Time for God?

How to improve your relationship with God

Dedicated to my wife and the mother of my children

I wrote this book many years ago when I was still married. Since I dedicated it to my wife then, I feel it is appropriate to leave it dedicated to her.

Forward

The purpose of this book is to encourage, exhort, enlighten, and give tools to improve your relationship with God. I believe that the enemy is sidetracking Christians. We are being caught up in the fast pace and become absorbed in our own lives. The Word of God says, "Seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"(Matt. 6:33). But, many Christians don't know how to go about doing that. Many believers don't believe they have the time. But God wants the first fruits of not only your time, money, and attention as well. And when you surrender your first and best to God, He will transform your life. You cannot out-give God. Everything you have and ever will have, comes from Him. God wants you to have life and have it more abundantly (Jn.10:10) . God's intention is not for you to have life easy, it's for you to be transformed into the likeness of His Son. God is a gentleman; He will not force Himself on you. It is up to you to surrender the areas of your life for God to transform. I prayed for God to transform me into the image of His Son, and then trials started coming into my life. Most people would think, "Wow! I don't want to pray that then." But I'm here to tell you that those trials were the only way God could wake me up, so He could get me to see the stubborn areas in my life that I had not been willing to see. And then God humbled me enough so that I could surrender them to Him. I thank God for loving me enough to bring circumstances into my life that would mould and shape me for His purpose. My circumstances have caused me to spend more time praying. Also, God has shown me that it is possible to pray without ceasing. My circumstances are

still difficult. But God has enabled me to handle more. I am confident "That all things work for the good for those that love the Lord"(Rom.8:28). I do see God opening up His blessings to me as I move in obedience to Him. My hope for you is that this book will open your heart to what God wants for your life and relationship with Him. And that you might reap more abundantly the blessings God has for you in your life and those around you.

In order to have any relationship, you need to communicate and spend time together. Without communication and time together, you don't have a relationship. The soul is eternal, but the brief time we spend on this Earth and the decisions we make will determine where we spend the rest of eternity. In Matthew Jesus said "Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess to them, I never **knew** you: depart from me, you that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23 And in the Gospel of John, Jesus said "If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither **knows** him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you." John 14:15-17

The purpose of this book, is that you might KNOW God, so that you can spend eternity with Him.

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Jesus Our Example

Jesus the Messiah has arguably influenced more people's lives than any other man in the history of the world. To this day, anyone he touches will never be the same. He is our example and who we esteem to be like. To emulate Jesus, we must examine His life.

Jesus was a man of prayer. Throughout scripture, Jesus goes off on his own to pray trying to get alone and spend time with the Father (Matt.14:23). When the disciples could not cast out a demon, Jesus cast it out and said that this type could not be cast out, except by prayer and fasting (Matt. 17:21). When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Jesus retaliated with scripture (Matt. & Luk. 4:1-11). Jesus knew scripture and used scripture. All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and for instruction in righteousness (2Tim.3:16). Scripture is God's method of communicating with us. If we are praying and not in scripture, we are doing all the talking and not listening to God. A relationship is dependent on communication from both parties. Being in the Word and praying daily is critical in your relationship with God.

Jesus had all the frailties we have. He was as dependent on prayer as we are. He needed to stay in fellowship with the Father, as we do. He showed us by example that we can remain in fellowship with God.

Chapter 1
First fruits offering

We can make the correct logical decision, and it still is the wrong decision. The only way we are guaranteed to make the right decisions is to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. To know God's voice, you have to spend time with Him. You have to listen for His voice. He usually whispers. If you're busy talking all the time, you won't hear Him. So you have to slow down and be still. Be still and know that I am God. (Psa. 46:10) The time you spend in the Word of God is as critical as the time you spend praying. God will speak to you through His Word, and He will never contradict His Word. In other words, He won't ever tell you to do something that contradicts His Word. So it is crucial to know His Word. Jesus is the Word, so how well you know, the Word is how well you know Jesus. Don't get me wrong; I'm not talking about head knowledge. For no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation (2Pet.1:20). Even Satan quoted scripture. (Matt. 4:6). It is only through God's Holy Spirit that we receive revelation knowledge. And once again, that comes from spending time with God.

David said in the Psalms, "My voice shall you hear in the morning." Abel gave of the first fruits of his flocks, unlike Cain, whose offering was unacceptable. (Gen. 4:3-4) God wants the first fruits of your life. He wants the first fruits of your time, attention, and energy. And though Christians don't like to hear it, He wants the first fruits of your finances.

Robbing God of His tithes will hinder your prayers and your blessings (Mal.3:8-11). I can say this, because I'm not asking for any tithes or offerings, I only look to see you move in the fullness of what God has for you. God doesn't need your money; He wants your obedience and acknowledgement that your finances come from Him. Your admission is in your first fruits. Not just your finances, but your time and your attention. If you're not willing to trust God with these, He will not trust you with more.

Seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matt. 6:33). We ask ourselves, "Am I living for Jesus?" Or "Am I putting my treasures in Heaven?" And "Am I seeking the righteousness of Jesus?" If we are honest with ourselves, we'll have to admit we fall short. We are usually more interested in entertaining ourselves with television, ball games, or doing our own thing. This is not necessarily wrong in itself, but God wants an ongoing day-by-day relationship with you. Psalm 14:2-3 says "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see.., If there were any that did understand, seek God. They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy; there is none that does good, no, not one". It's nice to know that every one of us has room for improvement. And that improvement is to our benefit. God does not need us; we need Him. But He loves us, cares for us, and wants us. The enemy knows he doesn't have to get you to sin. All he has to do is keep you preoccupied. If you're too busy to spend time with God, you'll be too busy to hear God when He's talking to you.

I would think that if someone cared enough to read this book, they are looking to improve their relationship with God. If you haven't already done this, I believe the critical first step, is committing the first fruits of our life. That commitment to getting up a little earlier to spend time with God in the morning will be critical in keeping the relationship going through the rest of the day. I find that to do that, it starts the night before, ending my day with God and getting to bed earlier, thanking God for each day, and pleading the blood of Jesus over my dreams. If I go to bed meditating on God's Word, I will wake up thinking about God's Word. When I commit my day to God's hands, I find that things run smoother throughout the day.

