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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

**GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU...**The crystalline voice of Julie Andrews charmed us for years with the words of this lively song. I had forgotten all about it long ago, but one recent morning I awoke with the words and melody ringing joyfully in my heart. Actually, it has stayed with me ever since. It was a word from the Father and oh yes we are getting to know the One who is our new life! And we are seeking to know all about Him and His ways. He is revealing His heart and His love to us, and though our *"...outward man perish, yet our inward man is renewed day by day."* (II Cor.4:16), and we are as it were, lifted up and swept into His embrace to new heights and new glories. There are many opinions about the Bible and its value for Christians, but for me, the Bible is the greatest love story ever told. It is the very mysterious, romantic and yes, passionate story of man looking for his maid. *"There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid."* (Prov.30:18-19)

Hidden in the events, the characters and even the prophecies written in the Bible, is the story of Christ redeeming His bride, and gathering her unto Himself; it is the story of the Father's love for His creation. And as His bride, we are getting to know Him and learning to know all about Him, for when we will know Him as He is, we will be like Him, in perfect union with Him, in spirit, soul and body. Until then, we set our hearts and minds to continue walking by the light of His Holy Spirit, and to learn to know Him as He is, and not as we imagined Him to be. An old poem says, "To err is human, to forgive is divine." It is human to err, and we are humans; we are born in total darkness, unaware of the realm of life that surrounds us and moves us from within, but as He renews our minds and hearts, we enter into the realm of the divine, and are born anew. As small children growing up, our world is limited to our house, our neighborhood and perhaps our town. We have no idea whatsoever of the greatness of the world that surrounds us. And we are born totally unaware of the very real, invisible places of spirit, in us and around us. The Internet and the ease of world travel today have opened much of the world to young and old minds, but we are still in darkness when it comes to the realities that exist in the world of "spirit." Most humans only have a vague imagination of what eternal life really means; they would rather wait to find out after they die.

It is obvious that today, many humans are led to seek their roots, and to find their true identity. They might have been taught that their ancestors were once apes or even amoebae, but that does not answer the yearning, the restlessness that they feel in their souls to know themselves better. Humankind is on a quest to find their true purpose; they have been earthly "soul" creatures, but they know that they are more than that. Some children are troubled, feeling they are boys in girl's bodies, or vice versa. Some go through untold suffering and agony, even surgically changing the sex of their bodies, looking for a physical identity that fits them, not knowing that what they feel is the call of the spirit within. The world is in gross darkness, being totally ignorant of the world of spirit that they live in. Seminaries are staffed with teachers who are trapped into a maze of established doctrines, teaching future ministers out of the darkness of their own minds. They interpret the words of the Bible literally, thus introducing conflicting ideas about a God of love who thinks nothing of sending the souls of men, women and little

children to an eternal excruciating burning fire, because they do not believe in Jesus Christ before they die. The false doctrines of Christianity have served to perpetuate, and to increase the thrust for warfare against anyone who is of another faith. Today, governments have convinced their people, that to have peace and survive in this world, a nation must dominate with wealth, and be more powerful in weapons of war, and trained military men than any other nation. All great empires of the past have ruled by power, wealth and military might, and all have crumbled into piles of ruin, and the great nations of this world have not yet learned their lesson. They are still creating and stockpiling deadlier weapons, daring each other to use them without mercy on populations who have to flee for safety and find none.

Nevertheless, God has been raising sons who are getting to know the truth. They are getting to know their real Father, and finding the answers they have been seeking. They are being transformed and equipped to become deliverers. They are learning to "Wait upon the Lord," and to "know His ways." The hardest part is to be still and to let God lead the way. He is opening the gate for us to enter in, and to become as Jesus, full of love and compassion for the perishing world, and with the power to disarm the enemy, not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. This is a new way indeed!

