

Katie just lived through the shortest six weeks in history. Read the story below to see how God moved in her life.

CHILD, REACH UP! HIS HAND YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND!

A week ago Wednesday, I decided to tackle the front yard in transporting a bed of rocks from one area to another. Now at my age, I kept thinking, "Katie, do this job slowly with lots of breaks so you don't hurt yourself." Sound advice, but somehow I lost myself in the thrill of seeing the job being accomplished and I stubbornly kept at it. Saturday, in the wee morning hours, I awoke to excruciating pain in my shoulder that radiated into the chest and back area. The pain was constant and wouldn't let up.

Saturday was a nightmare and Sunday morning I ended up in the Urgent Care facility. I saw the doctor four hours later. The diagnosis: severe torn muscles in my shoulder. It would be a slow healing process that would take 6 to 8 weeks to heal properly. I wasn't prepared to hear that. I wanted a quick fix. I was given pain pills, muscle relaxers and sent home to ice my shoulder and rest. I was devastated.

But that wasn't the only pain I was suffering. The enemy was whispering lie after lie into my ears and I was struggling to fight off self accusations, putting myself down, choice name calling and etc. I hated missing church, guilt and shame pressed in upon me, and I hated having to go home and face my daughter who had told me NOT to do the rocks. "Stupid, stupid person," I told myself! And, I didn't look forward to explaining to others how I had hurt myself. Hearing, "You are not a spring chicken anymore Katie! What in the world were you thinking?" only added fuel to the fire that Satan had started with his lies. Tears flowed down my cheeks. I couldn't stop them, so I started rebuking myself for being so weak.

Now that shouldn't have been enough to throw me over the edge, but I had been struggling with discouragement with the web site, my writing and a few other things. I started to doubt my calling and the decisions I felt the Lord has asked me to make even though I knew better. My head was full of cobwebs that I would shake off, but they kept returning. Discouragement had been building up slowly and when I injured my shoulder and knew I wouldn't be able to work on the computer that was the final straw. I just wanted to throw up my hands and give up, to "quit" because after all what was the use. Nothing was working out! (Can you relate?) Y E T God kept using and blessing my ministry. It was confusing.

Monday the pain eased somewhat and Tuesday morning, God said, "Go to the prayer meeting, I will meet you there!" During the prayer time, God gave me a vision. I saw a light mist falling upon the nations. At first it appeared to be pleasant-cooling to the touch, but then the Lord said that it was deceptive. It was a mist of discouragement sent by the enemy. I watched it cover the lands and then I saw a light rain following the mist. People were aware of the rain, but not seeking cover. It too passed by and then I saw a torrent of rain sweeping across the nations; leaving great damage in its wake. The Lord said, to warn the Body of Christ so they would not be caught in the downpour and think there was no place of safety. Then God said, "Tell my people I am their place of safety; to trust me!" I shared it with the intercessors and we prayed against the spirit of discouragement.

Then the prayer group surrounded me and prayed for God to heal my shoulder. I felt the pain and headache lift and by the time I arrived at home. I knew I had been completely healed. God had given me a miracle. No more pills! No more pain, it was gone, gone, gone! Within four days Jesus took it all. Six to eight weeks was NOT in God's time table. I was rejoicing!

Now my body was taken care of, but my mind and soul were still struggling. The following Sunday I went to church. We had a special speaker, Leslie Keegel, from Sri Lanka and the Lord started ministering to me through the Word. Leslie confirmed my vision as he shared that great discouragement was upon the Body of Christ and how God wanted to help clean up our lives--our messes. He shared how we are called to live in, walk in and thirst for the Spirit of God--to love Jesus with simplicity. (Galatians 5:22-25) and he ended with Ephesians 5:18-19--be filled with the Spirit. I knew Leslie was speaking to me and I knew as I opened my heart that God would bring me through the discouragement and set me free. Leslie shared that many people were feeling discouraged. The enemy had been telling them lie after lie about their circumstances and was pressing hard upon them. God was saying, "I am still here! Trust me!"