PRAYER:

- Father in Heaven we pray that You will give us a heart that is pleasing to You.
- We thank You, Lord, for each day that you give us and for Your provision.
- We praise your Holy Name and acknowledge Your authority in our life, marriage, and family.
- We commit our day into Your hands and ask that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit to empower us for Your glory.
- And Lord, that You would make us mindful of Your Word and sensitive to the moving of Your Holy Spirit.
- We ask for everything in Jesus' name. Amen

Chapter 2
The Power of Prayer

There is no more powerful force in the universe at your disposal than the power of prayer. We have access to the creator of the universe through His Son Jesus. And He says ask anything in His name, believing you shall receive (Matt. 21:21).

God spoke creation into existence, and it was. We were made in His image. The power of life and death is in the tongue. (Prov. 18:21) What we say goes before the throne of God. Wow, what a tremendous responsibility to guard the words that come from our mouths. I'm guilty of not speaking blessings into my wife's life when she wouldn't partner with me. In my frustration, I complained instead of praying for blessings in her life. And my family paid the price for it. I recommend a couple of books on transforming your marriage through prayer; for women, "The Power of a Praying Wife" and for men, "The Power of a Praying Husband". Stormie Omartian's book was the most helpful out of five that I was reading in praying for my wife. We often have to remind ourselves that it's not about us. We were created by God, for God. God loves us and wants to partner with us. He wants us to look to Him for provision. But God is not a vending machine that we put our prayer requests into and poof, out comes what we want. He is our loving Father, who deserves our praises, thanks, and obedience.

When Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name". He started with "Our Holy Dad who's in Heaven". Our father, ours! We have been called

"sons" by God! And He is Holy and is set apart. His name is Holy and in the Heavens. Think about the fact that the Holy God of Heaven considers us as His children. God allows us to look to Him as our father and joint heir to the throne along with Jesus.

"Your Kingdom comes, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." It's about Him. His Kingdom, His will, here, the way things are run in Heaven. Heaven is Heaven because His will is done there. He knows better than we do how to have Paradise. But He gives us free will to make our own choices. That's why it's not Heaven here on earth. That's why we look forward to the Millennium Kingdom when Jesus will sit on the throne of David and run things in God's way. In the meantime, we are praying this into place.
Acknowledging who God is and seeking His Kingdom in our lives should be first in our prayer life.

"Give us this day, our Daily Bread". We start each day by the grace of God. Our relationship with God is on a day-to-day basis. And we don't know what tomorrow holds. It is by faith that we trust God for each day and all our provisions. We must turn to God each day for all our needs.

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors". We will be judged by the measuring stick we use for others. Judge not that you be not judged (Matt.7:1). Any unforgiveness we have toward anyone else will hinder our prayer life.

More importantly, it keeps God from being able to forgive us. I had blinders preventing me from seeing eighteen years of resentment and unforgiveness toward my wife. It affected my health, my finances, and my family. When God revealed it to me, and I gave it to Him. The chest pains I had for two years immediately disappeared. I have seen my finances turn around, and I trust God's perfect will in my family.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" The best way to be victorious over sin is not to avoid being tempted in the first place. When we allow the opportunity for temptation, we set ourselves up for a fall. The enemy wants you to fight temptation. God wants you to walk away from the fight and receive the victory Jesus has already won for us.

"For Yours is the Kingdom, power, and the glory, Forever. Amen." God isn't God because He's good. God is God because He has the power to be God. The fact that He is good is just a blessing; we must be thankful for it. He created everything; it's His Kingdom. Recognizing His Kingdom, power, and glory is eternal. God is unchanging. Likewise are His glory and power. Amen (Umani) agrees with this. The Hebrew word for "faith" and translates as "Truly", which means "This is true". I agree and will put my life on it.

There are different types of prayer;

Praise: There is power in praise! Praising God draws us closer to God. And God is Holy and Holy people praise Him. Praise is our way of showing God how much we appreciate Him. Praise was spoken, sang, played, danced, and sacrificed. There are seven words in Hebrew for praise, and each one means something different.

Thanksgiving: We have the opportunity to tell God how much we appreciate Him. And all that he provides for us. If we believe in God, we will be thanking Him before we see the manifestation of His promises. This shows faith in the promises of God. When Israel would go into battle, they would trill. The trilling was celebrating the victory before the war started.

Supplication: God's name is Yahweh Yirah (I AM your provision). It's not even that God will provide. He is our provider. That's who He is. He says, "You have not because you ask not. And you ask and don't receive because you ask wrongly."

Intercession: Just as Jesus stands in the gap for us, we must follow his example and stand in the gap for others. God allows us to go through circumstances, so we can have compassion and relate to what others are going through.

PRAYER:

- Our Father in Heaven, Your name is Holy to me.
- We pray for Your will and Your Kingdom in our life.
- We pray for Your blessings in our lives, both in our health and our finances.
- Forgive us, reveal any unforgiveness in our lives and cleanse us of any sin.
- Keep us from temptation and guard us against the enemy.
- Lord, You have the power to do so. Do so, for Your glory, and the furtherance of your Kingdom. We move in agreement with You.

Chapter 3
Exponential Power

I refer to two Old Testament scriptures: Lev.26:8 "Eight will put a hundred to flight, and a hundred will put ten thousand to flight." And Deut.32:30 "How can one put a thousand to flight, and two put ten thousand to flight unless the Rock sells them out or God gives them over." You would think that two would put two thousand to flight, as was printed in my copy of the Message Bible. But it's not doubled; it's multiplied exponentially. It works similarly to compounded interest. You've probably heard the example of taking a penny and doubling it. It then doubles the two pennies, the four, the eight, the sixteen, the thirty-two, sixty-four, one hundred and twenty-eight, etc., and so on. Pretty soon, that penny has turned into a million dollars. That's how Japan went from bankruptcy after world war two; to becoming an economic world power by saving 40% at compounded interest. The miracle of compound interest has made millionaires and on the other hand buried people in debt.

So it is with prayer, "any two touching on anything and it shall be done." (Matt. 18:19) Jesus says all you need is one person to agree with you in prayer, and it will be done. That's why the enemy works so hard to break up marriages. Because if a husband and wife move together in unity, the gates of hell won't be able to stand against them. So the more believers you have moving in harmony, the more influential the impact of your prayer. So, does this mean that the bigger the prayer meeting, the better the results?

