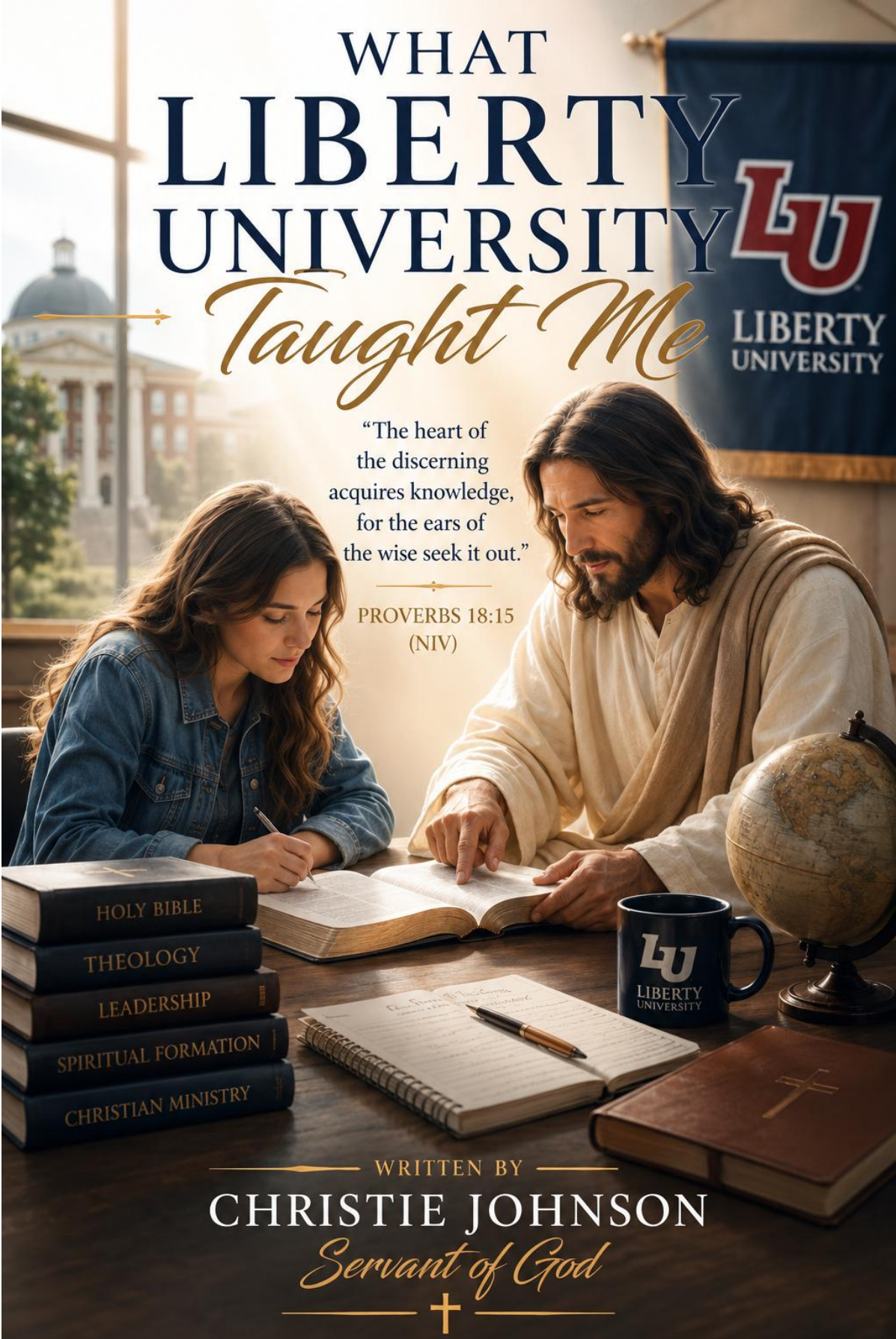




WHAT LIBERTY UNIVERSITY *Taught Me*

“The heart of
the discerning
acquires knowledge,
for the ears of
the wise seek it out.”

—
PROVERBS 18:15
(NIV)

HOLY BIBLE
THEOLOGY
LEADERSHIP
SPIRITUAL FORMATION
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY


LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

— WRITTEN BY —
CHRISTIE JOHNSON
Servant of God
— + —

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Scripture Notice

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT).

Unless otherwise indicated, emphasis within Scripture quotations has been added by the author for teaching purposes.

Ministry Disclaimer

This resource is intended to provide biblical encouragement, spiritual guidance, discipleship, and leadership development rooted in the truth of God's Word.

