

BEHOLDING & **BECOMING**

THE WORLD IS WAITING
FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTIAN ...
WILL IT BE YOU?

GRAHAM COOKE

AN INTERACTIVE JOURNAL

BOOK 4
BEING WITH GOD SERIES



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DEDICATION

I have been on a compelling spiritual journey since 1972. In the span of years since, my story has involved more friends and companions than I could ever attempt to list here. These are people with whom I have laughed and cried, suffered and persisted alongside. We have received curses against us and had blessings spoken over us. We have all been written off, yet we remain.

We are bigger, stronger, more anointed and still walking with the One who loves us magnificently.

I rejoice because there is still time to add new names to this incredible group of game changers.

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They are the best, that's why they do what they do!

INTRODUCTION

You carry a profound and unfathomable call on your life, placed there by God Himself. It is fresh and new and completely beyond your natural ability to accomplish—God has called you to do something you cannot possibly do. You can meditate on that call for the rest of your days, strategize it to no end, even try and seize it; it doesn't matter. Like reaching for the stars, God's call is beyond you. It's a gift God has given each one of His children. In fact, your inability to accomplish it is exactly why He had selected you to carry that call.

As rational human beings, faced with a world bound by goals and measures, we find this difficult to believe. The apostle Paul didn't, however: *"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty,"* he said in 1 Corinthians 1:27. We are the foolish and the weak Paul referred to—we cannot think our way into fulfilling the call of God. Fortunately, He has not asked us to. God has that covered; His most foolish moment is greater than our wisest and grandest revelation. Paul explained that too: *"Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's 'weakness'"* (1 Corinthians 1:25, *The Message*). If we cannot grab a hold of this great call, what can we do?

We, as Christians, must learn to live in the consistent nature of God. The Father will never change His heart toward

you. Like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), He only wants to love His children, no matter the decisions, mistakes or successes they make. When we live in that place of consistency, we get to walk with God into the unpredictable and outrageous. Our lives become an adventure, full of courage and miracles. In the Bible, saints who walked in consistency got to walk on water, see an axhead float, witness the sun standing still in the heavens, raise a child from the dead, and part a river's water. They were pushed by God to a place where even creation obeyed them.

Creation longs for that breakthrough again. *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God,"* Paul wrote in Romans 8:19. The landscape of the western world—in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada,

"IT'S KIND OF FUN TO
DO THE IMPOSSIBLE."
WALT DISNEY

Australia, and all points in between—is waiting for a different Christian to emerge from the cozy confines of the Church. A different type of believer is needed. The ground itself longs to see the sons of God, a tribe with the

power of the Holy Spirit indwelling their lives, rise up. To them, the experience of the miraculous is largely irrelevant; those mighty works don't matter nearly as much as the One making them possible. Don't walk away from the personhood of God; too many people in the renewal movement of the latter half of the twentieth century did just that. Do the absurd thing—enjoy the experience you're having, but adore the One who is giving it above all else.

We must learn to behold the glory and intimacy of God and become like Him. We need to come into a place of rest where everything that God is can come and touch us. We must stop striving and simply be. To fulfill our call, we must be a Mary sitting and waiting at the feet of Jesus, not a Martha running about behind the scenes.

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MARY, NOT MARTHA

Mary and Martha is a story familiar to many of us. Let's look at it once again in Luke 10:38-42:

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

In our western thinking, we prize activity more than anything else. We feel we always have to be doing something—waking up, walking the dog, driving the kids, teaching Sunday school, picking up the kids, cooking dinner, cutting the lawn, waxing the car, and on and on and on. We are a whirlwind of activity, just like Martha, getting ourselves worked up over everything. Mary, meanwhile, seems lazy to us. Where is the measurable fruit from her day? What has she contributed? Why won't she help her sister serve this important house guest? Mary's conduct is foreign to our thinking.

Yet it is Mary whom Jesus commends; her rest has served her well. Mary was being consistent in her relationship with Jesus. The biggest desire in God's heart is inhabitation. If you search through Scripture, you'll find that coming and living with His children is all He has ever wanted. All we ever pray for, though, is another move of God.

REVIVAL SHOWS OUR WEAKNESS

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Unlike inhabitation, there is no call for revival found anywhere in Scripture. The Church, quite simply, should never need reviving. Revival is not about getting people saved; revival is about the Church coming back to her original purpose before God. I think it's very sad that so many of us have prayed and longed for revival—it means the Church is a long way from what God wants us to be. Maybe, just maybe, a little touch from God could bring us immediately into line. That's the mystery of life with the Godhead—you just never know what could turn the tide of history.

We see this in our own lives quite often. One day we're yearning for something, and the next day that thing is fulfilled. How on Earth did that happen? What swung the hinge so quickly? It was simply Jesus, coming to inhabit something. This is one of the deep things of God, one of those spiritual

mysteries that is hidden, waiting to be revealed. The gospel writers recorded that Jesus did not trust what was in the hearts of men; my prayer is that God would trust us enough to show us—and do—something new.

“I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPERATIVE NEED OF THE DAY IS NOT SIMPLY REVIVAL, BUT A RADICAL REFORMATION THAT WILL GO TO THE ROOT OF OUR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL MALADIES AND DEAL WITH CAUSES RATHER THAN WITH CONSEQUENCES, WITH THE DISEASE RATHER THAN THE SYMPTOMS.”

A.W. TOZER

For me, revival can be defined as the Church coming back to a place where God can trust us with the things He really wants to give us. When that happens, there will be a reformation; a move of God where the walls of the Church will be knocked flat, and what we have in the meeting is what we have in the marketplace.

Miracles will happen, God will be in full evidence, people will get saved by the hundreds and thousands, and creation’s longing for the sons of God to move in power will be answered.

LIVING WATER

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To experience this move of God, we must let Jesus inhabit us. We must drink of His living water, as He described in John 7:37-38: *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood*

and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'” If we are thirsty to fulfill the impossible call of God, we need to drink in Christ’s love, allowing Him to fully inhabit our lives.

Water is an allegory Jesus used several times in His ministry to explain His effect on the Earth. In John 4 He met a woman at a well and told her, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”* (John 4:10). He later added that *“whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life”* (John 4:14). Inhabitation fulfills us

at the deepest level, dividing what is our soul—our mind, will, and emotions—from our spirit—our conscience and ability to commune with God. Jesus, whom the apostle John also referred to as the

“WHEN WE REMAIN IN THE SPIRIT, WE ABIDE IN CHRIST, AND CHRIST HAS THE GROUND TO ABIDE IN US TO CARRY OUT HIS DIVINE DISPENSING IN US.”
WATCHMAN NEE

Word of God, splits our spiritual being from our soulish behavior. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart,” Paul wrote in Hebrews 4:12. We must learn how to keep these two things apart, and how to teach our soul to be a vehicle to the movement of our spirit.