Not exactly; bigger isn't always better. Getting more people to move in the same Spirit is much more difficult. Unity is the key. Three people moving in unity can progress in more power than ten who are not in agreement. Exponential power is predicated on synergy (synchronized energy). A house divided will not stand.

God has set up a chain of command in everything. Moving in unity; does not mean that your pastor has to line up his beliefs with his congregation. God has put your leadership in authority. The leader's responsiblity for making sure they move in the Spirit of God. Your responsibility to align yourself with leadership. Likewise, husbands move in obedience to Jesus' will, and wives move to their husbands. The responsibility always falls to leadership. So husbands should not blame their wives when they relinquish their authority and don't like the results. God will hold leadership accountable and expects you to submit to your authorities. When we move in one Spirit, nothing will be impossible for us.

God said they were all of one mind and purpose at the tower of Babel, and look what they did so that nothing would be impossible for them (Gen. 11:6). Here, you have ungodly people moving as one. How much more power for those who would move as one to glorify God?
Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, He that believes in Me, the works that I do shall he also do; and greater than these shall he do; because I go to the Father" (Jn. 14:12). We should be moving in authority and power.

I believe that corporate prayer is essential. But if your individual prayer life is lacking, it will be challenging to move in unity corporately. Likewise, the time you spend with God before you go to church is critical to moving in unity once you get to church.

PRAYER:

- Lord and Father, fill us with Your Holy Spirit.
- Help us to be obedient to your Word and sensitive to the urgings of Your Holy Spirit.
- We pray for those that You have put over us would be obedient to Your will. Deliver them from temptation and guard them against evil.
- Cause us to move in unity for Your glory and purpose.
- Thank You, Lord, that you give us access to Your throne through Your Son Jesus.
- Thwart the enemy's plans to create division and cause us to move as one. Amen

Chapter 4
The Keys to the Kingdom

After Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus told him, "Truly I say to you whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven" (Matt. 16:19 & 18:18). Binding and losing are legal terms. For example, a contract is binding, and you can be loosed from an agreement. God has given you power of attorney in the Heavens. Every situation we deal with on earth is being fought on two battlefields. The spiritual will affect the physical, just as the physical will affect the spiritual. You cannot separate one from the other. That is why your physical actions have spiritual consequences. It's a matter of cause and effect. When we command sickness to go, it's bound by the authority we've been given from the Word of God. We can loose angels from Heaven to battle the forces that the enemy sends against us. These are powerful weapons placed at our disposal. Please make no mistake; we are at war, and lives are at stake. It is up to us to use the weapons we've been given. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).
If somebody wanders around a battlefield in the middle of a war, what do you think will happen to them?

Isaiah 22:22 says, "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut, and he shall shut, and none shall open." Jesus tells the

church of Philadelphia, "He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts and no man opens; I know your works: behold I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength and have kept My Word, and have not denied My name" (Rev. 3:7-8). When God opens a door before you, go through it! The enemy will always try to stop you with fear and doubt. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear:" (1Jn. 4:18) Whenever fear is your motive, you can bet you will make the wrong choice. Fear, not hate is the opposite of love. Hate is only a branch from the root of fear.

Job 12:14 says, "Behold, he breaks down, and it cannot be built again: he shuts up a man, and there can be no opening." Jesus came to give sight to the blind, make the deaf to hear, and set the captives free. Teachers had debated that these prophesies referred to his teachings that they provide spiritual insight and allowing spiritual freedom from sin. As we know, they did. But they were also literal, as we see in scripture from the miracles He performed. This is the authority he given to us. This authority has to be exercised. To those faithful with a little, God will make him a steward of much. If you are not faithful with a little, how can you expect God to trust you with more?

PRAYER:

- Father in Heaven, we thank you for Your grace, mercy, and the keys to the kingdom.
- We loose the blessings of God in our life.
- We bind the enemy's plans against us and command them to stay out of our life.
- Remove fear and doubt from among us, and replace them with faith and love.
- We come before You washed in the blood of Jesus, clothed in His righteousness.
- And we do all this by the authority given to us and in the name of Jesus. Amen

Chapter 5
Pleasing God with Faith

"Without faith, it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). Faith is believing in things not seen. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). So let us look at what is not of Faith; doubt, fear, bitterness, unforgiveness, and being anxious. These all cut us off from the power of God moving in our life.

In the English translation of the word "faith" from the original language, we translate it, as Faith, trust, and belief. We think we understand these words, but the New Testament uses six different forms of the word. For example, James 2:18-20 But someone will say, "You have faith (pistin), and I have works." Show me your Faith (pistin) without your works, and I will show you my Faith (pistin) by my works. You believe (pisteueis) that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe (pisteuouoin) - and tremble! But do you want to know, 0 foolish men, that Faith (pistis) without works is dead?"
I chose that verse because of how often the word faith appears. Verses 23 & 24 continue, "Abraham believed (episeuoen) God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, not by Faith (pistoos).

The English language can often be vague and in-descriptive. Faith (pistin) is Faith that's given to you by God.

