

THIRST NO MORE

A Woman's Journey to Restoration



Yvette Wilson Bentley

***THIRST NO MORE:
A WOMAN'S JOURNEY
TO REDEMPTION***

**(an excerpt and CONNECTION THROUGH
REFLECTION JOURNALING EXERCISE)**

Yvette Wilson Bentley

A Parishioner's Perspective Series

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INTRODUCTION

(taken from the original publication)

Almost always, I keep paper and pen within my reach. Yes, we live in the 21st century and have electronic devices – cell phones, tablets, etc. - I own a few of them. Nevertheless, when it comes to God-inspired thoughts, I like experiencing the humility reverence as I am writing them down. I am not distracted with the mechanical functions of a device. I can look down at a journal page or a piece of paper and see what God poured into me.

When I take pen to paper, I enter into private instruction with God. He is guiding and instructing me how to use the gift that He gave me – the gift to write. God's instruction is like no other. It is a mode instruction beyond human power. It can only come from the Divine One.

Whenever I am at Sunday School or worship service, I have paper and pen. If I heard the teacher or a student share something inspiring, I jot it down. At

worship service, I jot down things I hear the preacher share during his sermon. When I read back over what I have written, I am amazed. So many times I have written down the exact message that I needed to hear. I have written down messages that God led me to share with others. Sometimes, I create brief posts and share them on social media and my website.

God is leading me to pen a number of books that will compile into a series. These books will be based various Biblical stories and how they mirror my life's experiences. By no means do I claim to be anyone's theologian. I am simply sharing from a Parishioner's Perspective, which is the name of the series.

THIRST NO MORE: A Woman's Journey to Restoration is the first book in the series. This book is based on one of my favorite Bible stories – The Samaritan Woman (John 4). Writing this book taught me that no matter how long you have been saved, there will always be an area of your life that only the power of The Living Water can heal and restore.

You don't have to take my word for it –try it for yourself!

CHAPTER THREE

I CAN'T BE SEEN TALKING TO YOU!

Jesus encountered people from all walks of life. As lovely as it would be for the whole world to “get along” with each other, that’s not the way things work. There are those people who get along; then there are those who don’t. For those that don’t get along, the exchange can be either pleasant or unpleasant. People can come with all sorts of reasons why they do not associate with those from other groups.

For example, one group may feel other groups come from the “wrong side of the track.” They come from different races or religions. If the “green” people don’t like the “blue” people and the “green” girl gets caught talking to the “blue” boy, it’s going to cause problems between the

groups.

Jesus kept the “main thing the main thing.” He focused on His mission and His purpose. He knew the woman was a Samaritan and he was a Jew. That was irrelevant. He was also aware of the bad blood that ran between the two tribes. It all began when Assyria conquered Israel. Most Samaritans were forced to live in Assyria and the five alien tribes took up Samaria’s former residence in Israel (see 2 Kings 17: 13-34).

As time went on, Samaritans returned from Assyria and began intermarrying within the five tribes. By the time Jesus came along, they were no longer considered to be authentic descendants of great Jewish ancestors. Their religious beliefs had been mixed rather than been of true Judaism. Jesus chose to disregard the dissension between the two tribes. (He was the Worship. He was the shadow of what they were fighting over).

Here are a few questions that may have crossed the woman’s mind: Should she stay and talk to this man? Should she leave and act like she never saw him? If she does talk to him, will

somebody see them? After all, it wasn't customary for any man, let alone a rabbi, to hold a long conversation with an unfamiliar woman in plain sight.

Since I have been sober, I had to learn to change "old people, places and things." It didn't make sense to me at first. It took a little while for that to sink in. It was a big and bitter pill to swallow. It was scary at first. I was scared I would lose something. I thought I would lose my friends and no longer be accepted. Up until age 32, I did most things for people to accept me.

"Trust in the process." That was another parable I often heard. I didn't understand it but thank God for the courage to trust it anyway. Life used to be fun. After 21 years of my life had spanned, I was hopeless and desperate. The pain had become too great. Was it worth holding on to? No, it wasn't. So God helped me let go of what I thought I was losing, only to find it wasn't worth holding on to in the first place.

After being sober a little over a year, a friend let me borrow her car. I went to church and

planned to go to a 12-step meeting afterwards. On my way to the meeting, I stopped at an old friend's house. My plan was to say hello, use the restroom and be on my way.

