

Awake TO HIS PRESENCE

THE OPEN DOOR TO THE SECRET PLACE

30 DEVOTIONS WITH GUIDED JOURNAL



KELLIE COPELAND

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KELLIE COPELAND

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my tribe, my precious family. They love me, encourage me, stand up for me and inspire me every day. They are my biggest cheerleaders and most ardent fans, always ready with a thoughtful and honest opinion.

I love my children and grandchildren and consider them to be the greatest gifts I've ever been given. Thank You, Lord, for such perfect gifts.

Rachel and Caleb Mayer

and children

Kenneth, Katherine and Clark Mayer

Lyndsey and Alex Torres

and daughter

Colette Torres

Jenny and Elias Papapostolou

and son

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best friend is just the love and favor of God. He knew just the right person to send to both value and support me while at the same time challenge me. Everyone should have a Kim in their life. Laverne and Shirley, Lucy and Ethel and Kim and Kellie, enough said....

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I must thank Brian Simmons for allowing his life to be caught up in The Passion Translation. You did more than translate the Bible. You allowed the Holy Spirit to pierce our souls by opening our thoughts to His "wrap-around" presence. Thank you!

Thank you, dear reader, for being willing to take this journey with me. You are the co-author of the book you hold in your hands, and therefore, no two versions will be the same. My prayer is that your life will be an unusual expression of His love and faithfulness.

PSALM 25

(TPT)

Always I will lift up my soul into your presence, Yahweh.

Be there for me, my God, for I keep trusting in you.

*Don't allow my foes to gloat over me or
the shame of defeat to overtake me.*

*Could anyone be disgraced
when he has entwined his heart with yours?*

*But my foes will all be defeated and ashamed
when they harm the innocent.*

*Direct me, Yahweh, throughout my journey
so I can experience your plans for my life.*

Reveal the life-paths that are pleasing to you.

Escort me into your truth; take me by the hand and teach me.

For you are the God of my salvation;

I have wrapped my heart into yours all day long!

*Forgive my failures as a young man,
and overlook the sins of my immaturity.*

*Give me grace, Yahweh! Always look at me
through your eyes of love—*

your forgiving eyes of mercy and compassion.

When you think of me, see me as one you love and care for.

How good you are to me!

When people turn to you, Yahweh,

they discover how easy you are to please—so faithful and true!

Joyfully you teach them the proper path,

even when they go astray.

Keep showing the humble your path,

and lead them into the best decision.

Bring revelation—light that trains them in the truth.

Loving are all the ways of Yahweh, loving and faithful for

those who keep his covenant.

For the honor of your name, Yahweh,

never count my many sins, and forgive them all—

lift their burden off of my life!

Who are they that live in the holy fear of Yahweh?

You will show them the right path to take.

Then prosperity and favor will be their portion,

and their descendants will inherit the earth.

There's a private place reserved for the

devoted lovers of Yahweh,

where they sit near him and receive

the revelation—secrets of his promises.

Rescue me, Yahweh, for you free my feet from every trap.

Sorrows fill my heart as I feel helpless, mistreated—

I'm all alone and in misery!

Come closer to me now, for I need your mercy.

*Turn to me, for my problems seem to
be going from bad to worse.*

*Only you can free me from all these troubles!
Until you lift this burden, the burden of all my sins,
my troubles and trials will be more than I can handle.*

Can't you feel my pain?

Vicious, violent enemies hate me.

There are so many, Lord. Can't you see?

*Will you protect me from their power against
me? I have taken shelter in you.*

*Let it never be said that when I trusted you,
you didn't come to my rescue.*

*Your perfection and faithfulness are my bodyguards,
for you are my hope and I trust in you as my only protection.*

*Zealously, God, we ask you
to come save Israel from all her troubles,
for you provide the ransom price for your people!*

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WRAP YOUR HEART INTO HIS

Awaken! It's all about awakening. This is what Jesus did for me. Tenderly and progressively, His presence drew me closer to Him until I was changed. The greatness of the change in my life that came from sitting with Him truly can't be put into words. Instead of trying to put the whole of my experience in front of you, I invite you to enter His presence where you can experience Him for yourself. He's waiting for *you!*

After completing the 30 encounters of guided moments on the pages that follow, I sat down to write to you from my heart. I wanted to tell you how Jesus has given me promises, help and insight into the Kingdom. There was so much I wanted to say that it overwhelmed me. I heard the Lord's heart as He said, "It's too much," and I agreed.

