

Led by the *Holy Spirit*

A TESTIMONY OF SURRENDER,
OBEDIENCE, AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“

But when the Father sends
the Advocate as my representative,
that is, the Holy Spirit—He will
teach you everything and will
remind you of everything
I have told you.”

”

JOHN 14:26



He Leads
in Truth



He Guides
in Every Step



He Transforms
My Heart



He Empowers
My Life

WRITTEN BY

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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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Led by the Holy Spirit

A Testimony of Surrender, Obedience, and Spiritual Growth

Opening Scripture

"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative, that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

John 14:26



God Drew Me Into a Deeper Relationship

When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior on April 9, 2006, I truly desired to follow Him. Like many believers, I thought the Christian life meant attending church, learning about God, and trying to live according to His Word. Although my faith was genuine, I would later discover that knowing about God and walking closely with Him are not always the same.

For many years I faithfully attended church, listened to biblical teaching, and continued growing in my knowledge of Scripture. Yet much of my Christian life was still lived according to my own understanding rather than through complete dependence upon God. I loved Him, but I had not yet learned what it meant to fully surrender every area of my life or to walk daily under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Looking back now, I can see that God was patiently leading me long before I recognized His work. Even in seasons when I relied more on my own strength than His, He never abandoned me. Through every joy, every disappointment, every struggle, and every unanswered question, He continued drawing me closer to Himself. His grace never stopped pursuing me.

If you have ever longed to know God more deeply, struggled to recognize His voice, or wondered how to follow His will, I hope my story encourages you. The Holy Spirit is still leading ordinary believers today. What God has done in my life, He desires to do in yours. This testimony is not about me—it is about the faithfulness of God and the transforming power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Everything began to change on July 30, 2021.

That day I prayed for one of the simplest prayers I have ever prayed, yet it became one of the most life changing.

I asked God to help me get right with Him and to teach me how to truly live for Him. I no longer wanted to simply know about God—I wanted a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. I wanted my life to reflect His will instead of my own. Deep within my heart, I knew there had to be more than simply attending church and learning biblical truth. I wanted to know the God of the Scriptures personally and walk with Him every day.

Only two days later, on August 1, 2021, I attended church, and the pastor challenged the congregation to read the entire New Testament in thirty days.

The moment I heard those words; I sensed God speaking directly to my heart.

Without hesitation, I accepted the challenge.

Every day I opened His Word with anticipation, asking Him to teach me, change me, and help me understand what He wanted me to learn. By His grace, I completed the entire New Testament in just twenty-eight days.

That experience changed my life forever.

As I read Scripture, I no longer saw the Bible as a collection of individual stories or lessons. I began to see God's plan of redemption woven through every page. His Word became personal. The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to truths I had never fully understood before and began changing my heart from the inside out. Instead of simply increasing my knowledge, God was transforming my life.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that God's Word is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. I experienced that truth firsthand. His Word exposed attitudes that needed to change, challenged the lies I had believed, strengthened my faith, renewed my thinking, and continually pointed me back to Jesus Christ.

Through the Holy Spirit, God was not simply giving me more information—He was inviting me into a deeper relationship with Himself.

That season became the beginning of an entirely new chapter in my walk with Christ. Instead of asking God to bless my plans, I began asking Him to lead my steps. Instead of depending upon my own understanding, I began learning to trust His wisdom. Instead of trying to live the Christian life in my own strength, I slowly began discovering what it meant to surrender each day to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

As I continued reading God's Word, spending time in prayer, and seeking His direction, I realized that spiritual growth is not measured by how much we know. It grows as we surrender our hearts, obey God's Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to shape us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Looking back now, I realize God was not simply teaching me Scripture.

He was teaching me to know Him.

That has become one of the greatest lessons of my life.

Everything God has done since then—every lesson, every trial, every blessing, every season of waiting, every opportunity to serve, and every step of faith—has been part of His loving work of drawing me closer to Jesus Christ.

And He is still faithfully leading me today.

Learning to Walk with the Holy Spirit

As my relationship with Jesus Christ continued to grow, I realized I could not live the Christian life in my own strength. The more I studied God's Word, the more I understood that following Christ was never meant to be accomplished through human effort alone. I needed the Holy Spirit every day. I could not overcome my struggles, make wise decisions, become the woman God created me to be, or fulfill His purpose for my life apart from His power working within me.

Jesus promised His followers,

"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

John 14:26

Over time, which promise became more than words on a page—it became my daily experience.

As I faithfully spent time in God's Word and prayer, the Holy Spirit began opening my understanding of Scripture in ways I had never experienced before. He patiently taught me, corrected me, encouraged me, and continually pointed me back to Jesus Christ. The Bible became more than something I read; it became God's living voice shaping my heart and renewing my mind.

