredible, peaceful, happy place.

Brother Charlie was in my dream. He was looking at me and it was, I guess, when he was praying with me. I just remember him in my dream, and I remember the rescue people yelling something about tearing the console out or something to get me out of there. And in the ambulance, I lay on this hard thing. I remember that, but I didn't care. I met a very lovely man that was talking with me. I do not remember the conversation, but I remember that he was very helpful and caring. I don't remember hours in the emergency ward when I actually came to, but it was like everything was over. They ran X-rays, and every bone was perfect. Not one bone was broken. They ran the C-T scans and that all looked good.

I guess I am still being treated for things. They are still running tests through, but I know that the Lord will see everything.

Don't ask me what your name is right now. I may remember it, or I may not. But to me it is the funniest feeling, because when I am in the Spirit ministering to people, after a service I tell people the same thing. I may or may not know your name. Because I am in the Spirit.

When I walked out of the emergency room that night, I was hungry. All week I have just been in the Spirit. I just don't care about anything, except

God. He told me about this Safe Place and when I asked Him if I had died, He said, "No you did not die, I took you with Me in this Safe Place." And that is why I was praying in the Spirit.

Pastor Randy: "Brother Charlie, How have you grown in the Lord through this experience?"

Brother Charlie: I appreciate every moment of my life now. I travel that road every day and that it has made me more alert also. I know that the enemy is out there and is declaring war on our brothers, so I am alert. It has taught me to stay in the Spirit. To seek the Lord, to praise Him. When I am riding, when I am driving, I praise the Lord and claim His promises and protection, because it is a mad world out there. It is crazy. Especially down that piece of the highway.

Pastor Randy: The last few days that I was being chauffeured around I had become so sensitive to the amount of bad driving that is really going on out there. I mean, it is scary. And people doing back-up turn-arounds in the middle of traffic.

Father, we want to pray for the other person, too and Lord, we ask that You heal his body in Jesus' name and minister to his family and love them and help them at this time. Lord, that you would bless them and cause good things to come to them in Jesus' name. Thank You, Lord.

Brother Max's Testimony

Brother Max, from your perspective, what was happening there? We were talking about some things at lunch, and I had told Brother Charlie that you have to be careful of those motorcycles out there. I was looking into getting a tank. But the Lord is good!

Brother Max: Well, one thing I saw immediately when you came into the restaurant and we were sitting there, I saw an intensity in your eyes. From the very beginning, when I first laid eyes on you and our eyes made contact, I saw an intensity, real strong and I didn't know what was going on. But I felt in my Spirit that you knew or you had a sense that something was about to happen and I just said, "I don't know what's going on." But I saw this intensity in your eyes that was very strong.

Anyway, as we fellowshiped there together I felt that God was going to bring some answers to us and I felt that the enemy was present because he did not want us to hear certain things that we needed to hear. It seemed like time went by fast. We were there for about two hours. But it seemed like we were only there for like five or ten minutes.

As we stepped outside the restaurant we were standing around talking to each other, and then I said I had to go. You were walking across the street to your Explorer, and Charlie was walking to his motorcycle. I got into my truck and said, "Okay brothers, I will see you later." We all gave each other a hug and we left.

I went first. I got to the light and I made a right turn and I kept going. I went into Sav-On and purchased some things and I came out. I didn't hear anything. When I got home, there was a message on the answering machine that said, "Brother Max, we were just at lunch with Brother Randy of Glory to God Ministries and Brother Charlie and I have to tell you that Pastor Randy was in a terrible accident just now." I didn't know who was on the answering machine. It said, "Get over there as fast as you can." The ambulance and the police and everything were out there trying to get him out of the car. They did not know what his condition was.

Immediately after that, Brother Charlie called and said that he had Brother Randy's cell phone and his keys. "I'm traumatized, here, I don't even want to move my bike. Can you come and help me, brother?" So I picked him up and he wanted to go to the emergency room at Desert Hospital. I have to tell you, brother, that when I walked into the emergency room in the area where you were lying down, your body was swollen. I stepped out and I told Brother Charlie that Brother Randy's body looked swollen. Something didn't seem right. But we continued to pray there. When your wife arrived she said, "Praise God. There are some things that are being broken in the spirit." She said that is why this happened.

Now you know those words have stuck with me from that day till now. Even as I say these words, I feel the presence of the Lord. I feel the Lord's anointing right now. I feel His presence very strong because I really believe that God has broken some things in the spirit. But He sometimes asks for us as a living sacrifice for Him, to see how much we are willing to do in order to get those things, which He wants to give us.

On three I want all of you to stand and say to Brother Randy, "We love you." On three, okay, one-two-three, "We love you, Brother Randy."

That's what I experienced. I do not know what the meaning of this is and I do not want to try to understand it, I just want to believe God and all of that. He is on the throne.

Pastor Randy: What has the Lord done for you, personally?

Brother Max: Through this He has awoken something in me that I do not understand and I know that it is His Spirit, but I don't understand it. But I have come to realize more that if I want God to be more in my life, then I need to not be afraid to take those risks that sometimes I need to take.

Like Brother Charlie said, "We were about halfway between the other vehicles, or less time, when this accident took place; any one of us could have been there." Brother Charlie was on a motorcycle; he would have been killed instantly. I was in a smaller truck, a small Ranger. Brother Randy had the largest vehicle. So I just said, "Lord, I don't understand it, but You used the brother to shield us," and I had felt that God produced a shield for us that day. I do not know what this all means, but something happened to me after that day and I am not the same person. I know that I am not.

And when I saw your body, swollen in the emergency room, I felt something was not quite right, but then later your wife came out as we were waiting for her and she said, "Everything is fine," and so I said, "Praise God." And I just appreciate you for taking the time that day to come out and meet with us. Brother Charlie said that he felt kind of bad because you came out to have a meeting with us and look what happened. She said, "Do not worry about it, Randy has been through this before."

Pastor Randy: I have one of those great gifts from God. My lady, has seen me go through many things, and she just believes God. *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all. Not a bone will be broken."* **Psalm 34.**

The Lord has done a healing in you in relation to your daddy through this whole thing. Would you like to share a little bit about what happened there?

(The Lord revealed a word of knowledge to Pastor Randy about Max's dad, who he did not know.)

Brother Max: My father was in a terrible car accident when I was 14 years old. The steering wheel pressed against his chest and the pressure created some tumors in his chest area and throat area. I started driving when I was 12 years old, and I used to drive my father everywhere. One day, I did not want to miss any more school because I was already failing all my classes and my father had asked me to drive him to Bakersfield from Delano which is about 30 miles away.

But I went to school and that day he had the accident. For a long time I struggled and felt that it was my fault that he had been involved in that accident. Later the tumors started growing and spreading throughout his body. He eventually died of cancer. And so I blamed myself for a long, long time.

About five years ago I spoke with my mother and told her how I had felt for many years that if I had driven that day for my dad, he would still be alive. I told her that I feel guilty about it. She said, "No, son, do not feel bad about that anymore."