Clarity came as I spent time with Him. He said, "Keep it simple. Our most amazing interactions occur when you are simply in My presence, knowing Me as Emmanuel."

Keeping it simple requires us to acknowledge that Jesus is the Shepherd, the One with the complicated, multi-dimensional role to play in our lives. He's the One who planned our existence long ago. He knows our heart, and He's always aware of our condition.

Psalm 139:1-18 (TPT)

Lord, you know everything there is to know about me.

You perceive every movement of my heart and soul,

*and you understand my every thought
before it even enters my mind.*

You are so intimately aware of me, Lord.

*You read my heart like an open book
and you know all the words I'm about to speak
before I even start a sentence!*

You know every step I will take before my journey even begins.

*You've gone into my future to prepare the way,
and in kindness you follow behind me to
spare me from the harm of my past.*

You have laid your hand on me!

This is just too wonderful, deep, and incomprehensible!

Your understanding of me brings me wonder and strength.

*Where could I go from your Spirit? Where
could I run and hide from your face?*

If I go up to heaven, you're there!

If I go down to the realm of the dead, you're there too!

If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you're there!

If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting!

*Wherever I go, your hand will guide me;
your strength will empower me.*

*It's impossible to disappear from you or
to ask the darkness to hide me,
for your presence is everywhere, bringing light into my night.*

*There is no such thing as darkness with you.
the night, to you, is as bright as the day;
there's no difference between the two.*

*You formed my innermost being, shaping my
delicate inside and my intricate outside,
and wove them all together in my mother's womb.
I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex!
Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking.
It simply amazes me to think about it!
How thoroughly you know me, Lord!
You even formed every bone in my body when
you created me in the secret place;
carefully, skillfully you shaped me from nothing to something.
You saw who you created me to be before I became me
Before I'd ever seen the light of day, the
number of days you planned for me
were already recorded in your book.
Every single moment you are thinking of me!
How precious and wonderful to consider that you
cherish me constantly in your every thought!
O God, your desires toward me are more than
the grains of sand on every shore!
When I awake each morning, you're still with me.*

The simple beauty of life with Jesus becomes more evident and real when we keep our part simple. Though it seems like we would experience more if we work harder, the opposite is true. So, remember to give Him your KISS (keep it so simple) as you sit with Him.

ALLURE

I have found the power to *be* simple also comes from Him! There is a secret process in Hosea 2:14-16 that expresses His powerful part of our ability to come to Him.

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her. I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt. When that day comes,” says the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’, instead of ‘my master.’”

Hosea 2:14-16

(verse 14 NASB1995, verses 15-16 TPT)

The word *allure* as used in verse 14 means “to be wide open, spacious, especially in a mental sense, to *cause* to be simple.” That is eye opening! The meaning of the word *wilderness* surprised me too. It means “a pasture or open field for feeding flocks.” *And*, it also means “a mouth, as an organ of speech.”

God is calling you to a wide-open place with Him where you will simply follow and feed on the words of the Shepherd, face to face. His very breath, *ruach* in Hebrew, means to infuse strength as He speaks. The deeper into His wilderness experience you go, the more His Words and His presence take on a new importance in your life. They become louder than any circumstance you may be walking through. You will begin to know Him as intimately as a spouse instead of just religiously following orders.

Remember, when Jesus was *led* into the wilderness by the Spirit in Luke 4:1-16? Why would the Holy Spirit do that? Jesus *needed* to be in that place of open pasture in the Spirit, being fed words from

the Father that would carry Him into His destiny and ultimate victory. When Satan came to tempt Him, all that Word came pouring out in power and sent the enemy running as Jesus repeatedly said, “It is written!” It really wasn’t Jesus being tested but the power of the Word being proven as Jesus held fast to God’s words. Mark 4:15 exposes the device Satan used on Jesus in the wilderness, which is the root of *every* device the enemy uses on us too.