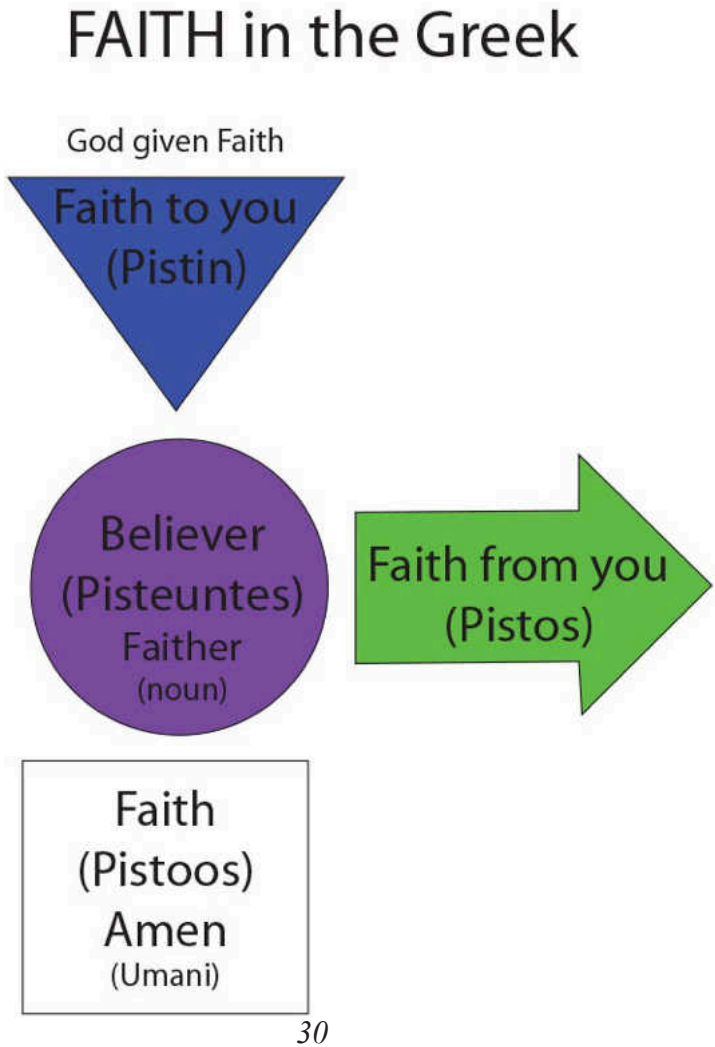
Faith (pistos) is Faith that comes from you. Faith (pistoos) is the same as the Hebrew word Amen (Umani), which is usually translated in the New Testament as "Truly". It means: "so be it" or "this is true!" It is an unshakable faith you have that you would put your life on. You agree with God.

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (pistiounti), for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Believes (pistiounti) is the word "faith" in the form of a verb. It means leaning on and trusting in God. When someone says, "I believe in God." They usually really mean, "I think God exists." They don't necessarily have a relationship leaning on and trusting in Him.

Matt.17:20 "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."
It doesn't say, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed." It says, "If you have the faith of a mustard seed." Think about it. You plant it, and it grows. It doesn't worry or doubt; it just grows. Ask yourself, "Do I believe God's Word?" "Do I trust God with my life, marriage, and family?"

"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" (Rom. 8:28).

Everything God does is set up based on cause and effect. He says if you do this, then this will happen. God is not a respecter of persons. He shines the sun on the good and the bad alike. Someone who does not believe in God will still reap the benefits of keeping his instructions. The condition in the above verse is "to them that love God" John 14:15. "If you love me, keep my commandments." It does not just believe God in His Word; it's also about loving God's Word to the point of keeping it. If you love someone, you want to please them.



PRAYER:

- Father, we praise Your Holy name and bless You with our lives.
- Strengthen our faith and help us to be obedient to Your Word.
- Remove all doubt and fear and fill us with Your love and faith.
- Give us boldness to step out in faith.
- And help us to hear Your voice.
- Use us Lord for Your glory in Jesus name. Amen

Chapter 6
The Joseph Effect

In Genesis, the story of Joseph was viewed by Old Testament teachers as a picture of the Messiah. That's not the picture I'm considering how Joseph was greatly beloved of his father, just as you are greatly beloved of your Heavenly Father. When his father gave him a coat of many colors, in Hebrew, it translates as "coat with long sleeves". That's the equivalent of a "business suit" in modern-day terms. Workers wore the short sleeve shirts, and supervisors wore long sleeves. His father wanted to put him in charge, just like your heavenly Father wants to put you in charge.

But let's go in a different direction here. Joseph dreamed that his father and brothers were bowing to him. That Joseph would be exalted over his brothers.

The Vision: You get a vision or calling from God. You're feeling pretty good; God has set a direction for you. Joseph's brothers become jealous and planned to kill him. They sell him off into slavery. So now, instead of ruling over them, he has become enslaved.

Conflict: After your vision, the total opposite of your vision happens. Believe it or not, this makes sense. God wants your faith to grow; it doesn't take any faith if it occurs immediately. However, it takes a great deal of faith when the opposite happens.

Now Joseph was bought by Potiphar and ended up in charge of all of Potiphar's household.

Progress: You start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph. When Joseph turns her down, she cries rape, and poor Joseph is thrown in jail.
Conflict: When you see the light at the end of the tunnel, it ends up being an oncoming train.

Wrongly accused and thrown into prison, Joseph proves you can't keep a good man down. Joseph ends up in charge of the prison.
Progress: You keep the faith and fight the good fight.

Joseph interprets the butler' and the baker's dreams. Joseph tells the butler, "When your dream comes true tell the Pharaoh how he was wrongly accused".
Hope: Encouragement when you need it most.

Joseph waits three years in prison.
Patience: I think the brother of faith is patience.

You know the story; Joseph ends up second in command under Pharaoh. He forgives and saves his brothers, and they bow down to him.
Fulfilment: God's purpose will be made manifest. But the process that develops the life of Messiah in us is the critical part. It is the process of preparing us to fulfil our vision.

1.Vision
2.Conflict
3.Progress
4.Conflict
5.Progress
6.Patience
7.Fulfillment

PRAYER:

- Thank You Father that You love me and work things for my good.
- Thank You for the vision in my life and that You make my paths straight.
- Thank You father for the trials that You use to mold me for your work.
- Strengthen me and create in me a clean heart.
- Help me to keep my eyes on You and lean on You through the trials.
- Be glorified through my life in Jesus name. Amen

Chapter 7
Know Your Enemy

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and wickedness in high places. (Eph. 6:12).

The enemy gets you fighting each other, so that you will be too preoccupied with fighting everyone other than the enemy. Maybe someone might be allowing the enemy to use them, but they are not your enemy. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. John 10:10 He will play upon your weaknesses and the weaknesses of those around you.

