COMMUNICATING WITH HOLY SPIRIT ( I feel that I need to stretch/define my title)

“Why is my connection with Holy Spirit vital?”

Introduction:

As I reflect on my life’s journey it’s been a true testament of God’s love. My mother was very intentional about teaching her children the history and importance of the birth, life, death, and love of Christ. As early as the age of 6-7 years old I remember having angelic encounters. These are experiences I was never quick to testify about because most would not believe what they had never experienced. As a young girl I remember many instances of hearing the voice of God. There would be many times while at school taking test, I would be perplexed trying to figure out the answers to complete my test and I would hear loud and clear the correct answer. Throughout this book I will share many encounters that I’ve had with God by way of his Holy Spirit. It is my desire to remind many of you about the helper that we have here on earth and to introduce Holy Spirit as a helper to others.

I’m amazed that many people choose to live life without help from an Almighty God. I think of the Holy Spirit as my personal security. He goes before me, he protects me, he opens doors for me, and I have unlimited access to his presence.

Prior to having a personal understanding of Holy Spirit, and who he is in my life. I have always known that there was a Higher Power that we referred to as God. Throughout my life’s journey, God has literally taken me from faith to faith in my walk with him. If you allow me to paint a vivid picture, let’s look at life as a classroom, with God being the President of the school, Jesus serving as the Dean of Student Services and Holy Spirit is our teacher.

**Holy Spirit is GOD**, he is the third person of a Holy God, who’s creator of all things. Most people have heard of a mighty and powerful God, whether they reference to him as a Higher Power or the Supreme one. Christians believe in GOD, but not all Christians acknowledge GOD in his totality (three parts). The Bible declares in *2 Timothy 3:5 KJV “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* Other religious believers, believe in a GOD, but not in the God that I am referring to in this book. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the True and living GOD who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is also referred to as Holy Ghost the two are the same.

According to Christian doctrine Holy Spirit is referred to as a part of the HOLY TRINTITY. The word Trinity is not written anywhere in the Bible therefore I do not consider it as sound biblical teaching so we will not expound on that word here. This book is biblical based and filled with scriptures to support the reading. The Bible clearly defines Holy Spirit as God from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. Scripture supports the oneness of the three, God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is the Creator.** The bible is clear in acknowledging Holy Spirit from the beginning of time. Holy Spirit has always been present and active even before the foundations of the earth. *Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the* ***beginning*** *God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the* ***Spirit of God*** *was hovering over the waters.*  Job 26:13 KJV says it like this (“By his Spirit he hath garnished the heavens.”)

Growing up, watching my mother pray and cry out to God. I knew within that there had to be so much more. I heard the talk regarding a big God doing big things and I desired a big experience for myself. I remember praying and saying God I want to know you. God show yourself to me. God, let me see a miracle. There were many times I would go outside to look into the skies asking God to show me signs that he existed and that he was real. One day, after praying and telling God I wanted to know him better, I said God if you are real then let a red bird appear. I knew that red resembled the blood of Christ and so I guess I wanted to be spiritual in my requesting of God? However, this was the first real instant moment I had with God, a red bird appeared on the cable line in front of my house. I remember as if it was yesterday, I had goose bumps all over me, I was so overjoyed with happiness because I felt that God had heard my prayer and answered.

HELP IS HERE

So many times, throughout my life I’ve tried to figured things out on my own, and the light bulb would go off, reminding me to ask the Holy Spirit for his assistance? At those moments I would consult with Holy Spirit about the situation at hand. What I’ve learned is that God is concerned about every area of our lives, though he’s a big God he is not only concerned about the big things rather he’s concerned about all things concerning his children.

**Holy Spirit is all knowing** – which simply means he knows **everything**. Jesus told his disciples in *John 14:26 NIV “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you* ***all things*** *and will remind you of* ***everything*** *I have said to you”.*

Holy Spirit job is to teach us, how to navigate throughout this earth while we are here. When I was in pursuit of getting to know more about God, I would find myself getting up early in the morning praying, not always on my knees, just sometimes laying bed; saying God help me. One of my daily prayers was God help me become more like you. I would tell God how much I needed him and how I desired to know more about him, the more I cried out for him, in praise and worship the more I began to hear him speak to me.

NO Need to look for Help just learn to call on the HELPER

**Holy Spirit is “Omnipresent**” which means he is everywhere at once – It was David that exclaimed in Psalm 139 NIV, “*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”* Ummm! so how is it possible that Holy Spirit can be everywhere at once? This is true because, unlike humans or angels, Holy Spirit is not just simply a spirit He is the Spirit of the True and Living God.

This is an important aspect of to know about Holy Spirit because so often religion make us believe that we can only feel his presence in church. However, my story is so much different. My first supernatural experiences with Christ were not in church, they were in the presence of my home. One thing I’ve learned is that Holy Spirit will be as liberal and free as the individual who is seeking his presence allows him to be. In other words, the more I opened my heart to Holy Spirit, the more he filled me with his love, wisdom and peace.

**Holy Spirit is a Helper and the Spirit of Truth** – As Jesus was preparing to leave this earthly realm, he told his disciples: “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another **Helper,** that He may abide with you forever—**the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.’” John 14:15-18 NIV. “But when the **Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” John 15:26.