**A PLACE CALLED "HOME"**- Home is where we belong, where we feel comfortable and able to relax and be ourselves. Home has a feeling of permanence; a place that is always there for us. Home is what deep down everyone yearns for, but does not always find. When I grew up in France, I never felt at home anywhere. My parents were divorced when I was five, and the only place that felt permanent was my grandmother's house, yet I was there only on visits. When I fell in love and married, I was looking forward to making a home for my new family, but that did not work out either. It was later, when I married Michael, and we built our lives together, that I finally felt I had a home. Soon I realized, that it was not the house that was home; it was the sturdy and dependable love that Michael and I shared. When we traveled together, miles away from our house, in the middle of a desert, in the forests or high in the Rocky Mountains, wherever we parked our camper, we were still home. As I grew in Christ, I came to know a much larger home, which now included being with brethren of like-faith. And so the meetings and the conventions we attended, felt like going home. But the time came when our Father separated us from all these. This was very hard for me at first, and I was so grateful that the love I shared with Michael was holding strong, and I still found my shelter and resting place with him.

As the years passed, the day dawned when Michael was changing and dementia was taking its toll. For seven long years, the security of home was being shaken to the core. It was during these difficult years, that the Lord took me through a school of higher learning in the Spirit. After Michael passed away, I spent four years alone, I needed that. Then my daughter came to live with me and it took time, for two independent women to adjust to a new life together. But God was faithful and patient with us, and in a few years we were on our way to finding our home together. Yet, while we truly enjoy this home, we both know that this is not permanent either, and we are now finding our true forever home, not after our death, but now in Christ. Home is Christ's love within, it is a place of peace and joy within; it is Christ's love within our soul and spirit. This is home forever, whether in this body or not. The stability of this home is God within, it is His abode. It is the place that Jesus has been preparing for us. When Jesus faced His bewildered disciples to bid them good-bye for a season, He said, *"In my Father's house are many mansions, (dwelling places), If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you... that where I am ye may be also."* (Jn.14:2,3) These mansions are "us." All the fires and testing we have been going through have been Jesus preparing us to be our Father's mansions. Our home is the kingdom of God within. *"For in Him, (Christ), dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him which is the head of all principality and powers."* (Col.2:9-10)

**ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD-** The kingdom of God is the realm of God's Spirit within us. It is our soul and spirit in perfect harmony with the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is home. Paul says it like this, *"...the kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."* (Rom.14:17) We hear about it, we read about it, and perhaps we study all about it, but we still know nothing of it until we enter into it. The kingdom of God will be established in the earth when all souls are in harmony with, and in loving submission to God's Spirit; it will be heaven on earth. The Psalmist exclaims, *"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."* (Ps.34:8)

This is what David's soul was thirsting for, *"As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul after thee O God."* (Ps.42:1) In His mercy, our God has allowed the hardness, pains and difficulties of this earthly life, to stir up this thirst for love, peace and righteous justice. We are all a stiff-neck people, and it takes the thorns and thistles of this world to move our stubborn, carnal minds out of the way, that we might hear the still, small voice that calls from the depth of our soul. We were once found in Christ, but when we came into these earthen vessels, we lost our connection to the true God and became enamored with the gods of this world. Nevertheless, deep within each one, there remains a need for holiness. This is a deep and constant yearning hidden in our souls. It is that desire to be holy as God is holy. The serpent cleverly used this need to tempt Eve, and he still uses them today, to push our souls into works of righteousness. Today, that same serpent tells God's sons, "If you learn all the verses of the Bible and do many good works, if you keep God's law and pray longer, if you seek God early in the morning, if you fast often, if you give more to the poor, if you do more and more for God, you will become sons." It is the same bait, the same serenade that our carnal minds continue to play in our ears, and because we can never feel that we please God, we are laden with guilt and condemnation. This is so tricky because the Holy Spirit will lead us to do some of these works, but the difference is in the motives of our hearts. Do we do them to get more from God, to be accepted and loved more, to be more gifted, to shine among the brethren, to have a great ministry, or do we do only what the Spirit leads us to do? Are we moved by the desire to make a better name for ourselves in this world, or are we being led by truth, love and compassion for lost souls, for our brethren, for our country, for God's creation, and yes for ourselves also?