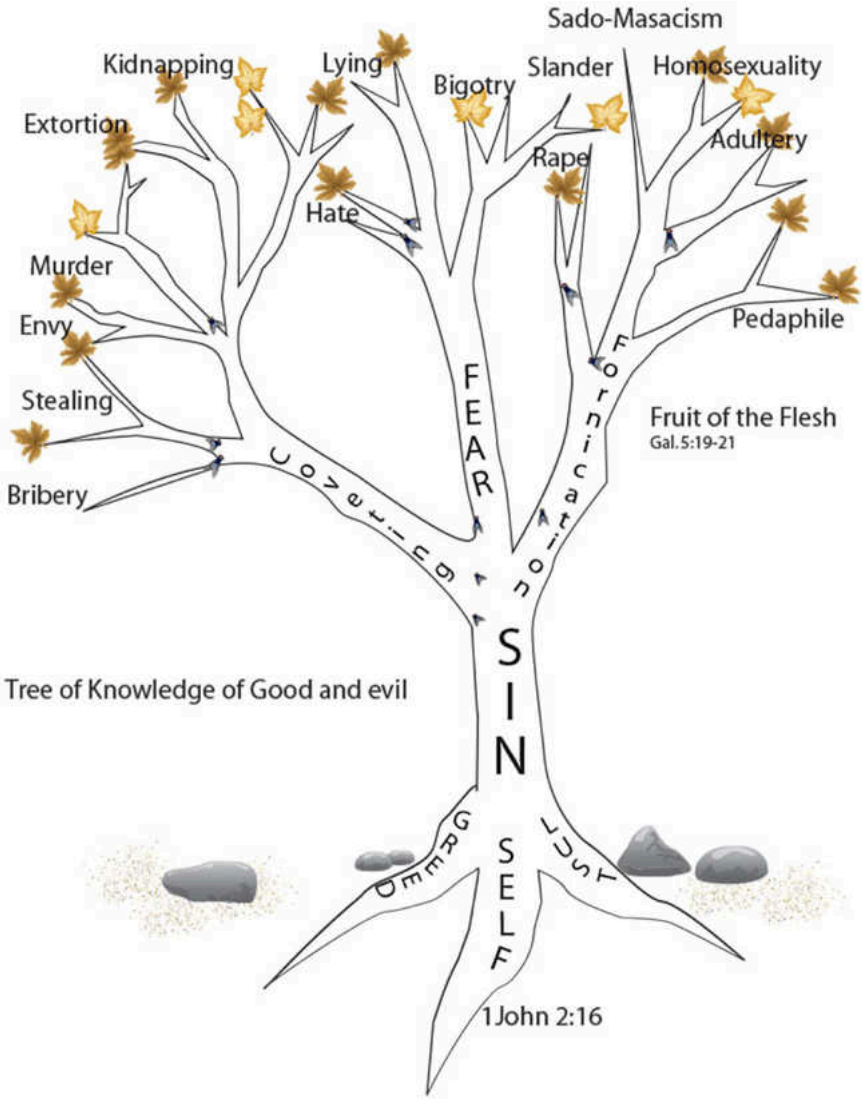
In the garden of Eden, Satan knew he wouldn't have been successful in trying to deceive Adam. So he went for the weaker vessel. Playing on her weaknesses, he got her to succeed where he could not. He will use your spouse's weaknesses to attack yours. If you don't battle the enemy, you might find yourself battling your spouse instead. Two people becoming one is problematic in and of itself without the enemy working against us.
When you take into consideration that a husband and wife are both physically and emotionally different, it makes it that much more complicated. Men run on one-track thinking, and women run on multi-track thinking. Women are taking in more information on more levels. All that information is a lot more challenging to process.
But husbands tapping into their wife's intuition can be a powerful asset. Husbands do not discount your wife's

opinions. Just as men were made in the image of God the Father, women are made in the image of God the Holy Spirit, the comforter. As a general rule, women can be more sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit than men. Likewise, they are more vulnerable to the enemy and need their husband's covering. Therefore, the prayers of husbands are critical to the spiritual health of your marriage. I'm not trying to discount the power of the prayers of wives. I am merely stating that the burden falls more on the husband as the spiritual leader. Husbands, pray for your wives and also with your wives.

The enemy knows how to divide and conquer. I can't emphasize enough that a house divided against itself will not stand. The enemy plans to divide the family, the church, the country, and the world unless he can unite them for his purpose.

The enemy is the prince of lies. A straight-out lie is not hard to spot. That's why the enemy twists truths. A lie becomes more believable and dangerous if there is little truth in a lie. His goal is to keep you in a box. He does this by making you a victim. God empowers, He says, "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you" (Phil. 4:13). The enemy tells you, "You can't." or "That you can do it your way, you don't need God." He will play on your pride, greed, or lust.
After all, these are the roots of all sin. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but the world" (1 John 2:16).

Remember that you've been given authority over the enemy. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7) The enemy only has the authority you give him.



PRAYER:

- We bless You Lord of the Host.
- Thwart the enemy's schemes against us.
- We pray a hedge of protection around our family, for You are our rock, and our shield.
- We ask that You deliver our pastors from temptation and guard their hearts.
- We pray for the leaders of our country, that they would humble themselves and seek Your face.
- Teach us to stand against the enemy in Jesus name. Amen

Chapter 8
Why are Fasts so Slow?

Do you know anyone that likes to fast? Like exercising, the more you need it, the less you want it. First, what does fasting do? There are many physical benefits, giving your digestive system a rest for one. But I'm going to discuss the spiritual benefit. Fasting can be anything that feeds your flesh but is usually associated with food because food is a primal need. It is essential for life. It can only be limited or stopped temporarily. You can fast video games, television, or anything else you love that feeds your flesh.

How much you feed your flesh is the critical point. When God created Adam in His image, He made him a Spirit man. God is Spirit and must be worshipped in Spirit and truth. Therefore, Adam is in the image of God and was primarily created Spirit. The flesh was the minuscule part. After the fall, when God was sorry he ever made man and would destroy humankind with a flood He said, "man is truly flesh". But, of course, man is flesh. God didn't create man FLESH, Soul, Spirit. He made him SPIRIT, Soul, flesh.

The Soul is made up of the mind, will, and emotions. The Soul is the decision maker that decides to listen to the Spirit of God or to the Spirit of your flesh. When you are obedient to the Spirit of God, it feeds the Spirit of God in your life. And the Spirit of God gains dominance in your life.

When you're obedient to your flesh, your flesh gains dominance in your life, that is why God said, "man is truly flesh", because there was no longer any Spirit of God left.

