



# THE JOURNEY

A Publication of

*Dayspring Discipleship Institute*

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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“...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

It's as though heaven bent down and whispered a secret into the DNA of a ravenous worm. Devouring every leaf it can get its many little paws on, the caterpillar eats itself into a stupor, attaches to a small limb and encases itself in its own sleeping booth for a long nap. While it is sleeping ...something happens. Something supernatural. Instead of a grubby worm, what emerges from its chrysalis is a delicate winged creature... the very opposite of what it had been. How can that be? It's not that some invisible thief broke into the vault, wormnapped the occupant and replaced it with a treasure. Thieves don't do that. So... how can that be?

It has to be that the winged beauty has been there all along...tucked away in the hidden folds of its being. Or just there like oxygen in the air...invisible...but there nonetheless. Then when it is time...in the still and dark...Transformation. Making visible what has been invisible...what has been there all along.

John 3 tells us that such an implant happened in us the moment we accepted Christ by faith. The worm received a winged life. Invisible...hidden in the folds of our flesh - though we did not know it at the time. When we were born on earth we arrived as flesh. When we were born *again*, we became spirit. Our true form changed. We actually *are* spirit...something other than we appear...a form not yet made visible by transformation.

So how does transformation happen in *us*? Christ is now in us; do we want Him to be seen? If yes...then how? The caterpillar does all it is supposed to do. Its ravenous appetite fuels the physical demands and then its efforts cease. Transformation comes by another force. What is undetectable begins to take inner form. In its dark sleep, as the winged creature grows, the opaque crypt begins to thin and gradually the color and shape of the new life begins to show. Faintly at first, then more and more we can see its true form, till finally it sheds the old, dead encasement to emerge from the hanger for its maiden flight.

The caterpillar's transformation is physical so it must feed its body. Our transformation is spiritual so we must feed our spirit. It begins, according to Romans 12:2, with the renewing of our minds. It does not end there, but it begins there. We feed our minds and our spirit by

devouring His Word...taking it into our minds and letting it re-route our mental circuitry to change how we think and see; letting it re-program our false beliefs with truth. We abide in His Word until it abides in us...until it seeps down from our head into our heart and empowers new life in us. We pray. And in prayer we find communion – fellowship – with and in His Spirit. In this kind of praying we experience His love. We come to *know* Him and His grace.

And the invisible work within is fed: self is denied... and its dying increases as I *yield* to Him and His will. Yield, not so much in obediences as in surrender... of my agenda and selfishness, of my rights and pride, even of my hopes and dreams at times. Relinquish my own power and efforts into His. And the opaque walls of self begin to thin as I rest in His strength and ways. Surrendered into Him. Dying to the self that cannot die but by His hand. And the opaque self fades into translucence as light emanates from within; then into transparency as form and color press against the pane of the soul and the winged beauty within becomes what people see...Heaven's glorious secret now shouting from sacred folds of the believer's soul.

I love you,

*Brenda*

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*“We live in tents, not houses, for spiritually we are always on the move. We are on a journey through the inward space of the heart, a journey not measured by the hours of our watch or the days of the calendar, for it is a journey out of time into eternity....Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teachings written down on paper; it is a path along which we journey—in the deepest and richest sense, the way of life.*

*There is only one means of discovering the true nature of Christianity. We must step out upon this path, commit ourselves to this way of life, and then we shall begin to see for ourselves... ‘The Creed,’ said Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow, ‘does not belong to you unless you have lived it.’” Kallistos Ware*

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***Meditations on the Divine***  
***Saturday Morning February 25***  
***8:30 – 11:30***  
***Dayspring Chapel***

The spring series of “Saturday Meditations” on the Word will focus on who God is.

If we can anchor our faith into *who* He is, then the storms of earth will not cause us to walk like drunkards, faltering between fear and doubt or anger about where God is and why He acts the way He does.



The basis for knowing who God is is not circumstance or events...it is the Word of God. The winds of earth are contrary winds that blow debris of every sort to our door. Who God is cannot be found here.