One of the greatest changes God made in my life was teaching me to slow down and listen. For many years, I often rushed ahead with my own plans and then asked God to bless what I had already decided. Over time, however, He began teaching me something completely different. Instead of asking God to follow my plans, I began asking Him to reveal His. Rather than depending on my own wisdom, I learned to seek His direction through prayer and His Word. Instead of trying to control every outcome, I slowly learned to trust that His plans were always better than my own. I certainly have not done this perfectly, and I continue learning every day, but God has faithfully shown

me that He never fails to lead those who seek His will. Along the way, the Holy Spirit also began teaching me another life-changing lesson—He lovingly corrected me.

There were times when my thoughts, attitudes, or responses did not reflect the character of Jesus Christ. Instead of condemning me, the Holy Spirit gently convicted my heart through Scripture and drew me back to God's truth. His correction was never meant to shame me; it was always an expression of His love, leading me toward greater freedom and a deeper relationship with Christ.

Looking back, I can now see that every conviction became another opportunity for spiritual growth. Every correction helped shape my character. Every lesson taught me greater humility, deeper dependence, and stronger faith.

God was far more interested in transforming my heart than simply changing my circumstances.

One verse that has become especially meaningful to me is:

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."
Philippians 2:13

What encouragement that has been.

It reminds me that spiritual growth is God's work before it is ever mine.

- He changes my desires.
- He strengthens my obedience.
- He gives me the power to do what I could never accomplish on my own.

That truth has freed me from believing I had to earn God's approval through my own efforts. Instead, I have learned to depend upon His grace and trust the work He is faithfully accomplishing within me.

The Holy Spirit has also become my Comforter during life's most difficult seasons.

There have been times of grief, uncertainty, disappointment, loneliness, and deep pain when I did not understand what God was doing. During those seasons, He continually reminded me of God's promises. He gave me peace when fear wanted to take control, strength when I felt weak, and hope when I could not yet see what God was accomplishing.

Looking back now, I realize that some of my greatest spiritual growth came during the seasons I would never have chosen.

Those were the moments when God taught me to trust His heart instead of my circumstances.

The apostle Paul reminds us,

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Romans 8:14

That verse has become one of the foundations of my walk with Christ.

God never intended for us to navigate this life alone. He has given every believer His Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, strengthen us, comfort us, convict us, and continually draw us closer to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit never points attention to Himself—He always points us to the Savior.

Today I still find myself learning.

- I am still growing.
- I am still surrendering.

Every day brings another opportunity to trust God more fully than the day before. One of the greatest lessons He has taught me is that He has never expected me to have everything figured out. Instead, He simply asks me to remain close to Him, stay rooted in His Word, and faithfully follow wherever He leads. The more I have learned to walk with the Holy Spirit, the more I have discovered that the Christian life is not about striving—it is about abiding. It is not about trying harder; it is about surrendering more completely. It is not about becoming a better version of ourselves; it is about allowing God to transform us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. That transformation is still taking place in my life today, and every step of the journey reminds me that the Holy Spirit's greatest purpose is not simply to change my life, but to help me know, love, trust, and reflect Jesus Christ more each day.

Living a Life of Daily Surrender

As I have continued walking with Jesus Christ, God has shown me that surrender is not a one-time decision—it is a daily choice. Every day I must decide whether I will trust my own understanding or follow His lead. Some days that come easily, while other days it requires me to lay down my own plans, fears, and expectations so I can embrace His will instead of my own. Although I do not always understand where God is leading, I have learned that I can trust His heart because He has proven Himself faithful throughout every season of my life.

One Scripture that has become an anchor for my faith is:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:5–6

These words have become much more than a favorite passage. They have become the way I desire to live. God continues to remind me that obedience always begins with trust. Before He reveals the next step, He often asks me to trust Him with the step I am standing on.

As I have surrendered my plans to Him, He has faithfully directed my path repeatedly. Looking back, I can clearly see His hand leading me even during seasons when I questioned where He was taking me. One of the greatest changes God has made in my life is how I now view difficult seasons. There was a time when I prayed for God to remove every hardship as quickly as possible. Now I have learned that He often uses those very seasons to accomplish His deepest work within us.

God has taught me that trials are not interruptions to spiritual growth. They are often the place where spiritual growth happens. Through waiting, He taught me patience. Through loss, He taught me dependence. Through uncertainty, He taught me to trust His promises. Through brokenness, He revealed the depth of His healing grace. Through weakness, I discovered that His strength is always enough. Looking back, I would never choose many of those seasons again, yet I would not trade what God taught me through them.