It is not intended to replace the care of a local church, pastoral counsel, professional counseling, legal advice, medical treatment, or mental health services. If you are facing circumstances that require professional assistance, please seek help from qualified professionals while continuing to trust the Lord for His wisdom, comfort, healing, and strength.

A Personal Note

Thank you for taking the time to study God's Word through this resource.

My prayer is that every page points you to Jesus Christ rather than to me. Any wisdom found in these pages comes from God's Word and from His faithful work in my own life. My desire is simply to faithfully teach His Word, encourage your walk with Him, and help you continue growing into the disciple He has created you to be.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, I pray this study strengthens your faith, deepens your understanding of God's truth, and encourages you to live as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

“Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ.”

Contact

If this resource has encouraged you and you would like additional Bible studies, discipleship resources, leadership materials, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you.

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Website: www.servantofgodchristie.com

What Liberty University Taught Me

Opening Scripture

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge."

Proverbs 18:15

God's Classroom

When God first began leading me toward formal ministry education, I never imagined how much the journey would change me.

Like many people, I initially thought education was primarily about gaining knowledge. I expected to learn more about the Bible, theology, ministry, leadership, and Christian living. While I certainly gained knowledge, God used my time at Liberty University to teach me something far greater.

He taught me that ministry is not simply about knowing God's Word.

It is about allowing God's Word to transform your life.

As I worked through my Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and later entered the Doctor of Christian Leadership program with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation, I discovered that God was using every course, assignment, discussion, research project, and ministry reflection to shape my heart as much as my mind. Looking back now, I can see that He was doing far more than preparing me to earn degrees. He was preparing me for the ministry He had already planned long before I enrolled in my first class.

One of the greatest blessings of my education has been realizing that every lesson pointed beyond the classroom and into everyday life. God continually reminded me that His truth was never intended to remain within textbooks or academic papers. His Word is living and active, and He desires it to transform how we think, love, forgive, serve, lead, and live for His glory.

As I look back over this journey, I realize that Liberty University became one of God's classrooms in my life. Through faithful professors, biblical teaching, thoughtful assignments, and countless hours spent studying Scripture, He continued shaping my understanding of who He is, who I am in Christ, and how He desires His people to live.

More importantly, He continued preparing me for the mission He has placed on my Heart: to minister to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people by pointing them to the truth, healing, hope, and restoration found in Jesus Christ. Through biblical teaching, compassionate discipleship, personal testimony, and intentional spiritual formation, my

desire is to help others trust God through life's storms, discover their identity in Christ, and experience lasting transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Everything I learned ultimately pointed me back to one simple truth:

The greatest education we can ever receive is learning to know Jesus Christ more deeply and becoming more like Him each day.

Learning to Be Transformed

One of the most important lessons I learned throughout my time at Liberty University was that spiritual growth is not measured merely by what we know but by who we are becoming.

Jesus never called His followers simply to accumulate biblical knowledge. He called them to become disciples whose lives reflected His character. The more I studied Scripture, the more I realized that God's desire has always been transformation. Romans 12:2 remind us that He transforms us by renewing our minds. That truth became one of the central themes of both my master's and doctoral studies and continues to shape my life every day.

Before entering the Doctor of Christian Leadership program, I knew God had been changing me through life's experiences. He had faithfully walked with me through seasons of abuse, rejection, grief, loss, disappointment, healing, and restoration. I could see His hand in my life, but I did not fully understand the process He was using to transform me.

Through my studies in Spiritual Formation, God gave me language for what He had been doing all along.

I came to understand that spiritual formation is the lifelong work of the Holy Spirit, using God's Word, prayer, faithful surrender, Christian community, worship, service, suffering, and obedience to conform believers into the image of Jesus Christ. As I learned these biblical principles, I realized that God had been patiently shaping every part of my life—not only my spiritual life but also my thoughts, emotions, relationships, character, and daily decisions.

One of the greatest blessings of this realization was understanding that God wastes nothing.

Even the most painful seasons of my life became part of His work of forming me into the woman He created me to be. the wounds I once wished had never happened became places where His grace was displayed most clearly. The hardships that once seemed meaningless became opportunities for Him to deepen my faith, teach me dependence upon Him, and cultivate compassion for others who are hurting.

Liberty University helped me see that spiritual formation is not about becoming a better version of ourselves. It is about becoming more like Jesus Christ. That transformation is not accomplished through human effort or self-improvement but through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit as we faithfully surrender every area of our lives to God.

