I made the decision to live for Christ. My life was in turmoil. One day things were going well until life circumstances would get me down. I was deep in debt, tired of my career, and desperately wanted to change my lifestyle. God has always had a hand on me and He was not about to let the enemy have me. The enemy knew I was valuable source and I carried something golden which could change the world. Being toss up and down, many nights I cried and wished it would all stop. I wanted to give up so many times but my sister- in- love would not let me give up. Not only did she encourage me, my mom and Spiritual mom did as well. Living in Chicago is expensive coming from the south. Dr. Bilmire from Cincinnati, OH warned me of the cost of living in Chicago. But it didn’t stop me from wanting to be there for the sake of my child. Chicago was my destination. My daughter needed four surgeries and Shriner’s Children Hospital was the only facility would perform her surgery. I made an attempt to transfer her paperwork but the facility would not transfer. And after relocating from Grand Rapids, MI and landing a travel assignment at Children Memorial Hospital in Chicago September 2004, I was set to starting a new life in the big city.

My life started out on a happy note because I was where I desperately wanted to be. I was able to take care of the needs of my child as well as enjoy living in a beautiful city. Had no idea what life would bring but it brought lemons and oranges. So many difficulties, I felt was being pick on. It seems as if when I would get ahead and then something came along pulling me back. My eyes filled with tears so many nights, I felt like giving up. The struggle was real in my finances, employment, and finding decent housing. Encouraging words from my sister Tania help me not to give up. Songs of praise would fill my mind with peace, and the words of my late Bishop Daniel kept me sane. Bishop Daniel said, “whatever the circumstance, you can find help in the word of God.” And that is truth. My late father would visit me in my dreams to assist me with my problems. My dad has always been my main support and when he pass, I had to grow up and become independent.

Attending Living Word Christian Center, I learn about prosperity. Never heard prosperity taught on the level as Pastor Winston teaches. My eyes have come open to something totally new. Prosperity was not taught at my home church in Georgia. Being under Pastor Winston teaching, I have learned more at church than in my four years of High School. He taught on faith and the principles of tithing. Tithing is essential in your Christian walk of faith. I did not know how crucial it was to life until coming to Living Word. I made a promise to God that I would tithe no matter how small or large my paycheck. It was difficult because I always thought of my bills first rather than putting Him first therefore God would bless the rest. God will always make a way for His children even though you may not see your way.

I wanted a balance life being free of life struggles. When your life is tossed and turn by life struggles, the only answer is surrendering your life to Christ. Prayer and singing hymns of praise defeats the enemy. There was a time in my life debt was choking the life out of me. Praying to God was my only answer to relief. I did not know how God was going to do it but He answered my prayer immediately. When I moved to Chicago, I came with two cars. One was used for work and the other one for weekend and travel purposes. My work vehicle had electrical problems and I did not want to sell it. God stepped in to my situation and the car was acting strange. I park the car, turn it off, and noticed the fan from the air condition was still running. Drove the car the next day and as I was leaving out of the parking lot from work, the car started to smoke. I was afraid, so a voice spoke to me and said switch the air to heat. Followed command and then the voice said turn the gauge to five and then switch back to air with the gauge set on three. Again, I listened and followed instructions but the car continued to smoke from the air vents. I pulled over on side of the road in front of Doctor’s office in a rural area. Hurried out of the car, pulled the lever to pop the hood and no smoke from the engine. Looking back inside the car and the smoke was even more. Reached for my phone, dial 911 and before I could say the car is going to catch on fire to the dispatcher. The car burst into flames. This was my first immediate answered prayer from God. I could remember growing up, my mom not liking my boyfriend and she prayed him away. He kept changing locations until he ended up back to Germany. I knew this was the end of our relationship. This is when I recognized firsthand that prayer works and God hears. Prayer is a powerful tool to use that can change any situation.

I notified my insurance agent. She asked for the second set of keys and cut me a check for $4000. With that being said, God paid off my debt and had extra cash. This is a prime example of casting your cares to the Lord rather than man. After that incident, then the rental company came and took all the furniture from the apartment. My daughter and I had to sleep on the floor. Then the rent became mine to pay rather than the agency. Paying $1500 a month was too much and I had no idea where to go to find affordable housing. So, problems arise again and I did not know what to do. The single life was not easy trying to raise a daughter in the big city. In order for my daughter to not suffer, I put her on a plane to return home to Georgia. Seeing her leave was the hardest for me and I cried so many tears. I made her a promised, I would send for her once things were back in order.

Trials and tribulations came to make me strong. These tests strengthen me in areas of my life that would benefit me when face with other problem. For an example, without water a plant won’t grow. In other words, if you do not have problems, then you would not learn to grow and overcome obstacles. As the problems comes, keep persevering and passing those tests. During the time of trials, I could not understand the reasons for so many tests.

My daughter and I found a faith base church to attend which happen to be Living Word Christian Center. I was drawn to the church by the sermon taught by Pastor Winston, the blessing of Abraham. In 2005, I joined the church and was baptized. That was my first baptism. This was the start of being cleansed from my sins. God always had a calling on my life even as a teenager. I was reared in the church so there’s no way I could escape the calling in my adult life. God had plans for my life. It took me being separated from family to see the light and to grow spiritually.

Family can be a hindrance to maturing spiritually. Had I not come to Chicago, never would have been exposed to prosperity teaching. God orchestrated all of this and ordered my steps to becoming brand new. He knew being a mother, I would do anything for the sake of my daughter. My child was born with crouzon syndrome which is when the midface does not develop completely at birth. It causes changes in the midface at the age of five such as eye bulge, and severe over bite braces not alone could correct. What so strange, a waitress told me that something was wrong with my child at three months of age. Low and behold, she was right but it did not reveal itself until five years of age. My aunt being a pediatrician told me there was help for my child. And that is what started this journey to making my destination to Chicago.