*What* the world is and *who* Satan is are evidenced by the winds of earth. God walks with us in these winds, often shows Himself there, but He is not defined by them. He is revealed in His Word, the sole unchanging Absolute that declares God to us. *If* we can discover His attributes there *and embrace them by faith*, then it stabilizes our world; it grants us peace in the midst of storms, hope in the midst of despair, joy in the midst of uncertainty. It grants us a way of life the world cannot know.

Our Spring Saturday Meditations will take us into God. As we linger there with Him we may find our inner life transforming. We may see our windswept soul finding shelter and restoration.

*“When Brenda started these Saturday Meditations I thought since I worked I would just have to pass them up. But, one Saturday my clients unexpectedly cancelled so I was free to go.*

*It was a life changing morning.*

*To have three and a half hours to spend with the Lord uninterrupted by phone and the demands of life was incredible.*

*I am so amazed at what the Lord did with me in the quiet!*

*He restored my withered soul and breathed life into me profoundly.*

*Somehow we have lost the benefit of stillness and silence in this culture where we value performance and busy-ness.*

*I have not missed one of these since!*

*Thank you, Brenda, for resurrecting this ancient discipline to our modern, fast paced, task oriented world!”*

Gay

*“I love this more than anything Brenda does!”*

Teresa

The impact of these meditations is because of the absence of human instrumentality. The focus is on God and the real power of His Word to breathe life.

***Sunday Morning Chapel Study***  
***“Sowing to the Spirit”***

The current teachings on Sunday morning are a collection of lessons on walking, or living, in the Spirit. What are the keys to transformation? How do we begin – or deepen – our journey into a life possessed by the Spirit? What changes will it bring to our lives? We will stay in Colossians 3 and Romans 7 and 8 for most of the month and then shift to a different emphasis of Living in the Spirit.

“Living in His Presence” is where a life in the Spirit is intended to take us and where we head next in this study. It cannot be a formulae for which we seek...it is a way of living. Walking and living in the Spirit is about a yielded life.

***Living in the Sacred***  
***Reclaiming a Life of Joy and Wonder***

As we grow in walking in the Spirit we sometimes will find ourselves surprised by a holy presence, by an overwhelming sense of His love. His invitation is to live in His presence...not in that overpowering sense of His presence all the time but to live in the sacred wonder of life. Life as miracle. Life as infused with the Divine. Surprised by God at every turn. This next focus of our Sunday Chapel Studies taught by Brenda is set to begin the first Sunday of next month --

**8:00 Sunday Morning**  
**March 4**  
**Dayspring Chapel**

## *Cross-Life Bible Study Continues through End of Month*

This six-week study, lifted from volume I of Brenda's Emmaus study ends February 23, the last Thursday of the month. Cross-Life looks at the cross as "the power of God" (I Cor. 1:18) and what that means in our daily lives. Meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Chapel, the study remains open.

### **From the Cross-Life Unit**

*The Cross is the most powerful reality in the life of the Christian. It is the most powerful potential reality in the life of the world. Embracing the cross and understanding the personal applications it has for our lives, is the most life-changing event available to the Christian after conversion.*

### ***The Cross is the Most Honest Statement the World has ever Heard...***

*In it the human condition is exposed and the Divine Nature is Expressed...At one and the same time it declares our guilt and proclaims our forgiveness; it acknowledges our separation and establishes reconciliation. It reveals our baseness and proclaims our worth.*

*The cross would never have happened had it not been for the surpassing love of God; nor would it have happened had it not been for the neediness of man. The cross would never have happened had we not been*

*guilty; neither would it have happened had God not deemed us worth it. The cross never would have happened had our sinfulness not separated us from a holy God; neither would it have happened had God not desired to pay the price to reconcile us back to Him.*

*The cross compels us to gather around it in honesty or there is no power in it for daily living. If we only see the cross as Christ's payment of the price for sin; as the symbol of God's gift of eternal life, then the only power of the cross available to us is that of eternal resurrection with no recognizable, tangible power for confronting life's daily affairs.*