It is amazing what you said because two nights ago I dreamed about my father. I think that the accident brought back all of those memories about him. Because when the accident happened I said, "It could have been any one of us." The Lord brought some words (through the dream) of reassurance, that was needed to happen to my father, at that time and I had no control over it. And now he is in the best place that he could be, which is with the Lord.

Pastor Randy: The Lord was showing me about your daddy and what God was doing with you through this whole thing. I have seen many times where the Lord has had me go through something. He did not cause it, but He said that the thief came to steal and that the devil tried to kill me, but the Lord put me in a Safe Place.

Many plans will come out of this for many people. Because the Lord says in **Hosea 4:6**, "*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*" And people need to

know **Psalm 34**. They need to know **Psalm 91** and believe those promises of God.

The Word of God has so much in there. *“If you make the Most High your dwelling (**Psalm 91:9**) even the Lord who is my refuge, then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against the stone.*

Brother Charlie, you mentioned that vehicle was flying. The angels were guiding it. It was a guided missile. They set it down in there. *“Because he loves Me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him, I will protect him for he acknowledges My name. He will call upon Me and I will answer him and I will be with him in trouble and I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation. He who dwells in the shelter [the shadow] of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.’ “*

In that place, that Safe Place, where God is, it is in the Spirit. When I was praying in the Spirit, I was in the Spirit. A lot of people don't understand the Holy Spirit, but let me tell you, without Him, I would not be here today. Many people don't understand praying in tongues. When you came across me, what was I doing?

Brother Charlie: You were praying in tongues.

Pastor Randy: I was happy to see you in my dream, but I was in the Safe Place. I was in the zone of the Lord. Let me tell you, He knows how to keep His people.

They're still looking at test results and going through things, but I know when the dust settles, we are going to be better than ever before.

The Lord loves and cares for His ministers. If people would care for their ministers like God cares for His ministers, all of the people would be blessed exceedingly, abundantly well. (**II Chronicles 20:20**)

God is faithful. Do not be afraid or disarmed by things that happen around you. I have seen so much. I believe life is an ongoing adventure with God, because you never know what is going to happen. People can cry about what has happened in their life, saying all of this happened and all of that happened, but God is greater and bigger and He will see us through it all, to His glory.

I could say that my faith was great, but I didn't even know what happened.

The Lord knows our beginning from our end. He knows what is going to happen and He had a provision waiting for what happened. I did not even hear a crash. I did not even feel anything. There is the Safe Place in the Lord.

Thanks, guys, for loving God and loving us. God bless you in the ministry and your families. I had never met those brothers before, and I hope the Lord puts us back together again. I believe He is and that He will, for all of the ministers of God around the world are on the same team working together, in the same direction with God's people to reach the world for Jesus.

Know the Goodness of God

There are so many tragedies and catastrophes in the world out there; people need to know the goodness of God. They need to know about the Safe Place. They need to know that the Lord is real and that He cares and He loves them and He will help them.

Hosea 4:6 says, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* Friends, we need to know the Word of God. We need to believe it.

The Lord told me that He knew that I would talk, to His glory, about what He does. So that is why a lot of things happen to me. I am a living testimony of the goodness of God and how He can see you through things. *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers us out of them all.”* Out of them all.

I need the lubricating of the Holy Ghost; the parts are all loosening up. I am believing that I will be able to get into a car again and drive. Pastor Randy prayed for anybody that had been in anything like that because, all of a

sudden, you see all of these weapons formed against you. As I look at the way people drive, they are formed against you. I encourage the people reading this, drive carefully. Watch what you are doing and watch what is going on around you. Be alert and if you aren't alert, don't drive.

The Lord gave me a list that will bless you. People that are helping people need to hear this. And if you're not helping people, you're going to get out of your selfishness and be able to help people because if you get this promise, you'll say, "Hey, the blessing is in helping people."

Psalm 41:1-3 *"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak."* This is people going through stuff. The Lord delivers them in times of trouble. If you help people, when trouble comes to you, who is going to deliver you? The Lord is.

It took them 20 minutes to cut me out of my vehicle. The insurance people said they see hundreds of vehicles and no one walks away alive from one that looks like that. Everywhere I go – the doctors, the insurance people – everyone says to me that I am lucky to be alive. Bless God. The emergency ward doctor was so precious; he just gave me his card and asked me to pray for him. It was so precious because the Lord did it and he knew that the Lord did it. There are such wonderful people out there that are helping others and that are caring for them. They are going through stuff too, because they see these situations, day in and day out.

But many people are afraid. The taxes being raised are paying for these folk that are helping people. They are doing a lot of things. If you see somebody who is helping people, walk up to them and give them some money. Show your appreciation, bless them. And they will say, "What is this?" And you can say, "It is not a bribe. It is just encouragement. Thank you for doing good and for helping us and being out there for us."

"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the Lord delivers him in time of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life. He will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes, whether the devil or people under the influence of the devil. The Lord will sustain him on his sick bed and restore him from his bed of illness." (Ps. 41:1-3)

Now this is good motivation. This is what we call fringe benefits of going out in the name of Jesus and doing good and helping those that are oppressed of the devil. Because God is with us.

That Safe Place is the same place that I am in when I am in the Spirit under the anointing of God. It is not that God took me off to Pluto, or to Mars. It is right here, because He is right here. What He did was wrap His arms around me, and He held me and kept me safe.

Part Two
THE EVIL ONE TOUCHES YOU NOT

The Lord said to proclaim the message of the Safe Place to His people. “My people need to know that there is a Safe Place in Me.” When the calamities, tragedies and destruction of life go on, there is a Safe Place in the Lord where He will take you, and the evil one will touch you not. He will keep you in His care, His love, His peace and in His joy, no matter what happens.

The first part of **Psalm 34** has always been a theme of the ministry of God to Glory to God Ministries International. It says, *“I will extol the Lord at all times. His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord. Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.”*

There is hope for the afflicted. There is hope for people that are going through awful things in life – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationships. There is hope because we have a God of hope.

He says, *“Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.”* God can turn around what was intended for evil. He can turn it to good for those that believe.

I am here today to boast in the Lord. God knows the devil tried to silence my mouth. People have tried to silence my mouth. But God made me to praise the Lord and to boast about the faithfulness and the goodness of God. Nothing in hell can come against God's people and stand because the Lord stands with us. That means that when God comes on the field, the enemy leaves. No contest. So let the afflicted hear what the Spirit of the Lord has to say. The Lord loves you and He can turn things around for you.

Here are some points from the Word of God about the Safe Place that will help you to stay in the Spirit. This is where we need to be when the things of life are ravaging and raging around. This is the place of peace that God has for us where the evil one touches you not.

Psalm 34: *“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called upon the Lord [hurting], the Lord heard him;*

He saved him out of all of his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them.”

I did not have time in the accident to call upon the Lord as in other times. As I was going into the intersection, I was the third vehicle going through the green light. A car ran the red light and that is all I remember. In fact I do not even remember him running the red light. All I know is that mine was green and that I was going in and from there I was taken into a peaceful, joyful, happy place.