For the 10 minutes I was there, there wasn't any smoking or drinking going on. Nonetheless, the chaos, excitement and confusion was in high gear. It's time to go!

I got to the car and it wouldn't start. I panicked! Oh, my God, what are people going to say when they find out that I'm down here? My girlfriend is going to kill me. I knew I shouldn't have come down here. If somebody sees me, they will think I've gone back to doing what I was doing! After about an hour, my girlfriend arrived with the tow truck. I've been rescued!

Being rescued did not come for free. I had to endure the lecture my girlfriend had waiting on me. She let me have it! She lectured me about the danger I had placed myself in. Then she painted a graphic picture of all that could have happened by going to an "old playground with old playmates," even it was just for a few minutes.

Normally, I would have blown her off. As much as I wanted to, I couldn't. I knew she was right. Just knowing what could have happened shook me up enough to know that I wouldn't be talking that chance again.

We have to ask God to show us who we should be connected to. There are times that I don't have to ask God about a person; He equips me to make decisions. The very people I try to overlook or discount are the ones God appoints me to be a part of my life. Then there were those I thought were a blessing, only to find their only agenda was for them to win and me to lose. Those people have no place in my life. Now those are the people I don't want anyone seeing me talk to. They mean me no good. God didn't send them. He does not maintain what He didn't ordain. There's only one thing to do when those type of people approach you - RUN!

It appears she has no idea that Jesus is The Son of God. Like most women, she appeared to be curious. It seems she didn't have a clue about what she would discover. Yet, she was

determined to learn as much as she could about this man.

Trust God. Take His hand and travel beneath your surface. It will be an amazing experience!

CONNECTION THROUGH REFLECTION

A 30-DAY JOURNEY TO HABIT FORMATION

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, it's good to set aside time with God. It's beneficial to reflect on your relationship with Him. It's also a time to achieve a greater and deeper connection.

Taking time to reflect is a great time for self-examination. It is also a great time to begin trusting your mind, heart and spirit with God.

For the next 30 days, I invite you to take an intentional journey. The journey will be with just you and God. Feel free to create your own intentions and outcomes. Here are a few to help

you get started:

1. What I can receive from God?
2. What I can give to God?
3. What I will gain if I am willing to change?
4. What will I lose if I stay the same?
5. How I will feel if I do this?
6. How I will feel if I don't do this?

It is my belief and experience that putting pen to paper is a very powerful, yet humbling experience. Writing it down allows you to capture it "in the raw." There's no backspace, no cut/paste. It allows you to see yourself for who you are.

If you don't own a journal, a college-ruled notebook and a writing instrument of your choice will start you on your way. By the end of your 30

days, you will have gained clarity of new spiritual habits and how you would like to implement into your daily routine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native of Louisville, KY, Yvette Wilson Bentley has always enjoyed creative writing but only in recent years she decided to pursue her writing for publication. *Enhancing the Journey* was Yvette's freshman publication in early 2012. The book was well-received by many; it has received a number of four and five-star reviews on Amazon as well as a four-star review from Readers' Favorite®.

Yvette quickly learned the publishing process and solidified her foundation as an author and literary entrepreneur. In 2014, she founded her

own publishing company, Wryte Type Publishing. *Thirst No More: A Woman's Journey to Restoration*, is Bentley's second book published under the new imprint and was released in February 2015.

Yvette participated as a contributing author in a short-story anthology produced by national best-selling Christian-Fiction author, Vanessa Miller, entitled, *Love. Hope. Faith*. The title of Yvette's short story is *From Trustless to Trustworthy*.

Yvette is a member of The Sisters of Ruth Book Club and the M-Pact Writers Group. She has served as a contributing writer for numerous

newsletters and magazines. Yvette has also been featured on various internet talk-radio shows, including "Honeycomb Heart Ministry" and "Jerry Royce Live, Positive Power 21," and has been both a guest panelist and lead facilitator on a number of teleconferences and webcasts.

Yvette worships at Joshua Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville KY, where she serves as the Asst. Sunday School Superintendent, teaches Sunday School, and serves as a member of the Women's Bible Study, Missionary Society and Strategic Leadership Team ministries.

Yvette loves philanthropic projects and regularly participates in fundraising projects. In her spare time, Yvette enjoys reading, bowling, traveling and relaxing with friends and extended family members.

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