*If, however, we see the cross as both an expression of God's nature and man's condition, of God's activity and man's fallenness, then we begin to glimpse the power of the cross and embrace its possibilities in our lives. If we accept forgiveness without first confessing our guilt then we cheapen the cross, and we walk with an emotional and spiritual limp. If we embrace reconciliation with God without understanding what it has cost Him to offer it to us, we reserve a place in us that remains estranged from Him. If, only, at the cross we embrace our worth without, at the same time, acknowledging our unworthiness, we live with untethered pride. If, only, we embrace our guilt without at the same time accepting the statement of worth the cross provides us, we live forever bent beneath the load of fractured lives depleted of the resources for restoration and empowerment.*

*If the act of Christ on the cross is to have healing and liberating meaning for us, we must be willing to face **all** that it says about us.*

## *With Love Creations Changes*

We are in the process of switching our Thursday morning crocheting class to Monday to accommodate the schedules of 2 or 3 women who are interested. If you are interested and Monday morning would fit your schedule, please let us know.

**If You Already Know How to Crochet...***please consider joining Kaye Sinkule and others in creating foot and hand warmers for those in hospitals or nursing homes. This is but the beginning of creating items that will minister to those in need.*



## *We are so Grateful...*

**...For your Faithful Support of the Ministry.**

*We pray that our offerings honor God and serve  
His Work here among His People  
and  
that they Minister the Lord to You in Ways that  
are Practical and Real and Life-Changing.*

## *The Winged Life*

We all seek for a life that is vibrant and rich with meaning. Deep in the recesses of each of us is a hope that life can be brim full and running over; that our life holds the capacities for deep texture and powerful living in which joy and beauty merge with purpose and meaning.

In the words and life of Christ we are offered such vistas. As we respond to Christ's invitation to walk and live in Him, the possibilities of an empowered, abundant life unfold before us, and we find ourselves tantalized by the prospect of the adventure of joy and fulfillment, of peace and harmony that puts us at one with ourselves and God and with those fellow voyagers in our world.

*"No one knows where the wind has come from or where it is going... so is everyone that is born of the spirit." John 3:8*

The Greek word for wind means "breath" or "spirit." The breath, or spirit, of God moves us where it will. In its wings are found the keys to a rich and abundant living. As we yield to the will of God, like leaves borne on the wind, we will land in places we never dreamed; we may touch lives we never knew. Those who walk and live in this holy Wind will know adventure and richness in living; they will be awakened to the serendipity tucked in the folds of the mundane...in the creases of normal life.

This wind swung Jesus out to Samaria to Jacob's well....and changed a community of those who had been shunned by the Jews. It blew Him aside to Zacchaeus' house and changed the destiny of a man reviled and shunned by the same crowd. Christ went with the wind, constructing His ministry here on earth upon the interruptions that swirled about Him. He saw them, not as intrusions into His Father's plans for Him, but as sacred encounters...the very steppingstones leading Him into His destiny.

It is freedom that stirs in such a life....the freedom to blow and go....to be exactly where we are and know



it is a sacred moment. The calendar....our personal agenda....bows to a greater plan and accepts a higher purpose at work in the moment. Living and walking in this breath, or Spirit, of God infuses life with a joy and peace that are neither man-made nor earthbound. The sun shines brighter here in this place; the breeze is fresher and others are more deeply cherished in this

Wind. Here, in the present moment, God's presence is more fully known; there are fewer imaginary problems because the past is tucked away in its crypt and the future lies hidden in the dark azure folds of its crib waiting for its day to break.

It is in moment-living, at the intersection of God's Spirit and ours, that life finds its rhythm and its celebration and we offer our lives as anthems of praise to Him who has breathed into us and stirred His wind upon our souls.

***"When Christ asks us to follow Him, He invites us into a sacred journey where the Divine splashes on our day like sunrays breaking through on the mountainside. Each moment holds the possibility of miracle...the reality of God with us. As we walk in His Spirit, the sacred breaks forth and chrstens us with joy."***

Brenda Cox

These "*Winged Life*" reflections above are from Brenda's writings from the "Pilgrim of the Soul" page of the Dayspring website.

*"To pray is to take notice of the wonder,  
to regain a sense of the mystery  
that animates all beings,  
the divine margin in all attainments.  
Prayer is our humble answer  
to the inconceivable surprise of living.  
It is all we can offer in return for the mystery  
by which we live."*

*Man's Quest for God – Abraham Heschel*