I guess I was unconscious from that point for a couple of hours, and in and out, but the Lord was with me and I was with Him. All I remember is happy thoughts, happy memories and good things. Others had to tell me about all of the tragedy and calamity around, but it did not touch me in that respect. I was saved from all of the commotion.

I have had other times in life where I went through a process, but God was still with me. We have a booklet titled "Patience" which tells you how to go through your life problems when things are happening around and how the Lord can have you rejoice and be glad and overcome.

But in this particular accident, I was just kept in the Lord. *“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him.”* Reverence, honor, respect and worship the Lord. Many things happen in life to people because they do not know the Lord. They do not believe the Lord on many of His promises. They do not walk in obedience to His Word. If we are going to see the Safe Place work in a person's life, one has to be walking with the Lord. This is very important.

People wonder why bad things happen to good people. This is because there is an enemy out there that wants to steal, kill and destroy. He is after those who resist steadfast in the faith and believe God. The fact of God is that if you believe Him and you worship Him, then every one of His promises go into effect in your life. God will keep you in His peace in a Safe Place, in His joy, no matter what is going on around.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.” I have always looked through the Bible concerning what is blessed and what is cursed. This one says, *“Blessed is the man who takes refuge in*

the Lord, who puts their confidence in God.” God is the fortress and the protector. It says that person will be blessed. “Fear the Lord, you saints. [Reverence, worship, honor], for those who fear Him lack nothing” – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially and in relationships.

Note: Take refuge in the Lord. Fear the Lord. Call to Him. Seek the Lord. *“He answered me. He delivered me from all of my fears.”*

These are active steps on the part of God's people. God has made a covenant with us: if you do this, then He will do this. He will protect you. He will bless you and He will look out for you. *“The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing.”*

People wonder why they do not have good things, physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and relationship. It is because they do not seek the Lord. They are not looking to Him. They are not honoring Him. They are not loving Him first in their life.

God says that if you honor Him and seek Him, you will lack for no good thing. That is God's promise and He is faithful to His promise. He will perform His promise. *“Come My children, listen to Me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”* People need to learn this. They need to learn to worship God, to reverence the Lord. The key to the Safe Place is honoring God, and loving God. It is setting Him before anybody or anything in your life. When you do that, then the Lord will take care of you in every way.

“Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.” Honor God by speaking the truth, doing what is right. Have integrity in your dealings. Do not talk badly about people and things. Speak God's truth in love. *“Turn from evil, do good, seek peace and pursue it.”* If you are doing those things, then God's covenant goes into effect. And His love is upon you and His blessing is with you.

“...The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous.” We are the apples of God's eye and He sets His heart upon us. If you look closely in the eyes of somebody, you will see your little head like a little apple in their eye, and that is how close God is looking at us.

There are some people who do not want God around because they are not honoring Him, they are doing their own thing, but I just love the presence of God. I want Him around all the time.

“...The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. His ears are attentive to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.”

Life is short. We are in the midst of life and death, at any moment. We need to be ready to meet the Lord.

I asked the Lord, "Did I die?" and He said “No, the thief came again to steal your life, but I came that you might have life. I took you to the Safe Place with Me.”

“...The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them. He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

In life, things happen to people, but the Holy Spirit is the healer of the broken-hearted! He mends us as we put our love first in Him. Let me help you to understand too, that the only way you can have a broken heart, is to place somebody in your life before the Lord. Before we come to the place where we have the Lord as our first love, we often put our heart on people and things. But they let us down. Even the best people let us down, or we are expecting more than what somebody is able to do.

When you put your heart on the Lord and your confidence in God, He is able to do everything for us – more than what we can ask, imagine or think. With our expectation in Him, He will heal the broken heart. He will help us to see that He is our source. The Lord is my help. The Lord is my lover, my protector, my defender, my provider. He is my all in all.

Get your love off yourself and others and put your love on the Lord first, with all our heart, our mind and our soul. Then love your neighbor as yourself. Because you are able to love your neighbor then as you love the Lord because He gives that love to you.

This is the verse the Lord gave me in this last situation. *“He protects all of his bones; not one of them will be broken.”* That is what the Lord did for me. The doctors could not figure out why my bones were not crushed or broken. No blood on the brain, nothing except what they call soft tissue damage.

I got stronger every day. It was a recovery process that you go through because you come out of the Spirit and you come back, as one of the doctors put it, and you have seen the light. It takes a while to come back into normal existence. What I call in the Spirit. I do not think I have ever been in the Spirit that long.

You have moments in and out of the Spirit in life, and as you are ministering in the Spirit, but this was like an all day, everyday kind of thing. It was like: Do not ask me about 10 minutes ago, because I really do not care about 10 minutes ago, and I do not really care about the future. I am living in the moment right now. It is nice. It is actually what I have been teaching people for many years. *“Forget the things behind and press ahead to the mark of the high calling of God that is yours in Christ Jesus,”* with a thankful heart to God for all that He is and all that He is doing. Understand that if you are seeking to walk with God, enemies will come, but the Lord will take you to a Safe Place and keep you there with Him. He will see you through it all.

The key is not to get in the flesh and not to lean to your own understanding. Do not try to figure things out or fight back. *“Do not resist evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Stay in the Spirit, in obedience to God. That is what walking in the Spirit is. It is obeying God and walking with God. Then God will take care of all of the other things around you.

“...the Lord redeems His servants; and no one will be condemned who takes refuge in Him.” That is so exciting. These words are living words. David was speaking by the Holy Spirit as he went through situations. He was being hunted for his life. Mine was an accident. There are different times when we need the Safe Place. It may be in relationships when people are saying and doing things. It may be in financial calamities. It may be in health issues that you are dealing with; mental strains that are trying to take your peace and joy. But the Lord has a Safe Place with Him.

These Psalms come alive because as the Lord says, *“My words are Spirit in life.”* *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”* **Psalm 91:1** This is the Safe Place. Note, he who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Dwell in the fortress of God, and the Lord is in the fortress, and you want to stay in the fortress. You want to stay in the presence of God, and obey His Word. That is how you stay in the dwelling place of God. You are not going outside of the fortress by disobeying Him and getting disobedient attitudes. You want to stay in faith in God.

You don't know how He will work it out. You cannot figure it out, yet you still try. The Lord says, *“Do not even go there. Just stay with Me in peace and in faith, and do what I say to do, and I will take care of you. I will look out for you. Cast all of your care upon Me, for I affectionately care for you and watch over you.”*

The devil coming in like a roaring lion seeking to devour you, **I Peter 5:8** but he cannot devour you when you are in the Safe Place with God, in the fortress. There is a Safe Place and the devil and the calamities of life do not have to touch you and have an effect. God will see you through them all in Jesus' name. No matter what comes, I will say of the Lord and I say it today, *“He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.”*

“...Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.” Whether it is a car accident, or a sickness, a disease, or whatever was intended for evil, the Lord will save His people. He knows how to save His people. *“He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge.”*

Like the picture of the mother hen covering the chicks is he who dwells in the shelter of the Almighty. You have got to want to stay there with God. And it is a place right here. You don't have to die. It is right here in the presence of God. He is with us and for us. It is the Safe Place in God's Spirit.