During my teenage years, after watching my parents experience various hardships that were presented. I leaned on what I was taught and that was prayer. I continued to pray and trust the God that my mother taught us about. Prayer had now become a part of my life, it was my routine to get up and start my day with acknowledging the power of God and his goodness. One Sunday while in church, I had and encounter and the presence of the Lord filled the sanctuary, I remember getting out of my seat during service walking down to the altar, bowing down and just giving God praise for being so good to me and my family. I was not screaming neither was I falling out, just simply at the altar bowed down in worship. I felt that this was a safe and sacred place to give God glory.

Little did I know , others thought different, two of the mothers of the church walked up one on each side of me, they grabbed me underneath my arms and pulled me up from the altar. The mothers escorted me to the back in the kitchen area and scorned me for laying out at the altar. I was told that my behavior was not acceptable nor allowed in the church. At that moment my heart dropped, I felt that everything I had been taught about laying before God with a pure heart was in vain. I remember walking back into the sanctuary to get my belongings and out the door I went, I began to walk home, and suddenly I started running like someone was after me.

When I entered into my house, my mother greeted me at the door, I burst into tears as I told my mother what had happened. From that time, it was months before I ever stepped foot into another church.

**Holy Spirit is All Powerful and He is the giver of Power**- “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NIV. Jesus goes on to declare to his disciples “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” Acts 1:8(a) NIV.

During my time that I spent away from the church, I never stopped pursuing God. Actually my bad experiences from the church made me pursue God even the more. I continued to read my bible, listen to my worship music, meditate, fast

and pray daily. I did all of this while going through my own personal struggles. I have had many days and nights of turmoil, but it was my determination to stay in his presence that always prevailed. This was truly the turning point for me. At this time I realized that my relationship with my God was not predicated upon the opinions and thoughts of people more so the time and commitment that I put forth to get to know him more.

This is when I was able to scratch out the narrative, that others tried to present. In this season of my life, I learned several valuable life lessons. 1. God does not give me according to my deeds, rather according to his faithfulness.

2. If I seek God’s righteousness, he will not withhold himself from me. He will reveal himself through his Holy Spirit.

3. My relationship with My God is personal

4. God does not give man the ability, authority or capacity to judge my heart, he leaves that for himself. (1 Samuel 16:7)

5. Holy Spirit is committed to his duty to help me as long as I stay committed to receive his help.

Now that we have a better understanding of who HOLY SPIRIT is? Let us explore his functions. Unfortunately, Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood member of the Godhead. Growing up in the A.M.E church is where I first heard of the precious gift of Holy Spirit. One of the things that I am most grateful for is my mother’s consistency when it came to teaching my brother and I, God’s Holy word. My mother became a single parent when I was seven years old and my brother who was eleven, that season of her life was not the easiest however her persistency and belief system gave her the hope she needed to press forward. My grandmother raised my mom and her siblings in the A.M.E. church and like many of us do, my mother followed suit and remained faithful to the A.M.E denomination and this was the beginning of my learning of the Christian faith.

I give credit to my mother Beverly Williams Howard, for the relationship that I now have with Holy Spirit. I often remember her telling my brother and I, that there is no better friend than Jesus and Holy Spirit. I got used to hearing her say their names together. Mama made sure that not only were we in Church on Sundays, but in all engagements hosted by the church we were a part of the Young People Division better known as YPD. My brother and I were committed members of the YPD (certainly not by any choice of our own), we attended every Sunday School convention, unless we were severely ill, not to mention every summer, and any other committee and event that was age appropriate. The YPD leaders could always count on Sister Beverly’s two children to be present, and surely they used this to their advantage. As I stated it was here that I was introduced to Holy Spirit, not fully understanding his functions. The A.M. E’s motto is: ***“God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”*** so therefore, the teachings were centered around this belief. Many believers perceive and or treat Holy Spirit as though He is nothing more than a force or a presence that emanates from God.

In the A.M.E church we learned that: The Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God. This teaching is true however, I was never exposed to the depth of what Holy Spirit, and some refer to as Holy Ghost was purposed to do. I often hear believers say, something told me to do a certain thing, or something warned me etc. failing to acknowledge that, something could possibly be Holy Spirit. Many believers continue to deny the full personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit, yet they feel entitled to the benefits that can only come through and from him.

When referring to the Holy Spirit, Jesus used the personal pronoun "He" (see John 14:16; 16:6,7) in the context of saying the Spirit would take His place after He ascended into heaven (an impersonal force cannot take the place of the Lord Jesus).

It is imperative that the body of Christ (BELIVERS) understand the personality, ministry, and functions of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is a multidimensional being and daily he reveals himself to me, the more I spend time with him, the more I learn of him and the more he is forever astounding me with his awesomeness. In this book I will highlight some of Holy Spirits ministry functions and I say some because I could never list them all, in other words I don’t know them all. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and just as God is indescribable and no human in our own human acumen could ever define God in his totality. A definition of God could never be complete because there is no ending to his greatness, no ending to his love, no ending to his being My God, Your God, Our God is an Eternal God.

Chapter 1

How do we desire the creation and not the Creator