

**Bridegroom in the Clouds Ministry with Susan Shultz**

www.BridegroomintheClouds.org

**Let Us Testify for Future Generations!**

One of my greatest regrets is not getting a chance to truly hear my grandmother’s testimony. For, it wasn’t until I became an adult that I now find myself wishing that I could hear it or read it. She was an amazing woman and I do remember hearing some great stories about her life when I was younger but now, I wish for more. I also wish I would have had the wisdom as a young kid to ask about her faith walk with Jesus. However, most kids don’t think about this need, mostly because they tend to think mainly about themselves when they are young. This is probably why most of the verses that I found in the Bible that talk about passing down testimonies puts the call on the adults. It is a challenge to the adults for the future generations that don’t yet know what value such stories could have for them. Also, in my grandmother’s defense, the very sad reality is that this isn’t something widely taught within the church today. It isn’t a widespread challenge within the church to encourage the older generation to record their walks with the Lord for the future generations, but oh how this must grieve the Lord for He is the Testimony. He is the Word. And the Bible is filled with verses that talk about this importance. Think about how much of the Bible was first passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Well, I don’t know about you, but I am sure glad they did. We have the very Word of God today because people from the past were led to declare their experiences with the Lord by word of mouth and by writing them down. Praise the Lord!

There is abundance of verses in the Bible that talk about declaring what the Lord has done for future generations, but here are just a few:

Psalms 145:4 – “One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.”

Psalms 78:4 – “We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

Psalms 102:18 – “Let this be recorded for future generations, so that a people not yet born will praise the Lord.”

Psalms 22:30 – “Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.”

My friends, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Acts 14:17 declares that God has not left Himself without testimony, therefore He is still writing. Each of our lives are the continuation of His story. So let us continue to aid the next future generation with our testimonies “so that a people not yet born will praise the LORD (Ps. 102:18b).” God is still alive, active, and moving greatly in the lives of His current Saints, so let us also testify!

**Spiritual Journaling:**

**A Guide to Help You Start Finding Your Testimony**

As you journey through life with God, recording your experiences with Him (or your testimony) in a journal, or in some form, offers a great reward:

Spiritual journaling is simply a way of recording your journey with God. It helps you to pay more attention to God and to how He is working in your life. It is a way that helps you to better learn how to hear and respond to Him. By keeping a personal record, you can see what God has been doing in your life, how far you have come, and where you are going.

Your journal is more than a historical document or simply a journal of daily, recorded events:

Instead, it is a place for inner spiritual growth and personal discovery. It acts as a mirror for you, allowing you to look deeper into your life and soul. It is a secure place to explore and examine things with God. A journal can become a good sounding board for you.

Benefits of Journaling:

Keeping a journal broadens your view of the Kingdom of God, especially as you begin to see God’s hand in your life and all the ways that He is using you within His plan and His Kingdom. Because of this, it also increases your hope and expectancy, as well as your understanding of your God- given purpose.

​It helps to keep you right with God and in good spiritual condition.

​Your journal acts as a safe place to process what God is doing in your life and in the lives of those around you. Therefore, it also summons forth God-impressed prayers to be recorded and prayed for yourself and others. Plus, upon later reflection of these recorded prayers and processed concerns, you will be better able to see and rejoice in God’s answers to prayers that maybe you would have otherwise forgotten that you even prayed.

​Spiritual journaling also helps you to see that God cares just as much for the little concerns and things in your life as He does for the big ones. Keeping a record helps you again to clearly see that God’s hand is in everything that you do.

It helps you to see where you are going with God, to better understand why He is doing what He is doing in your life, and essentially, it helps you to better understand your spiritual journey, the good times and the bad. Everything God takes you through has a reason and a season, and the discipline of spiritual journaling can help you to see this more clearly. Sometimes, God speaks the same thing in different ways as He tries to get your attention and impress on you the importance of what He’s saying. A journal helps you to spot this.

Finally, as you reflect back upon what has already been recorded, not only does it allow you to better see the hand of God in your life but also the hand and schemes of the enemy so that you will be more thoroughly equipped to defeat him.

Revelation 12:11a (NIV) says: “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

Your personal journal can be anything you want it to be:

It could be a record of your thoughts and prayers, along with God’s answers. It could be a collection of gathered wisdom and insight gained by reading God’s Word. It could be a record of encounters with other Christians God puts in your life path.

A journal doesn’t just have to be made up of written words:

A spiritual journal could be a scrapbook composed of things that remind you of God’s hand in your life. It could be a series of drawings or paintings that tell the story of your life with God. It could be songs of worship inspired by your life that God puts on your heart. Whatever your spiritual gift or talent is, whether writing, drawing, singing, etc., or a combination of them all, God wants to use it to tell your story, to tell the world that He is still alive and active through you in this world today. He wants to use your life to be a bridge.

How to Get Started:

Start by praying—Ask the Holy Spirit, the Ultimate Teacher, to lead you as you begin to journal.

Then, write and/or record what’s on your heart, currently—Don’t try to go back to the very beginning of your walk with God or even your life, unless God leads, for this can overwhelm you. Instead, simply start with the day that you are in and go from there, and in the end, you will be amazed at how God brings up the past anyway through your writing/ recording.

Listen and document—Record what God puts on your heart and what He’s saying through your dreams and through others. Talk with God. Be open and honest with Him and with yourself. Share your joys, victories, desires, frustrations, uncertainties, and heartaches with Him. Write down goals, prayers, dreams, and special events in your life, whether big or small.

Then, record biblical and spiritual insights and revelations, any verses that stick out to you as you read or that God places upon your heart.

Date every entry—This helps you to see your progress and makes it easier to find things.

Don’t forget to look back—Every few weeks or months, reread what you have written. When you do this, you will be amazed at what God has been saying and the many things that you’ve forgotten.

Finally, just start—Remember, it is important simply to take the first step and start. Don’t worry about what to write, sing, or draw or what it looks like or sounds like. Instead, just get something down and believe that God will do the rest.

God is waiting to reveal your story to you!