I went back for the Sunday night service. Leslie shared for 90 minutes portions of his life and again he addressed the spirit of discouragement falling across the nations. He shared they we were to go back to desperately seeking time with God. Don't settle for just the good times, but want, desire, the best in God. We are living in the age of the Spirit. We are safe in the Holy Spirit and we need to commune with the Holy Spirit daily. Contend for God. Love Jesus with simplicity. Ask yourself daily, "Do I like what I'm becoming?" God will help us clean up our messes. (1 Corinthians 2:1-2-5; Philippians 3:20)

I could feel the stirring of the Spirit within me. I wanted to stir up the passion, the hunger for God and not settle for just knowing Him, but knowing Him intimately. To have the determination that would bring me into his presence daily. I wanted to know him with all my heart. To know the Jesus who endured the pain and suffering on the cross. I asked Him to forgive me for my weakness and not trusting Him.

Leslie shared when the Church becomes weak, it becomes a complaining Church. It is so important to know the supernatural, not man's wisdom! He ended with Mark 16--signs and wonders. We are to preach in the power of God and to walk in the power of God. There are no fan clubs, no star gazers in the kingdom of God. We are to die to self and Jesus only do we preach. Preach and testify as Paul did who spoke in plain words. He didn't use lofty words with brilliant ideas. He spoke in simple, plain words.

We never lose value in God! We never lose significant in God! The truth of God was speaking volumes to my heart. I could feel the heaviness and discouragement leaving. The lies were being broken down and blown away by the Holy Spirit. Then Leslie called us to the front to prophetically speak over us.

When he stood before me and looked into my eyes, I felt he was looking deep into my soul and was seeing all that held me in bondage. He said I had been struggling in my mind and the Lord was healing and setting my mind free. He prayed healing over my body. Then he told me that I had a powerful calling of prayer and intercession and that I was prophetically gifted, but I had been slack in moving in it. He said that God was telling me to stir, stir, stir the prophetic up again for people were waiting to hear what the Lord would prophetically speak through me. At this point I lost it and started wailing. He accurately read my mail. God used this precious man, this obedient man who had never met me to confirm my calling, my gifting and who was encouraging me to grab a hold of God's hand and move forward. He told me to shake it off and trust God.

On the way home, I knew I had been released from the spirit of discouragement and that I had clearly heard God as to my time and place in ministry. God's truth broke down every lie. I was to open the web site and start writing again. To prophetically write the words of God so He could minister to His people.

He opened wide the door--my job--walk through it and share His heart. People, hear this word with your hearts!

I share all this with you dear readers, for this is a word of encouragement and revelation from the Lord. You who are struggling can be set free. Be encouraged! Right now, this moment, reach up. His hand you will find. God is revealing this spirit of discouragement through many different sources and encouraging you to trust Him. He will not leave you in the midst of chaos, but will walk you through it. He will wash over you with the Word and help clean up your messes for you are important to the Body of Christ. Jesus has been where you are and can relate to how you feel; and if his life on earth doesn't convince you, his death on the cross should. He understands what you are going through. He will never patronize you or scoff at your needs. He will always take a hold of the hand that is searching for His. You are important to Him and loved of God. You have value. You have significance in the Body. You have your own destiny prepared just for you, so use your talents to fulfill your callings and be an example to the world of God's great love and mercy. Don't stay in a place of discouragement or unrest. Why would you replace the living God with the puny achievements of man?

You are not alone! God's hand is extended to the child He loves; reach up and take hold; and feel His hand on your shoulder and hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

"My prayer, as I write this, Father, is for my brothers and sisters who have struggled with discouragement. May they hear your voice speak to their hearts from the words they read and may they be set free. May they declare full freedom in You. May they walk in fullness of your love and grace knowing their destiny is set in place by Your hand. May they not doubt what you have laid in their hearts as to the work and ministry you have called them to do. Encourage them Jesus and walk them through as you did me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!"

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.