The Soul is the decision maker that listens to either the Spirit of God or to the Spirit of your flesh.

When you starve the flesh, your flesh dies, and the Spirit of God gains dominance in your life. But like a wounded animal fighting to survive, your flesh screams to be fed. You could get so busy during the day that you forget to eat. But if you decide to fast for one day, you will be tempted at every turn. Victory over temptation in one area of your life will strengthen you in other areas of your life.

We are often not tempted by Satan, but the enemy we face is our flesh. Either way, the enemy will try to get you to break your fast earlier than you plan. Then the enemy can try to follow up with condemnation. Don't let them! "There is no condemnation in Christ" (Rom. 8:1).

A fast is not mandatory; it is a choice. A choice, as Paul said, "mortify your flesh" (Rom. 8:13). How badly do we need to do this as the body of Messiah? All the questions I ask throughout this book are critical questions every individual has to ask themselves and evaluate their priorities.

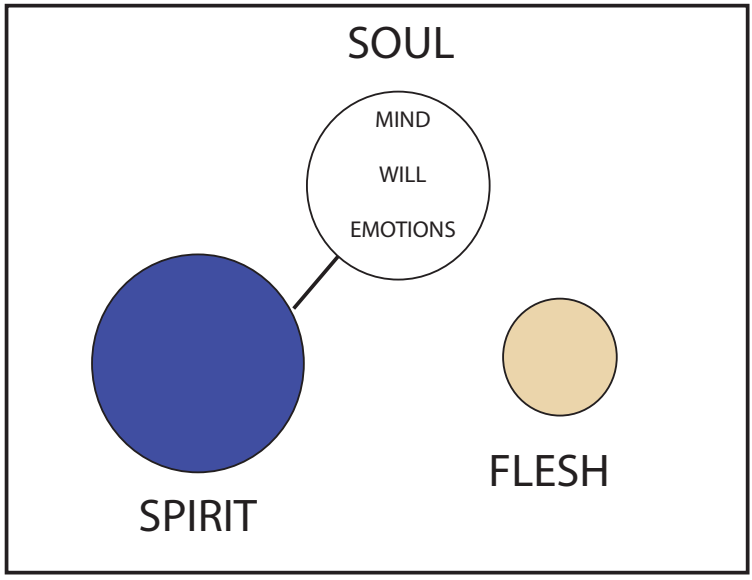
God is always moving and ready to act. He is usually waiting on us to align ourselves with Him. There are different ways to accomplish this, one of the most critical being; "Praise". I'm not going to touch on that subject here because I could do an entire book on that subject alone.

And this chapter is on fasting. And fasting is a great way to align yourself with God by mortifying your flesh.

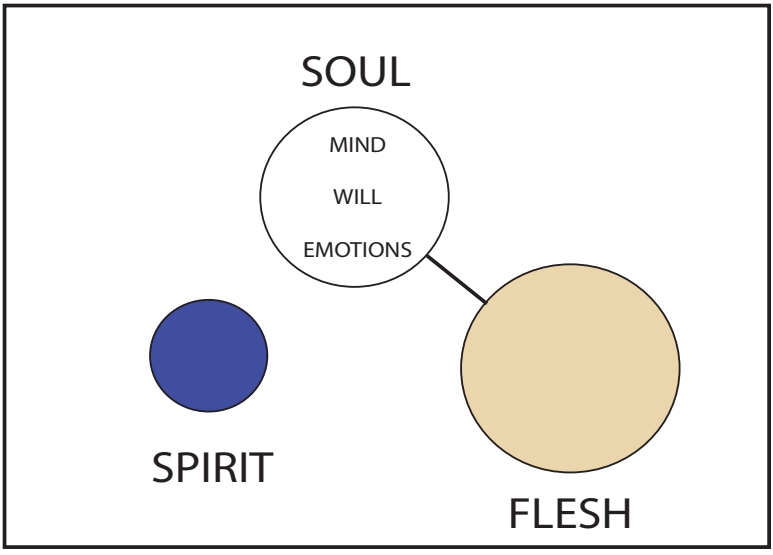
My first suggestion in fasting is don't let your zeal get the best of you and bite off more than you can chew. No pun intended. When you start anything, set simple, short-term goals and work your way up slowly. Maybe fast a dessert or a meal. This helps assure confidence and success with less chance of the enemy getting you to fail and try to plant seeds of condemnation.

With anything you do, God sees the motives and the heart. We, unfortunately, don't always see our motives. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jer. 17:9 Examine your motives constantly. If you can keep the kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness of Jesus as your first goal, fasting is not a chore. You can count it all joy when you do anything to the Lord.

When you obey the Spirit of God the flesh dies
Rom. 6:6



The Soul is the decision maker,
that listens to either the Spirit of God
or the spirit of your flesh



When you feed the flesh the Spirit of God dies in you
Gen. 6:3

PRAYER:

- Lord and Father in Heaven, we bless you.
- Lord, we offer up our carnal heart as a sacrifice to You and ask for the compassionate heart of Christ.
- Help us to mortify our flesh that we would be surrendered to Your Spirit.
- Empower us for this purpose.
- Help us through Your Spirit to examine our hearts.
- Draw us unto You in Jesus name. Amen.

Chapter 9
Where's Your Heart?

If you've come this far in the book, you have a heart for God, which is the most important thing. God doesn't want religion; He wants a relationship. God is our king and our father but also our friend and lover. He's a personal God who cares about everything in our lives. He is the love of my life and the rock that supports me when I see the world crumble around me. He is the shoulder I cry on and the joy in times of trouble. He is my God.

"I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3). I like most men, like to deal with facts and logic. I prefer to make more of a love letter in this closing chapter. Jesus is the fairest of ten thousand and the bright morning star. He is the perfect representation of love and has an immeasurable desire for oneness. We are the only hindrance to a oneness between Him and us. He loved us first, and His love is perfect. We love ourselves and usually barely make time for Him.

Throughout scripture, God refers to His people as His wife. For example, in Ephesians chapter 5 Paul gives instructions to husbands and wives and finishes in verses 32 & 33. "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." The mystery he's referring to parallels the relationship between husbands and wives and Christ

and the church. We, being the wife, commanded to reverence Him as it is written, "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord" (1 Pet. 3:6). Now, some men have trouble with this analogy relating to the wife's perspective. But if you think about how you would like your wife to relate to you and reflect this to your Lord, I believe it will help to give insight into what would be pleasing to our Lord.