Mark 4:15 (NKJV) says:

And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Luke 4:14 (AMPC) tells us the rest of the story as Jesus defeated Satan with the Word of God:

Then Jesus went back full of and under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee...

Jesus came out of that experience full of power and led by the Spirit, knowing that the Word of God has the power to defeat the enemy *and* bring the comfort and help needed in His soul and body. This was not just a theory of words but had become His experience! In this important encounter, Jesus’ authority over the enemy and His future victory over death were established forever.

Friend, you and I need to be grounded and established in God’s words as well. And Jesus is here to help us. He will feed us words from the heart of the Father that will carry us into our destiny and victory, giving us hope and healing along the way.

A ROYAL INVITATION

The King of Heaven has issued an official invitation into His presence. He literally invites you in His Word to come to Him. You will find these moments of invitation all over the Bible, so why would He not invite you to come to Him *now*?

How simple is it to accept an invitation! You need only to show up to experience what has been prepared for you, and here you are. If simple has not been your experience in the past when you tried to hear from the Lord, consider these possible roadblocks.

First, as we have seen with Jesus' experience, Satan is a liar and comes to steal the Word immediately. Stealing the Word is how he kills and destroys. The Word is his number-one target—not your life, family or health or finances. If he can steal the Word that the Lord is speaking to you, he can take anything Jesus promised you out of your hands.

Satan is the enemy of our souls, and he has deceived us into thinking it's hard to hear from the Lord. We've made hearing about our goodness and abilities, not the goodness and full capability of our Shepherd. We've made it about our faithfulness and level of spiritual maturity—not His.

When you read those statements, they sound ridiculous, don't they?

Since when is the immaturity of a child and his or her inability to hear more important than the wisdom and mature ability of the adult to speak in a manner the child understands?

It's not our desire to make His job harder. We love Him, and we believe Him. So, what's the disconnect between this love and hearing Him express His love? We've distrusted ourselves and what we are hearing, thinking it's just our own random thoughts.

Speaking of our own random thoughts, let's talk about our "prayers." We have this human propensity to go to God in prayer, asking Him for His help or spending our prayer time *telling Him* what and who He needs to change in order to help us. I'll let that thought drop right there. (It was a big ouch for me!) Prayer should be a two-way communication where we not only share our hearts but also receive God's great wisdom for us. Beyond that, His words contain power to bring themselves to pass (Luke 1:37 AMPC). It is a disconnect for our faith when we don't give Him the time and quiet to speak His mighty words of truth and wisdom back to us.

FAITH

Faith comes when He speaks directly to our hearts. Romans 10:17 (NASB95) says, "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

The Greek word used in this verse for *word* is *rhema*, which means "spoken word." So then faith comes from hearing and hearing through the spoken word. In sitting with the Lord and experiencing the power of hearing Him *inside* my soul, I realized the true meaning of Hebrews 12:2:

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith...(NLT).

Jesus initiates or authors our faith when we hear Him speak and faith comes supernaturally in that moment! We have real access to His thoughts about us, our situations and our destinies.

When we spend time with Him, we discover He is not indifferent but involved in every detail of our lives.

This is not the end of His promise to us. He is the author, initiator, perfecter and the developer of our faith.

Connect that back to Romans 10:17 once again and the meaning becomes so clear: Faith is born in us by hearing His spoken Word, and it is developed and perfected as we hear Him speak again and again. Pause and think about this for a minute! This is the life-changing definition of the Good Shepherd. As Jesus develops our faith, we have the power and courage to keep walking forward, holding onto what He says about us and what He's promised to us.

One more golden nugget to add here is found in Hebrews 6:17-20 (NLT).

God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

With every word of promise God speaks to us, He's bound Himself with an oath, and it is *impossible for Him to lie!* (Numbers 23:19).

Do you see the power of hearing His promises spoken directly to your heart? He is bound by His own Word that He cannot lie. We've had a promise and an oath from almighty God all this time, and yet, we've been trudging along, trying to walk out our Christian life without His hand-holding. It reminds me of trying to keep my

children from breaking our handhold in a crowded amusement park. How many times do we pull away, trying to figure out which way to go when He is there to lead us faithfully through?

Recently, when He showed me this truth, I was pressing into a promise He had given me. I realized I had an oath to go along with the promise when He said, “I am your Shepherd. Hold one hand like it’s My promise and the other like it’s My oath.” I could so picture Him walking me to the manifestation of what He had promised me.