This truth changed the way I view the Christian life. I no longer see spiritual growth as simply learning more about God. Instead, I see it as walking with Him daily, allowing His Word to renew my mind, His Spirit to shape my Heart, and His grace to transform every part of my life.

That understanding has also become the foundation of the ministry God has called me to.

My desire is not merely to teach biblical information. Information alone does not change lives. Only God transforms hearts. My prayer is that every Bible study, devotional, testimony, article, mentoring opportunity, and resource I create will become another invitation for people to encounter Jesus Christ, trust His Word, surrender to His work, and experience the lasting transformation that only the Holy Spirit can accomplish.

Looking back now, I can clearly see that every course God allowed me to take was preparing me for far more than academic success. He was teaching me how to walk with Him more faithfully so that I could Help other do the same. That has become one of the greatest gifts my Liberty University education has given me.

Preparing Me for the Ministry God Called Me To

As I continued through my master's degree and into my doctoral studies, I began to realize that God was doing far more than expanding my biblical knowledge. He was steadily preparing me for the ministry He had placed on my heart years before I ever understood what it would become.

Looking back now, I can see that every course fits together like pieces of a puzzle. Each class deepened my understanding of Scripture, strengthened my theology, clarified my philosophy of ministry, and confirmed the direction God had been leading me all along.

What often seemed like individual assignments at the time became part of God's greater work of preparing me to serve Him more faithfully.

One of the greatest lessons Liberty University taught me was that faithful ministry is not simply communicating biblical truth. While sound doctrine is essential, ministry is about far more than teaching information. It is about helping people encounter Jesus Christ, grow in His Word, experience authentic Christian community, and allow the Holy Spirit to transform every area of their lives.

That truth completely changed how I view ministry.

When I first began my educational journey, I thought primarily about teaching God's Word. Today, I understand that God's desire is not simply for people to know more about Him but to know Him personally and be transformed by His presence. Information alone does not change lives. God changes lives through His Word, His Spirit, and His people.

Another lesson that deeply impacted me was the importance of the Body of Christ.

Throughout my studies, I came to appreciate more fully that spiritual growth was never intended to happen in isolation. God designed believers to encourage one another, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, and grow together in faith. While personal Bible study is essential, some of the greatest spiritual growth comes through relationships with other believers who challenge, encourage, and walk beside us as we follow Christ.

This understanding has greatly influenced the vision God has given me for this ministry. Although this website cannot replace the local church, I pray it will become a place where people are encouraged in their faith, strengthened by God's Word, and reminded that they are not alone in their journey.

My desire is for every resource to point readers back to Scripture, encourage deeper fellowship with Christ, and inspire them to remain connected to the Body of Christ.

Perhaps the greatest confirmation God gave me through Liberty University was the purpose behind this online ministry.

From the beginning, my desire has never been to build a platform centered on my own story. My testimony has value only because it reveals God's faithfulness. Every experience He has allowed me to walk through—both joyful and painful—has become another opportunity to point people toward Jesus Christ.

That has become the foundation of everything I hope this ministry will accomplish.

My mission is to minister to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people by pointing them to the truth, healing, hope, and restoration found in Jesus Christ. Through biblical teaching, compassionate discipleship, personal testimony, and intentional spiritual formation, I pray that every article, Bible study, devotional, testimony, and resource will help readers trust God through life's storms, discover their identity in Christ, and experience lasting transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

More than anything else, I want people who visit this website to leave thinking more about Jesus Christ than about Christie Johnson. If they remember my story but fail to see His faithfulness, I have missed the purpose for which God called me. But if they leave with greater hope, deeper faith, a stronger desire to know Christ, and confidence that God can redeem their own story, then this ministry will have fulfilled its purpose.

As I look back over these years of study, I realize that Liberty University did far more than prepare me for ministry—it became one of the instruments God used to prepare me.

He used every season of learning to deepen my faith, refine my character, strengthen my dependence upon Him, and confirm the calling He had already written upon my Heart. For that, I will always be grateful.

Still Learning

While I am grateful for the degrees, the books, the research, and the academic achievements God allowed me to accomplish, those are not the greatest gifts I received through this journey.

The greatest lesson Liberty University taught me is that God cares far more about my character than my credentials.

Degrees may open doors, but Christlike character is what sustains ministry.

One day, my diplomas will simply hang on a wall, but the work God has done within my heart will have an eternal impact. Throughout my years at Liberty University, He continually reminded me that success in ministry is never measured by titles, recognition, or accomplishments. Instead, faithful ministry flows from a heart that has been surrendered to Jesus Christ and is continually being transformed into His likeness.

