

## THE FIRST STEP

*I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.*

Psalm 118:17

So begins my declaration.

February 19, 2002, was the first day of my new life.

I am one of those “Type-A” personalities who strive to do everything to perfection. Every day of my life prior to February 19, 2002, I would set my alarm for 4:45 a.m., I would hit the snooze button once and only once, and dragging myself out of bed I would exercise for a half hour before showering. Each day I had a detailed list of things to complete. Only when I had kept all my scheduled appointments and completed all my listed tasks did I achieve what I believed to be another successful and fulfilling day.

On February 19, 2002, I had my alarm set at 4:45 a.m. And I probably did hit the snooze button once and only once. But when I got up that day, for the very first time in my life, I devoted time to God. That morning in February, the dreariest month of the year, proved to be the first glimpse of light on my journey.

God's grace is so amazing! On this February morning, the Holy Spirit was drawing me close, opening the eyes of my heart to be enlightened to the truth of God's Word! I had a list of scriptures that a friend had suggested for me to read. I had never been a Bible reader. I had tried occasionally, but it just didn't speak to me. However, these particular scriptures truly DID speak to me. I had a desperate need in my life, and I was searching for an answer. Since these scriptures were so meaningful to me, I decided to type them into my computer so I could refer to them frequently and easily. After I had finished typing them into the computer, I clicked "Save." In Microsoft Word, when you save a document, the first line you have typed appears in the "File Name" box. But that is not what happened on February 19, 2002. The file name that automatically appeared in the file name box was: *Messages from God*.

Was God really speaking to me? At that time, I didn't realize that God's Word is living and always speaks to believers! I had no idea just how powerful God and His Word are. Then, just as I was sitting there in awe contemplating how in the world that title had appeared on my document, the electricity went off! The computer screen faded to black nothingness. The lights were extinguished. The room was in absolute darkness. The awesome presence of God was with me, and I was utterly terrified.

I believe that God was speaking to me that morning ... loud and clear. There was no explanation for the electricity to go off. There was no storm, no wind. Rather, the power of my mighty God was at work!

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The electricity came back on within a brief moment. I got ready and went to work, but God's message and its implications had sparked something within me, which would rapidly begin a raging spiritual fire.

God sent me an angel. Her name is Jenny. She is a teacher and she worked in the same school where I am a Learning Consultant. Jenny is a devout Christian who lives her life for God. She is the friend who had suggested the scriptures that I read that morning.

As soon as I got to school that day, I went to tell her about my *Messages from God* and the electricity failure. She immediately began talking to me about sickness and healing truths from God's Word that I had never heard before. I later realized that the anointing of the Holy Spirit was flowing through her. God was speaking to me through Jenny.

To tell you the truth, I don't even really remember what we talked about during those few precious minutes. But I do know that Jenny asked me if I was saved, to which I replied, "I'm not sure. I think I am. I live a good life. I go to church every Sunday. I've received all of the sacraments." Jenny replied with a simple question, "Do you want to be sure?"

Right then and there, in Jenny's cramped workroom, we prayed together the prayer of salvation. As troops of first graders filed into the room with their show-and-tell, school bags, and notes for their teacher, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior with tears of grace flowing down my cheeks.

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*A BLESSED JOURNEY*

But I need to back up before I go ahead.