

**A LOVE STORY:  
MY RELATIONSHIP  
WITH CHRIST**

**BY KIM BOND**

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A Christian's faith may be sparked by one event, but it is the relationship with God that keeps that flame lit. A relationship with God means different things to different people. In this book, I have shared what a relationship with God means to me. It is a series of small events. As a former atheist who never had one spiritual event occur until I was in my twenties, I find every God encounter awe-inspiring. Thank you for allowing me to share my life and love story with Christ with you.

## The Truth

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life...." —Revelation 20:12

In the first twenty years of my life, I had never experienced anything supernatural. To me, science seemed to explain how the universe and humans had come into existence. I had heard the gospel several times, but I did not believe the Bible contained much truth. I had never had a personal relationship with God or heard His voice.

That changed one night in 1997. I was all alone. Then I heard a booming voice. It said, "God is real, and the Bible is truth." I had tingles all over my body. I felt warm. I knew something spiritual was happening to me. With the knowledge that God is real, I gave my life to Christ. It was the best decision I have ever made. That was just the beginning of my love story with my amazing Lord.

## Never Giving Up

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." —  
Philippians 1:6

Christians can have so many sins, scars, and ungodly habits that the goal of holy living can seem overwhelmingly distant and difficult. That was certainly true of me. I understood that Jesus died to close that immense gap between the Lord and me in terms of relationship, yet I knew God wanted to sanctify me as part of my walk with Him. Somewhere in my soul, I kept thinking, "I will give up, and even if I don't give up—the Lord will grow impatient with me and give up on me."

Then the Lord showed me Philippians 1:6. In it, the Lord promises never to give up on us even if we stop trying. At times in my walk, I have certainly fallen back into sinful habits. Yet the Lord did not leave me there. He let me take no joy in my old ways. I had given up on some areas of my life, but God kept working on other areas until I was ready for that aspect of my life to be reformed. God has never given up on me or let me give up on myself. The Christian I am today is one who leads a much more Christ-like life, and I can be assured that God will continue to work on me "until the day of Christ Jesus." Thank You, Lord!

## **Worth the Wait**

"The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out." —Proverbs 20:5

Once I had a dream that I was in heaven. I could not see anything besides light, but I could sense the Lord was standing there with me. I could also sense that we were not alone. There was a long table with important men (like elders) sitting behind it looking at me. I did not have to speak, but the Lord instantly perceived what I asked of Him. I begged to stay there with Him with intense emotion. My soul was filled with such desperation to be with Him! I did not even feel ashamed to beg like that in front of

those important people. He said that I was not done yet. Then I woke up.

For many years, I pondered it in my heart. It was really frustrating to be aware I had not fulfilled my purpose on Earth without knowing what it was! Today, I do not stress about it. I do not think it is one thing. It is many things. It is to be my mother's and father's daughter, a granddaughter, a sister, a niece, to become a wife and mother, an aunt, a neighbor, a friend, to write poetry about Jesus and love Him while I am here. I have enjoyed all of my days. When God feels I am done, He will take me home to be with Him. He is worth the wait.

## **Given the Words to Say**

"On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." —Matthew 10:18-20

I am not a very verbal person. If I am going to say something, I always think it and weigh the words first. Many times, I prefer to say nothing at all. Honestly that awkward silence between two people does not feel awkward to me, but I sense it does to others. Whenever I plan to meet with someone, I usually pray for God to give me

the words to say—encouraging words, words that will touch them, words that will bring them closer to God. I know He can do this because God has made words fall from my mouth that I had no foreknowledge of. It is quite amazing.

Every time I read this verse, it takes me back to a missions trip I went on to Russia back in the late 90s. I was brought before a large crowd of people, and God gave me the exact words to say during my testimony. I spoke words I did not even know about myself—like that I concluded God wasn't there because my biological dad was not around much. (We lived out of state from him.) I went on to say how I had heard a voice when I was home alone. It said, "God is real, and the Bible is truth." (It was a bit

scary because there was talk of us being arrested for performing a little skit in a park without a permit. They were very suspicious of us because we were doing good things like handing out free drinks, giving free light bulbs, and cleaning parks.) The Lord gave me the words to say and kept us safe from harm.

## God Made Today

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."—Psalm 118:24

I feel most alive when most people drift off to sleep in their beds. When it is time to wake up in the morning, all I want to do is SLEEP! I normally press the snooze button on my alarm clock four or five times before dragging myself out of bed—sometimes crashing into a wall on the way to the light switch. Without an alarm, I usually sleep until at least 10:00 a.m. That is why the Lord's request caused me such distress.