THE TABLE

When you and I stop “adulting” with Jesus, He can be our Good Shepherd, provider, peace and whatever-we-need Savior. Oh how wonderful to be a simple sheep! This is truly the power of Psalm 23. We have heard this beautiful scripture as a word of peace, which it is, but let’s acknowledge the mighty power it represents in these promises to those who will follow Him. He will make us lie down in a new pasture filled with the words we need every day, a new daily bread for each day’s challenges and blessings! He will hold us and guide us through the specter of death and trouble with His rod of correction and rescue. If He is truly our Shepherd, we shall not want for *any* good thing! He restores our very life and makes our soul new again.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

I think we are divinely tired of spending our existence seeking ways to satisfy those wants. Some wants are obvious—those

connected to relationships, finances, health, joy, peace, quality of life and comfort. We go about life working, living and seeking entertainment as we try to make ourselves and those around us happy. Other less obvious motives like acceptance, value, validation, power and relief from unseen hurts or trauma prevent us from fulfilling our core desire, which is simply to *belong*.

*You were like sheep that continually wandered away, but now you have returned to the **true** Shepherd of your lives—the **kind** Guardian who **lovingly** watches over your souls.*

1 Peter 2:25 (TPT)

He has prepared a table for us, a covenant table in the presence of our enemies. Could our enemies be the lies Satan has planted in our souls? Yes! Jesus will expose and destroy those enemies at this covenant table until His anointing fills us and overflows out of us. He surrounds us with His mercy and unfailing love, forever assuring us that we indeed *belong* to Him.

Revelation 3:20 (TPT) talks about this table:

Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door within, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.

We are living in the days of Revelation 1-3, the glorious unveiling of Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation opens with the expression of who Jesus is and was and is to come. Then, we receive the invitation to hear the love and correction Jesus speaks to us, the Church. I love this invitation to not only respond to His knocking and open the door of our hearts to Him but also to invite Him to come in and sit down, allowing Him to sift through our hearts.

Revelation 2:23b (TPT) says:

...I am the one who thoroughly searches the most secret thought and the innermost being....

In essence, after searching the heart condition of the churches, Jesus gives them a diagnosis. He says to them, “I love this about you but not that; I put this other great truth in you, and I am lighting it on fire if you will let me burn the other out.” Maybe this is a simplistic view of this Revelation given to John, but it has helped me to not only see an open seat at the table but also to sit down and let Him search my heart. As He has slowly sifted through, He’s healed my heart, all the while inflaming my love for Him, my passion for the Kingdom and my love for others. Out of previously barren ground, He has brought fruit, and I am beginning to know Him as the Vine Keeper that He describes in John 15.

I feel confident in saying that in your conversations with Jesus, He will bring needed correction to you as He did so lovingly with me. I pray you will realize that His great love is the backdrop that unfolds as He prunes away the dark places in your life.

Romans 1 tells us that God is at war with every form of sin. He is not at war with us but with the sin in our hearts that causes evil actions. Jesus has come to free us! Hear His love as He works to rid you of your troubles—inside and out. He doesn’t expect you to rid yourself of sin so you can enter His presence. This is not true in the least! He welcomes you to come as you are! He invites you to come with your burdens as the song “Just as I Am” says:

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come.¹*

You've worked too hard for too long, and it's time to accept His invitation to sit at the table in the empty chair reserved for you. He will tell you who you are—that you *are* valuable and you *already* belong. I know He will do this because it's His actual job and destiny as the Son of God. He came as the perfect expression of the Father's love for *you*.

SIMPLY COME

So how do we keep it simple with Jesus? We do *our* part vs. *do* our part. See the subtle but critical difference? If we can wrap our busy selves around *our* part, doing it would not be so hard.

One piece of drawing closer to Him is our availability. The Lord ministered these words to my daughter, Rachel, “Your progress is not your responsibility. Your responsibility is availability.” That just blew a hole in some of our behaviors, didn't it? But it makes sense that if He is leading us, then we progress when we are available to be led. Availability doesn't require greatness on our part—simply a humble awareness of our need for Him.