As in the words of Esther, "If it pleases the king," When you are in love, you desire to please your lover. You long to spend time with the one you love. The intimate time you spend alone fills you with joy throughout the rest of the day. He is my provider, my protector, and my desire. I submit my will to Him. The church's Rapture is depicted as the bride joining with the groom to become one. The spiritual union between Christ and the church is best described in the union of a husband and wife.

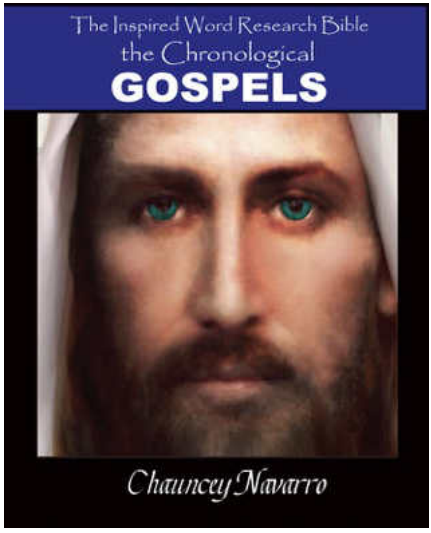
"O come let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with songs" (Psa.95:1-2). We honor God not just because He is worthy but because we are in awe of Him. Not because it is our duty but because it is our privilege. David was called a man after God's heart and wrote most of the Psalms. He danced with all his might before the Lord (2 Sam. 6:14) When his wife Michal accused him of making a fool of himself before the women of Jerusalem, he replied that he would make even more a fool of himself before God (2 Sam. 6:20-22) It amazes me at the pride that men will take in making fools of themselves over sports, and yet are uncomfortable at showing any enthusiasm toward their God and Maker.

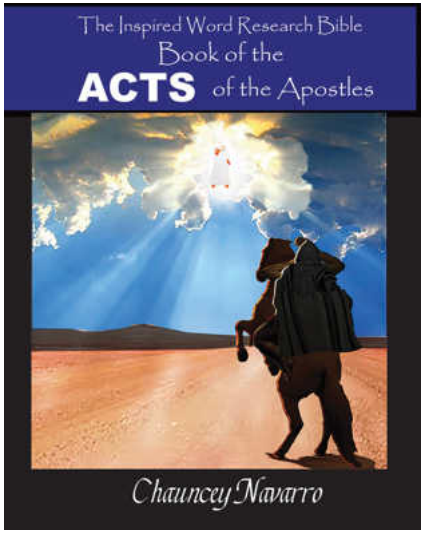
I longed for my marriage to reflect my relationship with my Father in Heaven. I failed in more ways than I know how to count. But even in my weakness, my Lord has been gracious to me. He has drawn me closer and softened my heart. Our God is a jealous God, rightfully. He deserves our praise, honor, and love. Make time for God!

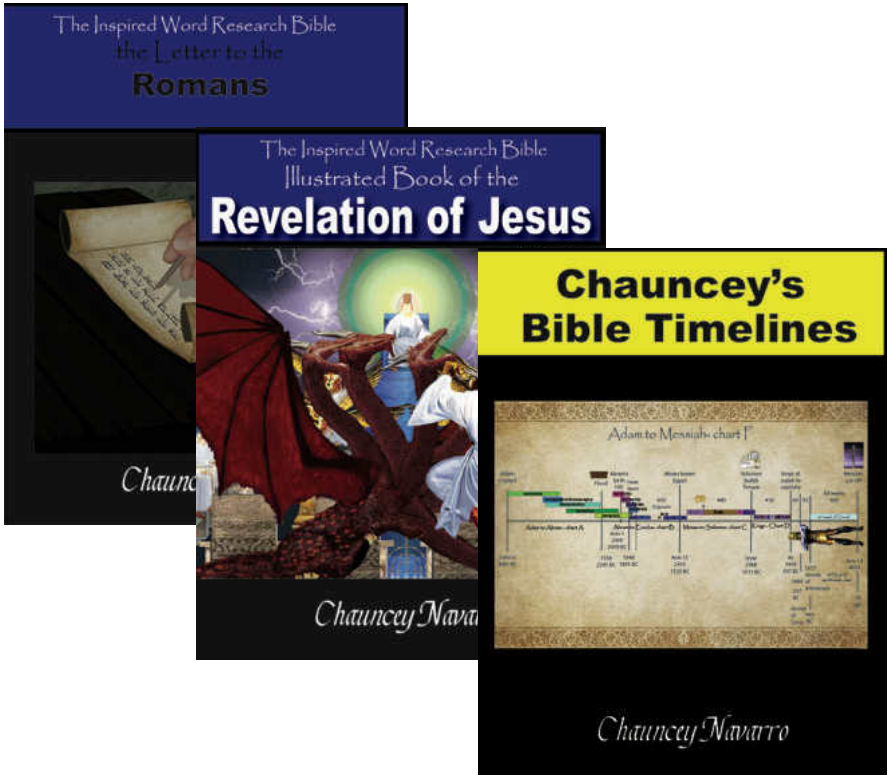
Prayer

- We praise you Lord, Father, and King. There is none like You.
- We stand in awe of You. Take joy in our praises.
- Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us a heart for You.
- Transform us into the image of Your Son. Use us for Your glory.
- Give us boldness to do Your will and may our lives be a life of praise.
- We love You Lord and offer our lives as a living sacrifice in Jesus name. Amen

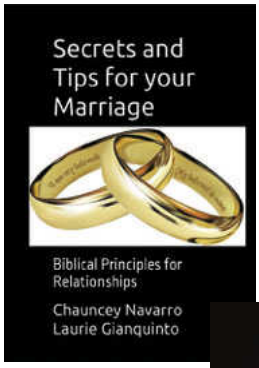
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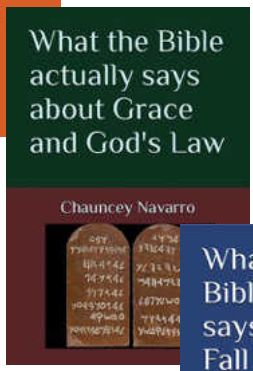