Jesus reminds us, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” Those words have become one of the foundations of my life. God has shown me that lasting spiritual growth never comes from striving harder or trying to become a better person on my own. It comes from remaining close to Jesus, abiding in His Word, listening to the Holy Spirit, and allowing Him to produce His character within us.

That is what spiritual formation has come to mean in my own life. It is not simply learning more about God. It is allowing God to transform every part of who I am. Day by day, He continues renewing my mind through His Word, reshaping my heart through the Holy Spirit, and teaching me to see life through His truth instead of my feelings or circumstances. He is changing the way I think, respond, love, serve, trust, see myself, see others, and seek His will above my own.

That transformation is not something I could ever accomplish by myself. It is the ongoing work of God’s grace. As I have surrendered each area of my life to Him, He has replaced fear with faith, pride with humility, uncertainty with peace, self-reliance with dependence upon Him, and hopelessness with confidence in His promises.

I still have much to learn, and God is still shaping me. He is still revealing areas of my heart that need to become more like Jesus Christ. But I have discovered something that gives me tremendous peace: God is not asking me to become perfect. He is asking me to

remain faithful. He is looking for a heart that is willing to trust Him, obey Him, and continue following wherever He leads.

Every step of surrender has drawn me closer to Jesus Christ. As I look back over my life, I now realize that God was never simply changing my circumstances. He was changing me.

Every trial, every season of waiting, every prayer answered, every disappointment, every act of obedience, every lesson learned through His Word, and every moment of surrender became another part of His loving work of preparing me for the life and ministry He had already planned.

Today, I understand that spiritual formation is the lifelong work of God conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and daily surrender. That work is continuing in me, and I know with confidence that the God who began this good work will remain faithful to complete it.

As I continue this journey of faith, these verses remind me daily that the Christian life is not lived by my strength but by faithfully following the Holy Spirit as He continually leads me closer to Jesus Christ.



Closing Scripture

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Romans 8:14

"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

Galatians 5:25



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your amazing grace, Your unfailing love, and Your endless patience with me. **Thank You** for calling me to Yourself through Jesus Christ and for never giving up on me, even when I tried to walk in my own strength. **Thank You** for pursuing my heart, drawing me into a deeper relationship with You, and teaching me through Your Word and the work of the Holy Spirit. **Thank You** for every lesson You have taught me, every trial You have used to strengthen my faith, every season that has deepened my trust, and every moment You have faithfully led me when I could not see the path ahead. Looking back, I can clearly see that You were always working, even when I did not understand what You were doing.

Thank You for transforming my heart instead of simply changing my circumstances. **Thank You** for renewing my mind, teaching me to surrender, and continually shaping me into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Every good thing in my life is the result of Your grace, Your mercy, and Your faithfulness.

Thank You for allowing my story to become part of Your greater story of redemption. May everything I write, teach, and share always point people beyond me and directly to Jesus Christ. Keep me humble, faithful, and completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit so that my life will always bring glory to Your name.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.



A Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

I lift before You every person who has read these pages. You know their heart completely. You know their joys and their sorrows, their victories and their struggles, their questions, fears, and disappointments. Thank You that nothing about their life is hidden from You.

Lord, Your Word tells us,

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Today I pray that every reader would hear Your invitation and respond with a willing heart. Draw them close to Yourself. Help them understand that they do not have to face life alone. Remind them that You love them with an everlasting love and that through Jesus Christ You offer forgiveness, hope, healing, peace, and new life.

As they open Your Word, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Your truth to them. Give them ears to hear Your voice, hearts that are willing to trust You, and courage to surrender every area of their lives into Your hands. Strengthen them to follow wherever You lead, knowing that Your plans are always good and Your presence never leaves those who belong to You.

Transform their hearts, renew their minds, strengthen their faith, and help them become the men and women You created them to be. May they discover the joy of walking with Jesus Christ each day and experience the peace that comes from living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

May they come to know You more deeply, love You more fully, trust You more completely, and faithfully follow You all the days of their lives.

In the wonderful name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.



Final Statement

This testimony is not the story of what I have accomplished—it is the story of what God continues to accomplish in a life that is surrendered to Him. If these pages have encouraged you to seek Jesus Christ more earnestly, trust God's Word more completely, or follow the leading of the Holy Spirit more faithfully, then God has fulfilled the purpose for which He allowed me to share my story. My prayer is that when you finish reading, you will remember His faithfulness far more than mine, because Jesus Christ alone is the One who transforms lives, restores hearts, and leads us home.

God meets us in our brokenness, transforms us through His Word and the Holy Spirit, and continually points us to Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

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