One night, I felt like the Lord was telling me not to set my alarm. I reminded the Lord that I had something important to do very

early in the morning. Then I set my alarm. A feeling of conviction came over me and made me feel so guilty that I turned it off. Then the Lord impressed on me that He would wake me up on time. Warily, I drifted off to sleep. The next thing I remembered, the phone was ringing. I glanced at the clock. It was the exact moment I needed to wake up that morning. I felt like rejoicing when I answered the phone. My mother had called to talk about something insignificant thing, but it really made my day. God is good.

## Trust in the Lord

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." —  
Proverbs 3:5

There are times in my life when I am sure that I know what is best for me. Then I hear from the Lord, and He wants me to do something else. In the end, I find out that God (of course) was right all along.

Take for instance this time back when I was in college. I was waiting outside of the building for a class to start. Just minutes before I was supposed to be inside, I heard the Lord tell me to take my Bible out of my backpack. I argued with the Lord a little bit—saying I would be late to class, but I

eventually did it anyway. Then He told me to sit under a tree and read it. I read it for as long as I could without being late to class. Since it was only a few minutes, I really did not feel like I had gained any wisdom.

About a week later, my mother brought home a local newspaper. On the front cover, there was a student on my college campus reading Charles Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species." Right next to that photo, there was a photo of me sitting under a tree reading the Bible. Yes, it is always right to trust in the Lord and not lean on our own limited understanding of what course of action to take in our lives. God is trustworthy!

## Only God

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first." —  
Revelation 2:4

Before I was saved, I could hear absolutely nothing spiritual at all. After I was saved, my ears were opened—not only to the Lord, but also to other spiritual entities. Sometimes I heard angels; other times I heard demons. At least twice, I am fairly sure I heard directly from Satan. It seems like it would be easy to know the difference, but discernment of the spirits was not a gift of mine. I tried very hard to listen to the Lord and tune the others out.

Then things changed after I met up with an old friend. She also had spiritual ears, and I tried to be open minded about the angels she said she could hear over the next year or so. During this time, the Lord spoke to me clearly and repeated the Bible reference "Revelation 2:4." I would flip there, read it, and feel confused why He said I had forsaken my love for Him. He said it so often that I no longer had to flip there because I had memorized it.

Over time, my friend and I drifted apart. I realized the love I had forsaken Him for were these meaningless voices of angels. (Who even knows if they were angels?) I returned to asking only for the Lord to help me, praying to the Lord only, and for the Holy Spirit to help me discern His voice.

There is no other entity on earth that can help anywhere near as much as my powerful one and only God. Praise be to Him!

## **According to His Riches**

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." —Philippians 4:19

Back in 1999, I knew I wanted to use my writing skills for God's kingdom, but I was not sure how to begin. One day, the Lord told me to buy a laptop computer. Back then, laptops were pricey! Still, I bought it in obedience. I used it mostly for writing at first. Over the next few years, many of the things that used to be done on paper transitioned to the computer because of the internet's growing popularity. I emailed long-distance relatives regularly, and I could not imagine life without that little computer.

Then one day, I received a check in the mail. The enclosed letter informed me that a class action lawsuit regarding a defect on some of the computers had been won. I received the full amount of the laptop computer at a time when I needed it the most. Once again, God had provided for me in an unexpected way. God is good!

## Victory in Big Decisions

"...Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper." —1 Kings 19:11-12

In the year 2000, I was faced with a decision to continue living in Atlanta or move to St. Louis. What was I to do? I prayed and asked and prayed. I had heard the Lord audibly multiple times, but the only thing I could perceive in this situation was

my uncontrollable anxious thoughts. What I would have given to hear God's answer! Was it yes or no? Finally, I decided to move to St. Louis.

After my big move, things changed dramatically for me. My love life and career options had been stagnant in Atlanta. Within a few years in St. Louis, I had married, was raising my first child, and had been hired by the company that eventually led to an advantageous position. Although I had moved away from my mother in Atlanta, I had the opportunity to renew my relationship with my father in St. Louis. (It was especially rewarding since he passed away a couple of years later.) God did not speak to me with a booming voice, yet

somehow He moved my heart to make the right choice. God is my victory!

## Prophetic Dreams

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." —Acts 2:17

Have you ever dreamed something that came true? It happens to me all of the time. I usually dream about my family. Oftentimes it has to do with my past, but every now and then I dream about something that soon comes to pass. Occasionally, I will have spiritual dreams that do not seem to be originate within me. That is when I know the Holy Spirit is communicating information to me. Sometimes they are dreams about other countries. Sometimes I dream about

the President of the United States. Other times I dream about tragedies.

Back in August 2011, I had a dream about the Washington Monument. It was on fire. In the dream, I stared at both the burning monument and its reflection in the reflecting pool. My soul was overcome with despair even after I woke up. Knowing that it was a prophetic dream, I turned on the news to see what had happened. There was no major news for that day. Then on September 11, my husband woke me up and told me to watch the news. The twin towers blazed before my eyes. Looking at the burning twin towers seemed eerily similar to the dream I had the month before when I was staring at the blazing Washington Monument and its reflection. In

my soul, I knew the dream had been a prophetic dream about the tragedy that occurred on September 11th. That day, I felt total peace in spite of the tragedy. I knew God was in complete control. The Almighty God of the universe knows the future before it happens.