When we become concerned about our progress, the good virtue of patient endurance leading to excellence of maturity can instead easily become a works-based life of performance. This only leads to a self-made perfection, which is, perhaps, the furthest thing God wants from us. This is a counterfeit to real, true spiritual growth that leads to His perfection being formed in us. Can you see how this lie bleeds into our “trying” to hear His voice?

In this scenario, we begin to believe it is our own perfection and spiritual maturity that causes our Father to want to speak to us—or not speak to us. This is a requirement we impose upon ourselves.

Remember! God's perfection is sure. Our perfection is not *required* to *sit* at the table; instead, our perfection is actually *acquired* while we are *seated* at the table with Him.

Ironically, when we think we must be perfect, we are too busy working out our so-called perfection to actually sit down. This creates an endless religious cycle that goes nowhere but gradually descends into hopelessness. We think we are walking by faith and trying to stay steady on our scriptures but, all the while, we've become shipwrecked by putting our faith in ourselves and not in Him.

What is the way out of this cycle? We must trust Jesus' ability and spiritual maturity to know how to speak to us and be heard by us *more* than we *distrust* ourselves. It's that simple. And yet, it's profoundly true. To believe God's truth is to *experience* His freedom and His promises.

Try this! Really! Do it! Don't just read about it (maybe that is what is wrong in the first place).

Get ready to experience an important moment. But first, if you've never asked Jesus into your heart, flip to the back of this book to page 253 and pray the short prayer inviting Jesus to come into your heart, and He will. Again, it's so simple. Then come back to experience this moment with Him:

Put your hand over your chest or belly, whichever feels to you like you are recognizing His Spirit in you.

Close your eyes and focus on Jesus.

Say this out loud:

"I love You, Jesus."

Then, be quiet and just listen!

Ready, go....

What did you hear?

If your answer is “nothing,” think again.

Did words quickly come back to you? Did you dismiss them as being your own thoughts?

When I do this with children, it’s always fun because they are the easiest group to lead. They hear something and just naturally believe it’s Jesus. They hear Him say all kinds of things like, “I love you too!” “You are going to have a great day!” or “I’m proud of you!” He seems to stick to the pretty simple phrase of “I love you too” with adults. Maybe it’s all we can handle at first.

I often open up my conversations with Jesus, saying, “I love You, Jesus.” He always says, “I love you too.” Often, He adds my name to His declaration. Many times, He will just keep right on talking afterward.

This has been a wonderful way to introduce my children and grandchildren to His loving voice. One night, I said to my daughter, “Emily, let’s talk to Jesus. One, two, three,” and she said with me, “I love You, Jesus.”

To me, Jesus said the simple, “I love you too.” But Emily kept her eyes closed longer and was intently listening. I grew impatient to see how it turned out and asked her, “What did He say?”

She looked at me with annoyance on her face and said, “Shhh, you’re interrupting Him!” and went back to listening. If we could be so childlike, oh, the wonders we would hear!

EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

What a beautiful open door for all of us to experience His love. Jesus is the miracle of Emmanuel, God with us, and He wants His love to be experienced in reality, not in mere words alone.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (TPT) proves this to be His will:

So I kneel humbly in awe before the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, the perfect Father of every father and child in heaven and on the earth. And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power. Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life. Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences—the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions.

How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! How enduring and inclusive it is!

Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!

When we stop believing the lie of the enemy that says, “Those were just your thoughts,” we can believe what we heard so quickly spoken in our hearts was, indeed, the voice of our Lord.

When we invite Jesus to speak with us, we are responding in faith to His invitation to come. Would the Good Shepherd of our soul let the enemy of our soul have access to the space between us? Would

He stay silent when we answer His call, allowing Satan to imitate Him? No and no.

John 10:1-5 (NLT) says:

“I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

I believe we can live in the Spirit—in our Lord’s presence—to the degree that Satan cannot get a word in edgewise as they say in Texas. If Satan can’t speak to us because we won’t listen, he won’t be able to plant lies in our hearts anymore! This is the powerful and peaceful result of giving Jesus full reign over our souls.

Now, go back and try that conversation starter with Jesus again. This time with a new faith in your heart and a purposeful trust in the Good Shepherd, the gatekeeper and King of your soul.