My education equipped me with biblical knowledge, theological understanding, leadership principles, and practical ministry tools. Those gifts are invaluable, and I will always be thankful for them. Yet, the greatest work God accomplished during these years was not found in the papers I wrote or the grades I earned—it was found in the quiet work of His Spirit as He shaped my Heart, strengthened my faith, refined my character, and taught me to depend more fully upon Him.

Everything I do today, whether writing, teaching, mentoring, praying, encouraging others, or building this online ministry—flows from that understanding. My desire is never simply to share what I have learned but to point people to the One who has faithfully taught me.

As I continue serving the Lord, I remain a student—not only of Scripture but also of God's ongoing work in my own life.

Every day He continues teaching me what it means to follow Jesus more faithfully, love people more deeply, trust Him more completely, and serve others more humbly. I know there is still much for me to learn, and I pray I will always have a teachable Heart that is willing to listen, grow, and obey wherever He leads.

Looking back over this journey, I can honestly say that Liberty University became one of God's greatest instruments in preparing me for this season of ministry. Through every

course, every assignment, every challenge, every season of growth, and every opportunity to study His Word, He was faithfully preparing me for the work He had already planned.

Today, I understand more clearly than ever that this ministry is not about me.

It is about Jesus Christ.

My story is simply one example of His grace.

My education is simply one tool He has chosen to use.

My prayer is that every page of this website, every Bible study, every testimony, every devotional, every mentoring resource, and every message I share will point people beyond my life and toward the One who changes lives forever.

If someone leaves this ministry knowing Jesus more deeply, trusting Him more completely, loving His Word more faithfully, and walking more closely with Him than before, then everything God has taught me through these years of study will have fulfilled its greatest purpose.

For that, I will always be grateful.

To God alone be the glory.



Closing Scripture

Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed.

2 Timothy 3:14–17





A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your unfailing faithfulness throughout every season of this journey. Thank You for opening the door for me to study at Liberty University and for using every class, every assignment, every challenge, and every lesson to accomplish something far greater than earning degrees. You were preparing my Heart for the ministry You had already planned.

Thank You for teaching me that Your Word is not merely to be studied but to be lived. Thank You for deepening my understanding of Scripture, strengthening my faith, refining my character, and continually reminding me that true ministry flows from a life surrendered to Jesus Christ.

Thank You for showing me that spiritual formation is Your work. Through Your Holy Spirit, You have patiently used joy and sorrow, victories and hardships, relationships, and seasons of waiting to shape me into the woman You have called me to become. Thank You for never wasting a single part of my story but redeeming it all for Your glory.

Thank You for confirming the calling You placed on my life and for entrusting me with the privilege of ministering to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people. May everything I write, teach, share, and build always point other to Jesus Christ. Protect my Heart from pride, keep me humble before You, and Help me remember that apart from You I can do nothing.

Continue teaching me, molding me, and drawing me closer to You each day. May I never stop growing in wisdom, faith, love, and obedience as I seek to serve You faithfully.

All glory, honor, and praise belong to You alone.

In the precious name of Jesus,

Amen.



A Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for every person You have brought to this page. You know their heart, their circumstances, and every question they carry. Thank You for inviting each of us to know You personally through Your Son, Jesus Christ, and to grow continually in the knowledge of Your truth. Give each reader a deep hunger for Your Word and a sincere desire to know You more each day. Open their hearts to understand Scripture, and through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform their minds, strengthen their faith, and shape their lives to reflect the character of Christ. When life becomes difficult, remind them that You are faithful; when they feel discouraged, fill them with hope; when they feel uncertain, give them wisdom; and when they feel weak, strengthen them by Your grace. Teach them to trust You completely, walk in faithful obedience, and recognize that You are working in their lives for Your glory and their good. Surround them with believers who will encourage them, pray for them, and help them grow in their relationship with You. May they never stop learning from Your Word, seeking Your presence, or becoming more like Jesus. Above all, may every step of their journey draw them into a deeper relationship with You, where they discover the peace, hope, healing, wisdom, and lasting transformation found only in Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your endless love, amazing grace, and unfailing faithfulness.

In the precious name of Jesus,

Amen.

My prayer is that what God has taught me through this journey will encourage you to know Jesus Christ more deeply, trust His Word more fully, and faithfully follow Him all the days of your life. To God alone be the glory

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson
Servant of God

“Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ.”