“...You will not fear the terror of night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.”

There are many people who fear calamities, like what if this happens, or what if that happens. The Lord says, “Do not fear about any of that. I have a Safe Place for you and I will keep you there. If you put your faith in Me and you do what I say, I will keep you there, in that Safe Place.” Things will happen, for many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.

One of the things that I have become very aware of is the bad driving that goes on. For a little while I looked at every car as a weapon formed against me, but the Lord used this scripture to work that out of me. The Lord will help us. Be aware. *“A thousand will fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”*

I have absolutely no recollection of anything bad that happening in the accident, even though the car was demolished and a lot of things happened. I thank the Lord for all of the people that helped me through the whole ordeal. A mess was all around, but it did not come near me.

God's promise is true. It is sure. I am here to proclaim it. Thank you, Jesus!

Psalm 91:9: *“If you make the Most High your dwelling”* is the call of God to the people of the earth. “If” is a condition. It is a choice that we make. *“If you make the Most High [the Lord God of Hosts, the Lord Jesus] your dwelling even the Lord, who is my refuge [now look at this promise that the Lord God says that He will do for His people], if your love is set upon the Lord first and foremost beyond anybody, anything, then this is God's promise in His covenant to us. No harm will befall you. No disaster will come near your tent.*

In California, that is earthquake insurance, and it still works all around the world.

“...For He [God] will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against the stone.”

When I was unconscious the vehicle went up on two wheels, according to the eye witness reports, and across the intersection. The Lord caused it not to flip over and roll, but to come back down on four wheels. The accelerator was somehow jammed, and it ran across the road hitting the curb, was airborne, crashed through a wall and wedged between a palm tree and a steel sign. The Lord stopped the vehicle that way.

Here it is, *“They will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone [or a tree, or a sign].”* Thank you, Jesus!

“...You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.” When you see these terms used, “the great lion and the serpent,” it is speaking about demonic forces. *“...And they will not have power over you”* and you will trample on them, for it is the Lord who has you with Him in the Safe Place. The Lord is doing this. He gets all of the glory and praise.

Note: This has to be the attitude in our heart ... *“Because he loves Me, says the Lord.”*

The Lord's love is in the Safe Place. That is what it is all about, His blessing. To enter into that, we must respond to the love of God and put our love first upon Him – more than upon our own life, more than upon anybody or anything else on this earth.

This is what He was showing me and He said to tell the people about it, because He wants to do this. In **Hosea 4:6** the Lord says, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* People need to hear this so that they do not perish before their time and are able to get done what God needs to get done, so and they are not all lame, crippled, or beat up in the whole process.

The Lord says, *“I rescue him because he loves Me. I will protect him for he acknowledges My name.”* The Lord says to boast about Him. Tell the nations about what great and wonderful things He has done for you.

“He will call upon Me and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.”

I have known this promise since I was a little boy. I was taught the Word of God. I read it, and I believe it, and that settles it with me. In this particular case, the Lord has shown me something very interesting. After Jesus was crucified, He was dead (yet He was alive). Physically, He died.

When you are physically dead, you are not alive as far as people understand. Does faith operate after you are dead? No. Can a dead man talk or walk? Can a dead man get angry? Can a dead man enjoy wealth and things and people or relationships? No, he cannot.

This is very exciting, something the Lord was showing me. Jesus went to the grave believing in the Father and He was righteous as He died on the cross for us. His blood was given for us.

What He did for us gave us the opportunity to be saved. Whoever believes upon the Lord Jesus will not perish but will have everlasting life and will be forgiven of all sins. Everything that separated us from God will be removed and God's love is ours. It is available to us through that act of obedience at the cross.

The Lord was showing me that it was His love and faithfulness that raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus was in a state of righteousness. He was in a state of holiness and obedience with God when He went to the cross. When He said, "It is finished," it was finished. The offering for the sin of mankind was completed. And thank God, we are declared not guilty anymore, in Jesus.

Jesus went down to the place of the dead. He did not go down there to suffer, as some people think. Jesus never suffered the pains of anything in that holding place. It says that He went down and proclaimed the gospel, the good news, to the people who had died.

Everybody before Jesus received an opportunity. They saw their salvation. They died in faith. **Hebrews 11** talks about them not having seen their salvation until Jesus went down there, and they saw it. Someday they will rise first to meet the Lord in the air, and those that remain will be changed and rise to meet Him. We will all be with the Lord together, forever.

The Lord was showing me that as He died, He was in righteousness and faith. God then raised Him from the dead. He did not raise Himself. The Father raised Him up.

On the day of the car accident we were all pastors just talking about the Lord. God encouraged Max and Charlie in their ministry, and it was good. We were just driving along in the normal, natural way of life. The thief comes when you are going through the normal things of life. This could be anything. Not long afterward, I had a flat tire one morning before I came to church. I made it in at two minutes to nine o'clock for service. These things try to come, but it does not bother me anymore. You go along and deal with everything as you go. Before I might have been a little upset, but I have become just thankful to be here, thankful to be alive, thankful to be able to proclaim the goodness of God, and Diana was a wonderful chauffeur.

The Lord showed me that I was not releasing any great faith at that point. I was not singing praise songs as I went into the intersection. I was not speaking the Word of God, like "*A thousand will fall at my left, ten thousand at my right;*" I was not doing any of that. I was just driving through the intersection and "bam." Suddenly. Suddenly, using a natural thing as a car, the thief tried to take my life and tried to harm the person driving the other vehicle. Who knows where that car could have crashed into.

There were many people on the other side, if God had not stopped it between the palm tree and the sign. It was like a guided missile, a perfect fit. God wanted to protect the other people there as well. The Lord showed me that when you are walking with God and something comes out of the clear blue, God will take you to the Safe Place. He will look out for you; He will care for you.

Somebody told me "I felt real bad because I should have been praying more for you." A pastor had told her that there was not enough prayer covering in another situation where somebody died. So she was living in that kind of thing where she was always thinking, *God, am I doing enough? Am I covering the bases? Am I reading my 20 scriptures today? Am I witnessing? Am I praying? Am I doing everything right?*

As she was talking, it called something to remembrance in me. The Lord showed me years ago about *“This kind of devil only comes out with prayer and fasting.”* And I thought, *God, I want to be ready to cast that devil out. But how can I be fasting all of the time?*

I figured out that praying all of the time without ceasing is praying in the tongues. I used to pray a couple of hours and run out of things to pray for (with my understanding). But I can pray in tongues night and day. In fact, when Charlie found me in the vehicle, he looked at me and asked if I knew who he was. I just smiled at him and continued to pray in tongues.

I was praying in the Spirit, unconscious, because I was in the Safe Place. I was in the Spirit praying, but I was unconscious. Which goes to show that your spirit is working whether you are sleeping or unconscious. It is going all of the time.

The Lord answered my question, "You do not have to be fasting all the time to cast that devil out." The body needs to eat. Sometimes we overindulge, but it needs to eat to live and to exist. The spirit does not need that.