## **The Way We Should Go**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."—Psalm 32:8

There are so many times in my life that I was faced with indecision about the best way to proceed in my life. Take for instance the time I was trying to decide which childcare center was best for our two children. I felt distressed about the decision and prayed for it right before I went to sleep. That night I dreamed my son was playing with two small turtle figurines.

When I woke up the next morning, I called to schedule a tour at one of the childcare centers. I asked for directions because I did

not know where it was located. (I had never been down that road before since it was residential besides the childcare center.) After giving me directions, she said, "You will know it when you see it because there are two turtle statues out front." I knew right away the Lord had instructed me in the way I should go. That was the childcare center my children attended for many years and reflect on with cherished memories and friendships. His loving eye is on us just as He promises in Psalm 32:8. Thanks be to God!

## **Work Things Together for Our Good**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." — Romans 8:28

Our family is part of the struggling middle class. We try not to use credit cards so things can be pretty tight. It always feels like we are on our last dime, but then something happens that needs replacing or fixing. And that replacing and fixing tends to be expensive! In those moments, I have learned to repeat this verse either aloud or in my mind. It also helps when I recall one of the many instances when God turned a

challenging circumstance into a situation that showed us God's favor.

One time I had been mulling over the damage that a recent hail storm had done to my car. My thoughts were something like this, "How much will this cost to get fixed? How high is my deductible again? I can't understand why this happened!" My husband and I submitted a claim to our insurance company (unsure we could afford the deductible). Much to our surprise, the insurance company stated the car was totaled. They mailed us a check for the full amount of the car! They said we could get it fixed or keep the money so we used the money for other things. I drove that car for several more years until it eventually broke down for good. (I guess I should just

consider the humility I earned by driving  
around a pock-marked car a bonus—haha!)  
Yes, God works everything together for our  
good because He loves us.

## In My Distress

"In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."—Psalm 18:6

Imagine living your life with a cold that never goes away. Your nose always runs. You cough uncontrollably. Your ears hurt from frequent ear infections. That describes my son's first few years of life. He was diagnosed with allergy-induced asthma. His allergy test proved what we already knew—that he was allergic to nearly everything! The doctor gave us hope though. He said we could pursue immunology treatment. That meant monthly shots for years, but there was no promise the treatment would

reverse or even help his condition.

Regardless, we eagerly accepted the opportunity to improve his quality of life.

We were one year into treatments with no results. The doctor recommended that we pursue other treatment options since he showed no progress with the shots. We insisted he finish the treatment. During that time, I sought the Lord in tears for my son's healing. The breathing test results went from horrific in one visit to outstanding the very next visit! The doctor advised us to stop giving him the four different allergy and asthma medications he was used to taking. Technically, he still has asthma but he enjoys a full life now. And I know the One who gave it to him—the Lord Almighty!

## **A Perfect Gift**

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." —James 1:17

I received a letter from the elementary school about my daughter. She had failed an eye screening. Within a few days, I took her to the eye doctor. He confirmed that she was nearsighted and needed glasses. I thought they looked cute. She hated them. She kept them in a desk at school and only wore them to see the board.

In middle school, I asked her if she had been wearing her glasses in class. She said, "No, my eyes seem better." I laughed.

I told her that nearsightedness only gets worse as people get older. Imagine my surprise when she scored perfectly at her annual doctor's appointment. The doctor could hardly believe it and tested her again. He said, "Nearsightedness does get better sometimes, but it is really rare." My daughter happily stopped wearing her glasses in class. I praised God because I knew He was the One who restored her vision.

## Strength to Quit

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." —Philippians 4:13

I had been smoking for twenty years. I hated the bad habit, but I did not have the power to stop on my own. Then I saw an advertisement for a smoking cessation pill and decided to give it a try. After a few days, I had not even cut back on my smoking. It did not seem to be working on me. I tried combining the pill with a nicotine patch. Nothing decreased my desire to smoke. Although the pill had failed, it was causing some frightening side effects. I started suffering from intense panic attacks. I wanted to quit so bad that I continued

taking the pills. After three weeks, I was still a smoker.

Then one day my heart started racing. I felt like I could not breathe. I told myself it was just a panic attack and tried to relax. After about 30 minutes, the panic attack was still going strong. In desperation, I cried out to God and begged Him to make the anxiety attack stop. Then I heard the Lord. He said, "I will do this if you will stop smoking." My heart must have agreed because it stopped in that second. Oddly, the desire to smoke was also completely gone. The Lord took away my desire for cigarettes, and I never smoked again. That is the strength of our Almighty God.