I am confident that you heard Him respond because it’s what He does!

Psalms 78:1-2 (KJV) says:

***Give ear,** O my people, to my law [teaching]; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable [in instruction by numerous examples]; I will utter dark sayings of old [that hide important truth].*

You are on your journey with Him already. Trust Him to be your Teacher and Friend, to shine light on His sayings to you even as you read His Word in His Presence.

Worship Him as you sit with Him. This is a crucial piece of relationship with Jesus—not only in your journal time but in all your time with Him.

Worship is not just something you do, but it is a posture and positioning of your heart.

You speak worship every time you choose His Word over your circumstances. You exemplify worship as you obey Him, and you beautifully worship Him as you sing the words of spiritual songs from your heart. As you express yourself to Him, you are humbling yourself before Him and aligning your soul in submission to His greatness. As you sing, you are declaring to your mind, will and emotions that He is God Almighty—you are not.

He becomes bigger to you while you begin to recognize the rested peace of being small, cared for and loved—truly loved by Him. In His presence in true worship, you become aware that you can be real with Him, sharing all your thoughts and cares, and He will listen to you. He is so kind as to use your times of worship to tell you who *you are in Him*.

This is Jesus, our human Son of God and Son of Man in one. God and Man in us and One with us. We have no idea who we really are until we hear it straight from Jesus. I heard my friend, Grace, say a profound thing: “Our identity is found in His Voice.”

He knows how to be heard, and He invited us to simply come, expecting to hear. Jesus admonished the 12 disciples, the multitudes and the Church repeatedly from Matthew to Revelation with these words, “If any have ears to hear, let him hear.” He offered us promise

after promise of what we can expect as we hear, believe and do His will. My prayer for you is that you may have ears to hear.

MY HOPES FOR YOU

My hope is that you will remove any roadblock that would hinder you from hearing. I have so many hopes for you as you begin to sit with Jesus and spend time with Him, they could fill another chapter. But again, I'll keep it simple. I hope you approach this book with excitement at the experience ahead of you.

I hope you don't pay any attention to the "30-day" format. If a day can be to the Lord as a thousand years, then a day can be two hours or two weeks to you. Take your time as you go through the conversations and encounters with Him. He may have so much to say to you, or you to Him, that your conversation fills pages. It will be wonderful and life-changing!

Conversely, I hope you don't feel duty bound to do this every day. Rather, let your delight in His presence drive you to sit with Him again. My hunger for Him began to demand fewer and fewer days between each encounter. Amazingly, He had something to say whenever I would sit myself down with an ear to hear and a pen to write. I hope you continue to press in, until one day you realize that the times in His presence don't stop when you put your journal down, but He continues to speak to you as you go about your day.

I hope you don't allow the blank lines or lack of space in this journal to pressure or intimidate you. You can also keep a journal or use the blank pages in the back to record what He says when there are no lines or not enough lines. This is *your* conversation with Him

not to be dictated by lines. This journal is your invitation to freedom, not a box to imprison you!

I believe that out of your experience in His presence, you will begin to understand the heart behind Psalm 84:10-12 (TPT). This whole psalm expresses this joy!

*For just one day of intimacy with you is like
a thousand days of joy rolled into one!
I'd rather stand at the threshold in front of the Gate Beautiful,
ready to go in and worship my God,
than to live my life without you
in the most beautiful palace of the wicked.
For the Lord God is brighter than the brilliance of a sunrise!
Wrapping himself around me like a shield,
he is so generous with his gifts of grace and glory.
Those who walk along his paths with integrity
will never lack one thing they need, for he provides it all!
O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what euphoria fills those
who forever trust in you!*

He is our Shepherd and the Lord of Heaven's armies. He is our hope and our overwhelming victory. He has more hopes for you than I can mention or know, and He is ready to work and weave them into your past, your now and your future. You think you're sitting peacefully with the Shepherd as He comforts you, but suddenly you realize the Lord of Heaven's armies just fought your battle and handed it to you on a platter. That's our Jesus, and it's how He works His hopes in you. As you sit with Him, you will hear the faithfulness

and the love on one hand and His mighty power to slay your enemies on the other!

IT'S TIME

As you open the door of your heart to Him, realize you are headed to another door that's been standing open and waiting for you.