Man does not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds forth from the mouth of God. But the body needs physical food because it is a physical entity. You cannot be fasting all of the time. All you have to do is have faith in the name of Jesus, and you can cast the devil out no matter what kind it is. We have authority over all things that are not of God, in Jesus' name!

I was able to minister to the lady because she was concerned that she was not praying enough. She prays for us every day, and I said, "How much more can you pray?"

In **Psalm 91** the righteous live *“Because he loves Me, I will rescue him. I will protect him. I will defend him. Because he has put Me as his first love.”*

The criteria is God's promise. It is not based on all of the prayers or anything else. It has to do with God's faithfulness to His covenant that He has made with each of us as His children.

My relationship with God was in place when I went into the intersection. I did not have a lot of willful, knowing sin in my life. I was not resisting God or being disobedient, or getting headstrong. I was just happy. I was happy to see these other brothers blessed and I was just going on my way. Suddenly, something just comes to ruin your life.

The Lord said, "I took you with Me to the Safe Place." What the Lord is saying to us today is that it was not my great faith or anything else. It was God's faith in me that kept me at that point. But I was in a righteous place.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all. Not a bone in their body will be broken." (Ps. 43) It is for God to determine. I cannot determine my own righteousness or the lack of it. But this I know, that is God's promise and He did His promise. Something must have been okay on this end. God is faithful!

People want the Safe Place to work, but they are not in the fortress of God. They are not delighting in the Lord. They are doing their own thing. Christians are compromising their lives, and then they wonder why problems happen.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but how much more are the afflictions of the unrighteous? How much more is the problem if you are unrighteous? Then the promise is not going to work. You cannot make it work because only God can make it work. The call of God today is to get our lives and attitudes straightened out and to examine ourselves. (II **Corinthians 13:5**)

Understand, in one minute you could be gone to meet your Maker. I always want to be ready. I guess I was ready, but it was not the time. I have things to do, people to see and places to go. The Lord said, "I want you to proclaim about the Safe Place."

To many people these are just words on a page. They have read it many times, but never really thought about it. I believe those **Psalm 91** words. That is why I am here today, because God is faithful to perform His Word.

The Lord said, "Tell the people they have to believe My Words." They are not just words on a page, you have to believe them. You have to know that

“the angels of the Lord encamp around about the righteous.” You see, the word keeps coming up, again and again and again. *“Because he sets his love upon Me,”* I will do this and I will do that.

The thief attacks people in the area of their fears, or many times produces fear out of the attack - terrorism.

There is a matter of wisdom, but I do not want to put somebody else's life in jeopardy. In the same way, I do want to speak to drunk drivers, people on medication, drugs, etc. who should not be driving. They should not be driving unless they are in a place to drive, because that car is a weapon, and you do not want to be responsible for somebody else's harm. I believe that speeding drivers are all over the place. I have seen five or six people run lights since the accident. I saw one fella back up on Highway 111, stop and do a U-turn, right in traffic. That was the night after the accident. We need a “Safe Place.” All kinds of crazy things are going on in this world.

This is important. When the Lord says, *“Observe My Word, do not turn to the left or to the right of it,”* He is saying be accurate in it. Do what He says, the way He says to do it. In the same way, if we have a vehicle and a license, and we are out there on the road, we are responsible for our driving. Take heed to do what God says. Take heed to do what the law of the land is. This is very important!

Part Three
THE LORD WILL HIDE YOU FROM TROUBLE

God never does little things, He does great things and what appears to be little is great when God does it.

You have to stay with God and not get too far behind. Certainly never get ahead of Him. I would rather take little stagger steps but stay right behind God. The Lord will let you walk up beside Him. He wants us walking beside Him and together He wants to take us by the hand, and He wants to accomplish great and wonderful things. But He wants us to work together with Him – co-laborers, working together with God. God is the senior partner. He is out ahead and He is doing what He says He is going to do. It is great and wonderful.

Without vision, people perish. That is often why people have problems. They are not seeking God about what He wants, what His plans are and allowing Him to carry it out. Many will not even start something because they are afraid. With the Lord, you just take your sure, slow, steady, steps. The Lord makes all things beautiful in its time. That is, everything has a time and a season and you cannot get out ahead.

Have you found that all your worrying, fussing, and trying to move out ahead of time just made you frustrated? You do not have to be frustrated if you let God build your house.

Sure, slow, steady steps equal God's success (His will and purpose accomplished). This has two implications: 1) Get up, and 2) Stay with it. Do not give up, do not faint in the day of adversity, do not listen to the evil reports. The Lord is good, so you stay with it until it is finished.

One day a gentleman come in with palsy. By the time God was done with him, he was steady. The Lord wants to help people. God is steady. **Malachi 3** says, *"I am the Lord who does not change."* Keep going, no matter what you run into.

One time I asked the Lord, "Father, why are we having so much trouble with this?" And He said, "Because it is My will." If you do not hear God correctly, you would think it is God's will that you have trouble. That is not

true, and it is not what God was saying. He was saying that we were doing His will. My question was, "Why, are we having so much trouble" and He was saying it was His will that we have the project we were working on at the time and that it come to completion.

When it is God's will, you know the devil is going to try to smack you down on it, and get you discouraged so that you give up. But "*if you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*" The promise of God will strengthen us.

There is always something going on when you are walking with God. I call it "the ongoing adventure of life." That is the way the Holy Spirit described it to me. We can write volumes on what the Holy Spirit is doing, for the book of Acts is still being written today. We have volumes and volumes of what the Lord has done that we can add to it.

You are here and you are blessed of God. Look at what the Lord has done. Without taking things or people in life for granted, thank God every moment of every day for everything good God has done. Let me tell you, the Lord is doing a whole lot more than the devil is out there. What the devil is doing, God undoes. He turns it around to His glory.

The reason many Christians do not walk in the power of God is because they are not obedient to Him. They are still living like the old, dead person; that is, the old dead person is still alive. They are disobedient to God. They are rebellious, independent, and they make their own plans. They try to get God to come into their plans.

The abundant life comes when we surrender to Jesus, trust Him and put aside those "me, me, me" attitudes. When we seek to glorify God, by His Spirit, then things start to happen.

The resurrection did not happen before the crucifixion. The resurrected, abundant, beautiful life that Jesus says tells us we can have (I have come, that you might have) is not possible until we get rid of selfishness – that poor me or that wonderful me; "look at me" attitudes must die.

There are some people who die to self, but they stay dead. They do not arise in God. Life more abundantly is only possible with the resurrection power

that is working in us. Thank God, Jesus did not stay dead. He rose from the dead by the power in the Father. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is now working and alive within each of us.

This will keep you alive when the devil wants to take your life. It is what will heal you when sickness tries to come. It is what will turn around the finances and turn an enemy into a friend. It is the power of God. It will transform what was intended for evil and turn it around for good. It is the power of God. So, the Word is true because the Lord is true.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *"Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."* The Lord never just fills something, He overflows it.