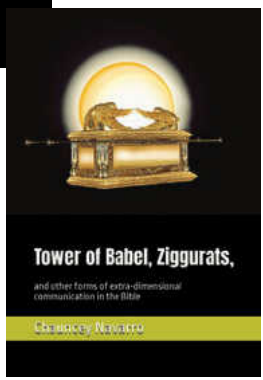


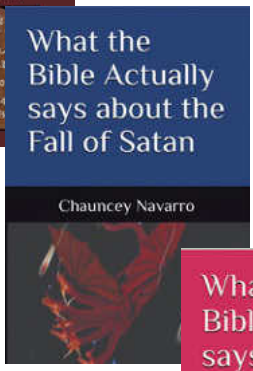


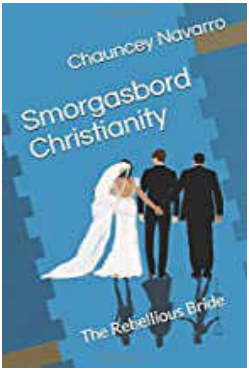

What the Bible Actually says about Angels
Chauncey Navarro

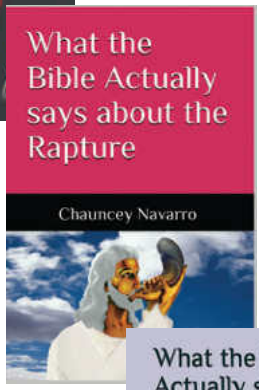

Secrets and Tips for your Marriage
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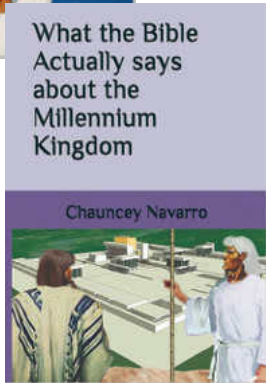

Tower of Babel, Ziggurats,
and other forms of extra-dimensional communication in the Bible
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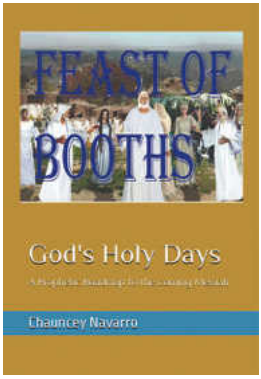

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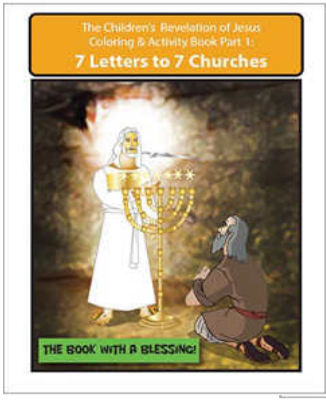

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God's Message in the stars

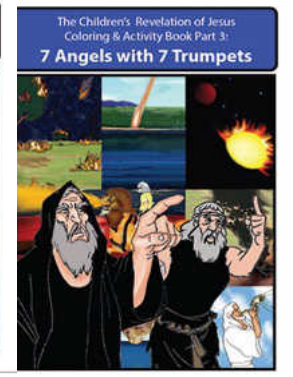

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FEAST OF BOOTHS
God's Holy Days
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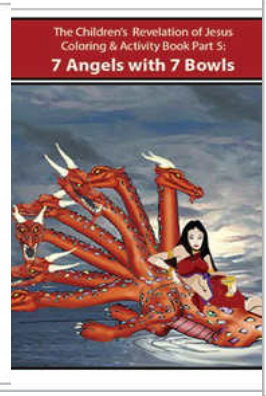
Revelation of Jesus Coloring and Activity









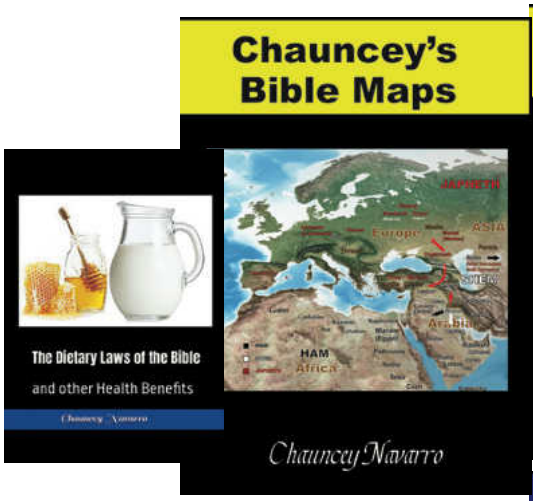


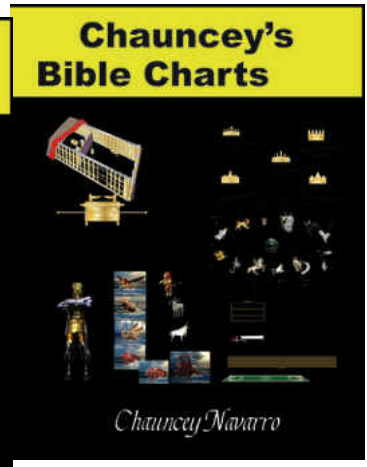


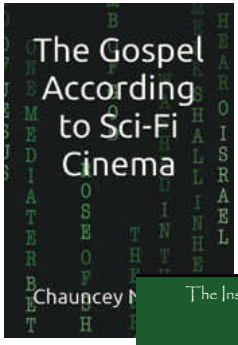




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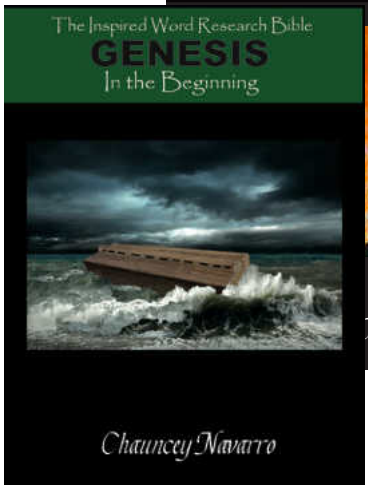

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