After these things I looked, and behold, a door was standing open in heaven. And the first voice, which I had heard speaking with me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." Immediately I was in the Ruach; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One seated on the throne.

Revelation 4:1-2 (TLV)

The scripture says, "Immediately I was in the *Ruach*" or breath of God. My friend, find your rest there. Find His peace there.

"What if I don't hear anything?" someone might ask. Let the questions fade away, face to face in His presence. Just be still. Wait on the Lord. He can do more with five minutes of quiet than we can do with thousands of years of words. Wait like a pregnant mother waits—waiting not because nothing is happening but because everything is happening. She waits in expectancy! As you sit with Him, His wonderful Holy Spirit will hover over you as He did Mary, confirming His Word with His presence and with signs following. This was His plan all along. So be seated, knowing that His desire is to be with you as your Guide into the very throne of God. He's inviting you and welcoming you as He says, "Come, sit with Me."

It all begins with a simple "Yes, Lord..."

NOTE

1. “Just as I Am,” lyrics by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871), music by William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868). Public domain.

A ROAD MAP FOR THE ENCOUNTERS AHEAD

As you begin the encounters on the pages that follow, you will discover messages from Jesus that will draw you into a deeper communication and intimate relationship with Him. Included are tools to inspire heart-to-heart conversations between the two of you.

Each entry includes:

- An opening text scripture for meditation
- A message from Jesus in quotes “ ” that was collected from my conversations with Him but apply to us all!
- Responses from me in *italics* to help guide the conversation
- Lines to write the words of Jesus as He speaks to you
- Prompts and lines for you to write the responses resonating in your heart as you freely talk to Jesus
- Scriptures included for optional meditation and study as you process His Word in His presence

The door is open! He's waiting! Come *awake in His presence...*

Encounter 1

... “Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine [as dawn] upon you and give you light.”

Ephesians 5:14 (AMP)

I AM AWAKENED

“ Waking up is hard to do. It takes courage and accessibility to allow Me entrance into your life, to make Me the Lord of your life. I have come to be LORD of your life.

I come. You're drawing close to Me when you respond. That is why it's important to structure your time to allow Me to move. Many times, I've sought your presence, but you were not available. You were not home when I knocked. Your busyness and your lifestyle have shut Me out. This is why I must knock.

Should I have to knock on the door of a heart that belongs to Me? Certainly not! This is My territory. This is My land. So, make it a point to open the door. Then, when I come in, I will not leave.

Wake up! Do it supernaturally! In our times together, we'll discuss many things. If I can't come in, you won't see Me. ”

Kellie: *I'm awake!*

Jesus says to me...

“Do you think I am out of your reach? I have made Myself available. Come to Me, and I will give you what you need—the needs you know and the needs you are unaware of. This will be glorious, but the greater glory will be found in abiding. For in abiding, I will satisfy every desire, even the desires of your heart you do not realize are there. Make a vow to stay.”

Kellie: I love You, Lord, and I Love Your presence. I'll do what is required to show up at the table ready to hear what You are saying to me. I enjoy being with You in spite of myself and my mess.

Lord, I give You...

“ I will be found. ”

Jesus says to me...

“ I can't enjoy your presence without you.... ”

Jesus, I want You to know...

Processing His Word in His Presence

Revelation 1:1-18

Revelation 3:20

Matthew 11:25-30

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kellie Copeland

Author · Speaker · Entrepreneur · TV Host

Raised in the loving, faith-filled home of ministers Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Kellie experienced unique ministry training and witnessed firsthand the faithfulness of Jesus. A lifetime of living by faith equipped her to face difficult times that came her way and paved the way for Jesus to become her everything.

Kellie's passion to know Jesus more intimately has created an atmosphere for transparent conversations and ministry opportunities on her weekly talk show *Kellie* on the Victory Channel.

She is the author of *Protecting Your Family in Dangerous Times* and impacts children around the world as Commander Kellie of Superkid Academy.

Kellie's full-time love is her family. She is living her best life with Emily, her youngest daughter, and last gift at home. The Texas grandmommy of five also loves to spend as much time as she can with her four grown children and their amazing spouses.

For more information, visit
<http://kelliecopeland.com/awake>

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