Set things in place – sure, slow, steady, steps equal God's success. That is what the Holy Spirit told me years back. Success, what is that? The will and the purpose and the plan of God is fulfilled.

If it were possible, God would not be in it. He is in the impossible.

If you invest in the kingdom of God, it will be the best investment you ever made in your life. It not only affects the financial realm, it affects the spiritual, mental, physical and relationship realms.

When you have much, it makes your relationships a little better, with blessing. Only God can give blessing to finances, relationships, health, mind, and the spirit.

When we are giving something to the Lord, the Word of God says that He makes that offering holy. When? When you purpose to give it to Him, He makes it holy. When you give it, the blessing is released. And what happens then? The increase comes. It is on the way. It is coming from the North, the South, the East and the West. It is not just a financial blessing. It pertains to all areas of life.

In regard to the car incident, no bones were broken. No blood on the brain. I just walked out of the emergency room that night. They released me. All I had were little aches. It is like you have been hit by a truck. But praise

God! He took me to the Safe Place. In our previous chapters I shared on the protection end of this through **Psalm 91 & 34**.

What else will the safe place do for you? I have had the opportunity to learn through this process. I am always going through a process. Sometimes when the Lord has you go through a process, you meet other people. You share other things. I have had the opportunity to minister to quite a few people in the emergency room.

You do not come out of something like that without the Lord doing something. We were able to minister to the physical therapist and other people at other levels. In fact, I even had one person come up to me and say that he wanted to learn how to add the spiritual dimension to the physical therapy. I told him that I could help with that.

I asked questions because I was learning some technical stuff from the medical side. I taught how the anointing works and he taught me the medical side.

Sometimes the Lord has you go through some things to reach people that you would normally never, ever reach. I probably never would have seen or met these people had things not gone that way. Again, the Lord turns what was intended for evil around for good, for His glory and the good of His people. Who knows how many people will be helped as a result of what God will do through others' testimonies and experiences after they have been touched by the Lord.

You have to take a moment and be still and know that God is God. It is the key to entering into the safe place. It is a place in the Spirit. It is not that God took me off to Mars, Pluto, Saturn, or to someplace else. I was right there, but He was all around me. As I said, I do not remember a thing. I was enveloped in what I call the bubble of the Lord. It is my way of saying that a lot of evil is out there and it is pressing against my life all the time, but it cannot touch me. It is the safe place in God when you are in the Spirit.

As Stephen was being stoned, he looked up into heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Stephen was in the Spirit. He was seeing into the Spirit realm. And those rocks were hitting him to kill him, but he said, "Father, do not hold this sin against their charge" He was there,

but he was under the shadow of the Almighty and away he went to be with the Lord. Whether we live or die we win in Christ Jesus. When we finish what the Lord has given to us, we are off to be with Him.

The Lord sent me back because He said I am not finished. He says, “I have to have somebody that is going to tell the world about how great and glorious I am and what I can do.” That is why I am here, because it works. Just like God says, not a bone will be broken. **Psalm 34:** *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.”*

It is good to remember that no matter what trouble comes against you, the Lord will take you with Him in a safe place and keep the trouble out there while you are in the fortress of God.

“The Lord is your shield, your fortress, your very present help in time of trouble. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, or [many are the troubles of the righteous], but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.”

The Lord said to teach the people about the safe place because people need to know about it. We live in a day and an age where people need to know that the Lord will help them in time of trouble. **James 5** *“If any is in trouble, let him pray.”*

I did not have time to pray. I did not even see the vehicle coming, and I did not know where it came from. My pastor friend said that he heard a vehicle coming very fast. I looked left and I looked right, but I did not even see that vehicle. Some things just blindsides you. Things happen!

People say, "I am not a bad person. Why are these things happening to me?" That is the wrong question.

The Lord told me to tell people it is the wrong question. It is not, “Why is this happening to me,” in the mode of “poor me.” Do not ever ask that question. Do not even go there.

A better question is, “Lord, how are You going to be praised out of this whole thing?” Because I know that no weapon formed against me is going to prosper. I know that no word spoken against me is going to prosper. It is

going to go back where it came from, that is how the Word reads. Such is the inheritance of the righteous.

I know one thousand will fall at my left and ten thousand at my right, so okay, this is happening, so “Lord, what are You going to do to be praised?”

In 1988 a truck hit a pipe and shot it like a bullet through my windshield. It blew a clean hole and came across the car. The Lord used a mirror to deflect it. The mirror went through my face and the pipe blew out my side window. They cannot figure out how I am here today. I should have had my head blown off, or the thing should have gone through my chest, in any case, history. But it was His story. May Jesus be praised!

I am still here and have all my teeth. The Lord said, "Let them set the teeth and I will cement them." What is the bottom line? I came down from the off ramp and never lost consciousness. I had no pain and no trauma. There was blood and glass all over the place. I said, "Father, am I out of Your will?" This is a question I always ask when trouble happens.

In this last incident, I thank God that I must have been in His will, because I did not have time to even ask the question. I know that when trouble is happening, it is happening for a reason, and I want to make certain that I am not out of line with the will of the Father.

I asked Him, "Father, am I out of Your will?" And because I saw His hand, I knew then that I was fine. I was right in the palm of His hand. He said, “Be patient son; what was intended for evil I am going to turn for good, to My praise.” And He said it again, “Be patient.”

It was a whole patience lesson. I have a booklet about it entitled Patience, which tells the whole story. You are welcome to get it. Just write to us and let us know, or go to the website library and read it there.

During that time, I heard laughter while I was in the hospital. And the Lord spoke to me. He said, "Son, do you remember that series on patience you were teaching?" I said, "Yes." And He started laughing again. Do you know that the Lord has everything under control? He laughs all of the time. He laughs in the heavens at those who oppose Him and do not believe Him. When you are in His hand, everything is going to be okay! The Lord reigns!

He was laughing again and said, “You were so impatient that you never finished the lessons on patience.” He continued, “I am going to give you the rest of the series.”

While I was staying in the hospital (the accident happened on Monday afternoon, and they had to send me to a couple of hospitals. I did not get into a room until about 1 o'clock in the morning. The surgery did not actually happen until two days later at 8PM, it was very much about the whole patience thing.

In trouble, you need patience. You need to know that God is working and He is going to somehow turn things around. He said, “Son, tell the people that when it all looks black and dark, keep going and hold on to Me.” He said that there is a bend in the tunnel.

In other words there is a way through this and there is light at the other end, but they have to hold on to Me and they have to keep going. Don't give up! Don't quit. Do not faint in the day of adversity. “Stay with Me,” the Lord was saying, “and I will see you through it.”

Psalm 31:20 *“In the shelter of Your presence, You hide them from the intrigues of men. In Your dwelling, You keep them safe from accusing tongues.”*

If you have had people problems, where they lie about you and talk trash, think: have you ever lied about God and talked trash or unbelief?

I am here to set you straight in Jesus' name, just like God did to Job when Elihu came along. (Elihu was the fourth counselor, but God did not talk about him. He just talked about the other three).

“Why art thou cast down, oh, my soul?” When you are in trouble, you get cast down, or depressed. You start to feel like you can not do it. It does not have to be that way.