## Keep You From Harm

“The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life...” —Psalm 121:7

My son will soon be a teenager. When we celebrate his birthday, we will not only commemorate the day he was born but also the fact that he has survived so much adversity. If I shared every harrowing situation he has experienced, we would be here all day so I will just share some of the most difficult examples. He nearly choked to death, almost drowned, and was even hit by a car. Then, of course, there are his allergic reactions to everyday products and allergy-induced asthma.

Sometimes I feel like there is an invisible force that means to harm my son. I cannot see what is happening in the spiritual world, but I know God protects me and my loved ones. I see evidence that God does what He says in Psalm 121:7. He keeps us from harm and watches over our lives. God is good.

## **God Speaks Through His Word**

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." —2 Timothy 3:16-17

Sometimes I ask God to speak to me. Then I open the Bible to some random spot of the New Testament and read the first red-lettered words of Christ I see. Have you ever done that? Much of the time I cannot make any connection between Jesus' words and my situation, but I have faith God is somehow speaking to me through His Word. I have good reason to believe that.

It started in recent years. I began asking God to speak to me before I went to bed at night. I would pick up the Bible on my nightstand, open the Bible to some random spot in the New Testament, read Christ's words, put the book down, and then go to sleep. Then the strangest thing started happening. Every night for a week, I would open to the same spot and read the same verse! I thought there must be a folded page or something in that Bible so I went to use another Bible. I opened it randomly and opened the same verse! It continued for at least a month. Then it started happening again with a different verse! Then another one. I received an A in my college statistics course so I know the odds of this happening over and over again are incredibly remote. God speaks to us through His Word. Even if

we don't understand how it applies to our situation, He is mindful of our desire to know Him more.

## Many Other Things

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." —John 21:25

I have set out to share some of the testimonies of God's faithfulness in my life. The truth is God has done so many more things than the ones I have mentioned. There were so many times the Lord helped me to find things I had lost and searched for hours—only to find it within minutes after I remembered to pray. There were numerous occasions that our family received opportunities that we never even dreamed of pursuing or put any effort into acquiring.

Our Almighty God has rescued my loved ones and myself from other habits and addictions. God has healed more family members from serious diseases through natural means by taking commonsense approach to medical care. Even a family member who passed on had one more lucid moment to say goodbyes. In so many ways, God has shown me He is real and loves me more than I can imagine in spite of my past sins.

God has not loved me more than anyone else on Earth. He loves us all the same. He wants to be a part of your life. If you have already given your life to Christ, you probably have a few true stories you could share about His faithfulness. If you have not accepted God's free gift of salvation,

consider praying this prayer with me right now:

Lord, thank You that Your Son has died on the cross for my sins. I trust His blood has washed me clean and reconciled us. I believe Jesus rose from the grave on the third day and that He lives to intercede for me. I accept Your free gift of salvation, and I am ready begin our love story. Be my Father, my Friend, my Counselor, my Guide, my Healer, my Deliverer, and my faithful God. In Christ's Name, Amen.

Congratulations on such a great decision! I pray your journey will be filled with many miracles and supernatural circumstances.

## Draw Near Books

If you enjoyed this publication, you might also enjoy other other Draw Near free ebooks like:

*\*Never Forsaken: A Testimony Collection* presents the most compelling Christian testimonies from the internet plus fresh new true-life stories. Stories include first-hand accounts from a drug addict turned pastor, a Hindu woman turned Christian through a supernatural experience, a prostitute turned pastor's wife, and powerful visions. This book offers insight into the reasons people choose to believe in Christ despite their different backgrounds.

*\*Spiritual Citizens: A Christian Fiction Anthology* includes short stories by Jan Ackerson, Michael Austin, Joseph Courtemanche, Voni Harris, Judy Haught, Nancy LaRonda Johnson, John Mark Miller, Tolulope Popool, Esther and Richard Provencher, Chong Shipei, Charles W. Short, Gerald Shuler, and Lynn Wehmeyer. Stories vary from literary to adventure.

*\*Creator: A Christian Poetry Collection* includes over 20 incredible poems by poets Jan Allison, Jeanne Beaumont, Faye Gibson, Jay Harding, Judy K. Haught, Joyce Johnson, Richard Lamoureux, Robert Lindley, Antony Mark, Stephan McBride, Liam Mcdaid, Brenda Meier-Hans, Casarah Nance, Kimmy Nelson, Regina Riddle, Isaac Thomas, Leon Wilson, Dave Wood,

and more! Draw nearer to our Lord as you enjoy spiritual poetry that expresses joy, grief, admiration, regret, and devotion with creative intensity.

You can find them on [Smashwords.com](http://Smashwords.com) or at [www.drawnearthochrist.com](http://www.drawnearthochrist.com).