**AN OLD VISION, STILL NEW-** This happened many years ago, yet it is still very vivid today. I was sitting in my chair reading, when as a bolt of lightening, I received a clear vision of the glory of God that shall be. It really had nothing to do with what I was reading, and it may have been prompted by something I had heard before, but this time I saw it and felt it as it filled me with awe and joy unspeakable. A spiritual experience is never easy to communicate on paper, and I do not think I will be able to do that, but perhaps I can stir up the witness within you and you may be quickened into the same heavenly vision.

What I saw was the new creation of God in Christ. It was a people filled with His glory, on display for the whole world to see. They were moving freely among the masses, and as they went, they left a bright beam of light on their path, and the darkness was gone. They looked like anyone else, except their countenance imparted joy and peace to all in their surroundings. This was only a vision of what is to come, for in Christ, we are the glory of the Lord. God has created us for His good pleasure. We have been in the likeness of the first Adam, but now we are being transformed from inside out, into the image of His dear Son who boldly declared, *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* (Jn.14:7) To know Him as He is now, is our goal and purpose, for to know Him is to know the Father and to be His Son's appearing in the world.

Jesus came once as one Man; He came to show us the Father and He died to bring us to Him. No man can see the Father, but soon the Son will appear again, in His body of sons to show the glory of His Father to the world. The Father's glory is incredibly vast, deep and marvelous, but no man is able to behold it. *"Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father."* (Jn.6:46) The prophets of old spoke of the knowledge of God's glory covering the earth even as the waters cover the seas. *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* (Hab. 2:14)

How will they know and believe in the Father? They will see His glory in a people walking the earth. When Jesus came to visit His disciples, after His resurrection, He was in His body of glory. He could eat with them, and fellowship with them, and He could also disappear into the invisible realm of spirit. He was Lord of heaven and earth. Jesus showed this glory to a few men, but the sons will show forth. All mankind shall see His glory, *"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."* (Isa.40:5) This prophecy of Isaiah has yet to be fulfilled, but it is at the door. Jesus was the glory of His Father clothed in a body of Abraham's seed, and all His saints, on either side of the veil, are about to show forth the magnificent glory of their Almighty Father to all creation, clothed with the eternal glory of the Son as He is now. This work has been ongoing, but it has been hidden, caught up into the invisible realm of our spirit and soul, yet soon, all flesh in this earthly life, shall see it. This new creation will appear in the visible realm of the earth! All will stand in awe of what God has done. God's love will surround all; what a joyous scene this will be, and we are at the dawning of this new day! How can we be sure? The prophet Isaiah describes the events that are bringing this on: *"Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places smooth,"* (Isa.40:1-4) This work has been shaking the earth and the world for it is bringing down the haughtiness of man's hearts, and leveling the paths to walk in. Mountains are symbols of kingdoms of men; they shall be made low. Valleys are the poor and lowly of this world; they shall be exalted. The crooked ways of man's hearts shall be made straight and the hard and stubborn minds shall be made smooth. These are all gifts of God's love for His creation.

Surely, He has watered the dry places of our souls. He has raised us out of our low valleys, and taught us to meet Him in the high places of His Spirit. He has set us in "heavenly places in Christ." We had believed the lies of the harlot, we had been swayed by her worldly interpretations, but He has brought His light and life into our hearts and minds. He has changed our perspectives altogether and made us to know that we are His inheritance. *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.."* (Eph.1:18) We are called to be His glory in the earth; all the trials and testing of our faith are to bring us to this place in Him. The prophet of old begins with these words, *"Comfort ye, comfort My people saith your God!..Cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished...The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness (of our souls), prepare ye the way of the Lord..."* (Isa.40:1-3) In other words, tell them that all their suffering and pain is coming to an end. The entire creation has been groaning for this day.

May we take comfort with these words, and may we be encouraged to look up and move on. The enemy who rules our carnal minds strives to set our hopes on the things of this world, but our God is giving us a greater hope and a much more rewarding vision. *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, (be like a man, be brave), be strong."* (I Cor.16:13) May the Father bless us all on the last lap of this incredible journey! Amen.

Because He is love, *Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)*