David in **Psalm 42** said, *“Why art thou cast down, oh, my soul? Hope thou in God for I will yet praise Him.”* You start praising God. You might as

well start praising now in the trouble. Because God is going to get you out of it, and you will have a great testimony at the end of it.

Whether you live or you die, you are going to be with the Lord. That is a great testimony to me. Thank you, Jesus. Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, *“He who lives and believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live,”* Jesus said. **(John 11)**

For me, I have always wanted to go and be with the Lord, but I am not morbid. I do not have psychotic problems where I want to take my life or anything, but I just want to go and be with Jesus. For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain. But it is more helpful for people’s sake that we stay around, because we will have to boast about God and about what the Lord’s love can do for a person, what the Word of God can do for a person. What the Word of God will do is free, and it will work for you.

When many people get in that time of trouble, a feeling comes upon them. I have had this feeling come upon me. It feels like you want to crawl under a rock and just sit there. You know, in the animal kingdom, when an animal is wounded, they will just crawl under there and hide. It is time to stir up your faith in God when trouble is around. That is why it says to pray. *“If any is in trouble, let him pray.”*

You may have people talking about you or things going on, but it is not the time to get upset. It is the time to get in the Spirit. Pray with God. Talk to God. Pray a blessing on the other people. I can always tell when somebody is in the Spirit because they are praying a blessing on the other people. They are loving the other people and doing good to them.

They are not saying, “Oh, why is this happening to me? Poor me.” You know that God is going to turn this thing around. You will praise Him. It is inevitable. It has to happen.

The Lord told me one time as I was meditating on **Numbers 23:19**, He said, *“It is impossible that I not do the impossible.” “God is not a man that He should lie, or the Son of man that He is going to repent and change His mind. Has He not said it, will He not do it? Has He not promised and will He not fulfill?”*

I meditated on that one verse for 90 days and another time for 60 days, and the Lord said, "It is impossible that the impossible not happen."

He was using all negatives. It is very interesting because that is what happens to people at times when they are in trouble. They get very negative.

Have you ever been there? The Lord said, "It is impossible that the impossible not happen when you act on My Word."

In other words, when you quit feeling sorry for yourself and you start lifting your hands to praise God, saying, "My God is able to turn this thing around," then He is willing and will turn it around.

The Lord will keep you safe from accusing tongues after you get over that immediate shock, because there is a shock that comes. "Why would anybody ever say something about me?" Have you ever asked yourself that question? Sometimes you give people a reason, but other times, people just do and say things without a reason. They have a problem, and we have to be bigger than that.

The Lord says, "I will keep you in the safe place. I will keep you in the Spirit with Me. You will be safe from those words." You don't have to receive those words. Do not take them personally. In **Matthew 10**, Jesus said, when this stuff happens, "Do not think it is you being persecuted, it is Me."

Where is Jesus? He is in us. Now, if you have been nasty to somebody, then you need to ask God's forgiveness and ask their forgiveness. I learned this many times when the Lord taught me about loving your enemies. He actually put it in a series called "Loving Judas."

Jesus loved Judas, the betrayer, the thief, and everything else that he was. The Lord taught me, and I am still learning how to love Judas.

I have seen enemies turn into friends. I have seen friends become enemies and enemies. It is an amazing thing. I have seen friends turn into enemies and then turn back to friends. The Lord does that. He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies. It does not say "friends." It says "enemies." Why? Because He wants us to be friends. He puts them right

across from you so that you have to look at them. He puts them around you so that you are surrounded.

Have you ever noticed that when trouble comes it doesn't just come in an isolated incident? The Lord was showing me that when the trouble comes, it comes from a lot of places. You look over here and there is trouble. You look over there and there is trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble and reports of more trouble coming.

Have you heard that the problems are going to get worse? You know, that car accident a few months down the road, a year down the road, this and that can start to happen, I say, we are not going there. I have had enough; I would like to end that page of my testimony and go on to something else. No side effects or consequences to the cursing, in Jesus' name. Blessing, rise ahead of my life.

What the Lord was showing me is that when you look around, all you see is trouble, but you need to look up. I saw in the Spirit, "*Since you then be risen with Christ*" and it was: yes, all this trouble is going on here, but we are out of it. It is going on, but we are out of it. In other words, it doesn't have any effect since you then be risen with Christ. Set your mind and your affection on the things above and not on the things beneath. I say, Lord, I don't find very much difficulty with that because, down below, there is trouble. I like the safe place!"

Over the years I have been through about as much trouble as anybody can go through in many different realms, and the Lord has always been faithful.

I encourage you, if you have trouble going on in your life, know this, you may need to go over Psalm 17:6 and over it a lot of times to get it down inside in your heart and mind. "*I call on You, Oh God, for You will answer me.*" See, many people do not know that God will answer. He *will* answer. I despise the reasoning that God answers, "Yes, No, or Maybe."

I have heard that and it is garbage teaching. All the promises of God are yes in Jesus. And when I am in trouble, I have to know that the Lord is going to help me. I do not know how He is going to do it. But He is going to help me.

Maybe I have to change something in my life, like what I am doing or an attitude that I have which is causing me trouble. To have power, I need to make a change. I may need to make an adjustment. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the truth in Jesus' name. He will.

Other times, there is a thief out there just trying to steal and kill and destroy. In any case, no matter what is happening, the Lord will help me. He will give me wisdom and understanding. He will take me to the safe place. He will help me, He will answer me, and give ear to me and hear my prayer.

When Jesus prayed outside of Lazarus' grave, He said, "*Father, I know You hear Me always.*" When He says "*hear Me,*" He is not just talking about hearing me. He is telling the Father, "I know that we have this relationship and that You are with Me and You will never leave Me or forsake Me. And I am going to trust You, Lord, that You will do what You will do here.

People will always try to slam you in some way. Unbelievers are having a hard time handling life. And sometimes you come along at the wrong time, or maybe it is the right time, because maybe you are stronger and able to minister to them and help them in their time of trouble. Many people take it personally, rather than seeking to help the person who is having a problem. They take it personally, like they are having an attack. *Poor me,* kind of thing. The Lord is bigger than that. He wants to use us in those situations.

Martha came to Him at the tomb and said, "If You would have been here, Jesus, he would not have died." But Jesus deliberately waited to come, so that Lazarus died. In obedience to the Father, because the Father wanted to raise him from the dead. Jesus did not even listen to what she was saying. He just went on about what the Father wanted Him to do. We have to do the same.

In trouble, you have to go on and do what the Lord gives you to do. Do it the best you can, in the Lord. You pray, you seek God's wisdom, you go ahead, but you can't let people trip you up. You can't listen to praise, and you can't listen to criticism. You have to stay focused and do what the Lord tells you to do, and He will show you what to do in the time that you need to be shown. It will come.

“Show the wonder of Your great love, You who save by your right hand, those who take refuge in You from their foes.” Psalm 17 The foes are not necessarily people. People, yes, may be influenced by the enemy and they are being used by the enemy to say and do things, but they are not the problem. In the end, God wants them to be your friend. So treat them like a friend.

The enemy is the thief who is trying to steal and kill and destroy. He is the problem. We do not fight against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers of darkness. The problems may come in the finance realm. They may come in the physical realm. They may come in the mental realm, a spiritual attack. They may come in relationships. But as you take refuge in the Lord, He will save you from the enemy. He will take you out of it. But you have to have His heart. Forgive them Father; do not hold this sin against their charge.

You need to forgive; you need to let it go. It allows the thief to come into your life. And it brings trouble. Thieves bring trouble. Don't give them access.

Psalm 17:8 *“Keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me in the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who assail me from my mortal enemies who surround me.”*

If you could see in the spirit realm, it would scare the daylights out of you. What is out there? A man came to me one and said that you can't touch this and you can't touch that and this germ is out there and this and that. After I got done listening to him a few minutes I was thinking, *Oh, my God. Keep me from this stuff.*

I told the man, “I cannot live like that. I can't live, afraid that I am going to catch this or that. I cannot live in a plastic bag or a plastic bubble.”

I do live in the bubble of God. But that is different. And sometimes you are in it and sometimes you are out of it. You can tell when you are out of it. It is better in it. When you are out of it, you are worried, you are stressed, you are fearful and you get negative. Have you found that you go in and out of it? There will come a place where we will be more in it than out of it. Praise God! It is happening!

“Keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me in Your shadow.” Years ago the Lord showed me what it was about. If you look closely into a person's eyes you can see your head in their eye, and it looks just like a little apple. Did you know that God was looking so close to you, in your face?

The Lord treats us as the apple of His eye. But David said in the **Psalms** to keep him as the apple of Your eye. In other words, do not ever look away from me.

Sometimes we want to drift out. I asked the Lord years ago, "Lord, if I am ever out of Your will, override me. Put the override on." In other words, I have a free will, I can sin, or I can serve God. I said, "Lord, if ever I get out of whack in attitude, thought, word, or deed, override me. I give You my will, I want Your will. Keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hold me there, Lord. Do not let me get out.

In life, all of that trouble is intended to make us focus on us and get our eyes off the Lord. The Lord says that you keep your eyes on Him in the time of trouble. And He has his eye on you. He has a plan, a solution. He will be glorified out of it, and you are going to see the goodness of God displayed in your life. Down the road, you will look back and see that what happened, happened for a reason. The thief, yes, tried to steal and kill and destroy, but God turned it around to make you effective in your life where you are today and where you will be down the road.

When the pipe came through the windshield, the Lord showed me that it was permitted. In other words, the thief was doing it, but God had it all under control, so that I could help people go through the mountain. When you speak to the mountain and it doesn't move and you have to go through the thing, it says *“through faith and patience you will inherit all of the promises.”* Well, you would not need patience if faith just came right there. Many things in life do not just go away quickly. You have to go through them.

He taught me how to go through this with joy and victory, so that I could take that and share that with His people who were going through all kinds of awful things. But the Lord is with us, He is for us, and He is not against us, so you need to be obedient. If you are not obedient, and are griping and

complaining about things that have been happening with your life, you need to give it to the Lord. Because if you are griping and complaining, you are right in the middle of trouble. You are reacting and responding to the trouble. You are not in faith in the Lord at that point. You should be thanking and praising God, acknowledging God, loving people, and doing good to people. The children of Israel did not get to go into the Promised Land because of their unbelief. They received the evil report. What was the evil report? It was that they couldn't take the land, "There are giants out there. It is too hard." *"Nothing is too hard for Me, the Lord says."*

Why don't I get smart? The Lord says nothing is too hard for Him. It may be too hard for me, and it may be too hard for you, or it may be too hard for all of us together, but God says, "Nothing is too hard for Me." I read the Book. Part of the problem; is that some people haven't read the Book. Others have read the Book, but they do not spend time on what is on the page. Somehow, I have to move it from the pages into my heart and into my mind.

Many people are wondering why they are having troubles in their lives, for they have actually cursed themselves. They have spoken things into existence that they really need to ask forgiveness for... and ask God to take it away.

When God created the heaven and the earth, He spoke it forth. People have spoken their troubles. They have spoken their fears. **Job 3:25** *"That which I feared the most is that which came upon me."* Every day he offered sacrifices for His children per chance they had gone against God. He was living in fear that His children were going to die because they were going against God. Actually, that fear got him into trouble. *"That which I feared is that which came upon me."*

Ask the Lord's forgiveness. Get things straightened out.

There is great thanksgiving when you are in the shadow of the Almighty, when you are in that safe place.

I cried for days after my last episode. I was so thankful to God that I could hardly sit there without a great thankfulness rising up. I was not thankful that He saved my life, because I would really like to go on the other side, but

my thankfulness was because of God's faithfulness to His Word, His faithfulness to His Love, His faithfulness to His desire to help His people. The Lord is so good!

I do not have a question in my heart that if I died this morning, I would be in Paradise with God. There is no question about it. But there are many people today that will not be in Paradise, and they need to hear about it. They need to know the love of God. They need somebody to tell them. How will they hear except somebody tells them?: “Turn from your ways and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Say, ‘Jesus Christ you are my Lord!’ ”

All of that complaining and grumbling is selfishness. It is not that I am adequate or inadequate. It is not that I am good looking or ugly. It is not that I am rich or I am poor. It is not that I am talented or not. It is not about me. The Lord told us, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* It is God, it is Jesus.

When you start grumbling and complaining, it is all about you. It is selfishness. You are thinking about yourself. Then you become discontented. The children of Israel got tired of the manna, the supernatural provision from God. It was better than any scientific product out there known to man. A perfect, nutritional food.

God provided the perfect nutritional food and they got tired of it. “Give us meat.” Then God dropped the quail in – miles of quail, feet deep and they went out there to grab it. Since they started eating it raw, a plague broke out. The curse broke out. They did not even stop to bless their food. They just went out like carnivores to eat it. They were not thankful for the quail. They were upset because plague broke out, however, not thinking that they were the cause of the trouble.

It is amazing how people think: “God, if you hadn't given me this woman, I wouldn't be having all of those problems.” Remember Adam? Have you found that you made a lot of your own troubles? Ask the Lord to forgive you.

My physical therapist said, "I want to bring the Divine into what I do." I believe wise people want the Lord in their lives and plans.

After the accident, the Lord taught me that to be with Him in the Spirit in the moment Is that Safe Place.

In that place, you do not care about the past because you are not there. You do not care about the future because you are not there. You are right here, now, with God in the Spirit in this moment. Safe, loved, and blessed.

In this place He occupies your thoughts, words, and deeds. You are filled with gladness of heart as the He occupies your time, plans, and destiny.
(Ecclesiastes 5:20)

“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your path.” (Proverbs 4:5-6)

In this moment: Thank God. Rejoice in the Lord. Be at peace. Praise Him for His presence and because of His goodness. Do good to others and destroy the work of the devil in Jesus’ name.

Now you are in the Spirit with God in the moment – the Safe Place.

