

JACKIE CAPORASO
10552 SE 151ST STREET
SUMMERFIELD FL 34491
PH.352-288-5257
EMAIL- jackiecaporaso@gmail.com

NO.242

THE HEART OF THE SHULAMITE

REMOVING THE VEIL

Paul wrote to the church concerning the ministry, *"...but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."* (II Cor.3: 4b-5)

Paul continues and calls the ministry of the letter, *"The ministration of death."* (Vs.6a) This is a strong word. Anytime that we minister the Word of God in the letter, we are producing death in the soul and spirit of the hearer. This means that the majority of teaching in the churches today are leaving the people dead.

When the Word is taught as a good moral lesson, it may be somewhat helpful but it becomes law and is not life-giving. Paul says that it becomes the ministration of condemnation. Jesus declared, *"The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life."*(Jn.6: 63b)

Paul explains that the ministration of law had its glory, but that it is replaced by a ministration which is much more glorious. The Law of Moses and the letter of the word are basically the same. The Law applies literally, as it is written.

Paul writes, *"Seeing then that we have such hope, we use plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: but their minds were blinded;*

for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart." (II Cor.3: 12-15) When Moses came down from the mount where he had met with God for thirty days and nights, he was not the same man; he had been filled with God's glory and his face was shining as the sun.

Moses could not show this glory to the people, lest they die. So he placed a veil over his face and what they saw was the old Moses as he used to be. What they saw was the Law and the letter of Law. They could not have stood the glory of the Law which is the Spirit of the letter.

Paul explains to the church that *"...the law is holy, and the commandments holy, and just, and good."*(Rom.7: 12) But sin which works death in mankind becomes exceedingly sinful when the law is at work. The culprit is not the law; the culprit is sin.

When the literal letter of the law is applied, there is no recourse other than paying the full penalty of the Law. When "Moses" is read, that is when the word is applied literally, a veil is still upon the reader's hearts. They cannot understand the Spirit of the Word and they come under condemnation each time. They are legalistic and cannot help but feel guilty and condemned until *"The veil that is upon their hearts is removed!"* And they see by the Spirit.

This veil is no longer upon the face of Moses, this same veil is upon the hearts of the people. This veil is upon the heart and can only be removed by "circumcision of the heart." This is why Paul declared, *"Nevertheless when it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away."*(Vs.16)

Until the veil that is upon our hearts is removed, we cannot understand the Spirit of the Word. We are limited to the letter and we stand condemned by it. The Lord God established His covenant with Abraham and his seed, *"God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my*

covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised." (Gen.17: 9-10)

Circumcision was more than good hygiene. It was a sign between Abraham, his seed and Almighty God. We find Paul explaining it by the Spirit, *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."* (Rom.2: 28-29)

Inward circumcision removes the veil from the heart so that we can understand the Word by the Spirit and not be found guilty by the letter. God is Spirit and His Word is Spirit and life. The truth is not found in the letter for the letter is interpreted according to the carnal mind which is always enmity against God.

THE TRUTH IS ONLY FOUND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE WORD. Truth cannot change. The letter gives us facts at best and facts are changeable. That which can change is not eternal; it is temporal and cannot be relied upon.

TRUE LOVE

There is a popular song that says, "Lord we don't need another mountain, there are mountains and hillsides enough to climb. There are oceans and rivers enough to cross. Enough to last until the end of time. What the world needs now is love sweet love, it's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now is love sweet love, no not just for some but for everyone."

Many of us have tasted of love sweet love. For forty-seven years, I was married in flesh and spirit to a wonderful man and we shared this sweet love each day. When he went to be with the Lord, I missed him terribly. I spoke to the Lord about this and the Spirit showed me a wonderful truth: the love of Christ that flows between us never fails.

When Michael left, I asked the Lord about the deep grief that I felt. It came in strong waves and there was nothing I could do to stop it. It had to

wear itself out. I tried to analyze it. Did I feel sorry for myself? Was I having a pity-party? No. That was not it. I was very grateful for the years we shared together. I thanked the Lord daily for putting him in my life. I have no regrets and I know that his leaving was fully in God's will for him and for me.

So why the season of grief that overwhelmed me? The Lord gave me the answer. It was more than Michael's presence that I missed; it was his love for me. Slowly but surely the waves of grief lifted and after a couple of years they never returned. Eight years have gone by now and I still miss him but I know his love is still with me. It is like a beautiful fragrance. It is the love of Christ that flows forever between us.

Our hearts yearn for true love. We will find no peace, no true joy, no completeness until we are reunited with our true FIRST love. It was not He who left us, it was us who left Him. Jesus told the church at Ephesus that even though they had laboured and not fainted for His name sake, He had somewhat against them because *they had left their FIRST love*. This was not acceptable and they had to overcome by the Spirit. This word FIRST does not refer only to the position of being before all, it also means BEST. This first love is also the best love.

When we start our walk with the Lord, we want to please Him but because we have not yet found first love, we just do what we can out of a sense of "duty." This is a beginning but as we walk with Him and He reveals Himself to us, we learn to know Him and our love for Him begins to stir our hearts. We return to our first love and this is what is pleasing unto Him.

This is what Jesus wrote to His church...you have done so many good things...yet you have left your true love for me. This church was doing all the right things, but it was out of a sense of duty. She did not know Him and did not respond to His love. The Bible is filled with tender love stories. The love of Adam who did not sin but loved his wife and followed her into the darkness and death that she caused. Rebekah left the comfort of her family and home to go with a stranger on his camel train across

the long, hot desert to go marry Isaac.

There is the prophet Hosea who went to the market place and bought the slave girl Gomer. She had been abused and was nothing but a harlot yet he brought her to himself and made her his wife. After a time, she left him and became a harlot again. He went back and found her again. He forgave her and brought her back as his wife.

Of all the love stories of the Old Testament, none is more poignant than the one of the Shulamite maiden and her Shepherd lover. I will not forget the first time I read it. I had been given an Amplified Bible and in it, the story came to life.

I was still very young in this walk and the story stirred something deep down in the hidden parts of my spirit. I did not understand why but I knew it was not mere emotion that made me weep all the way through it. It is the story of the king, the Shulamite maiden and her beloved Shepherd.

The heart of the story is in the interpretation. The true meaning can only be known as the Holy Spirit walks us through the same experiences as the Shulamite maiden. She is a type of the true Bride of Christ. Her secret love is a type of the true Bridegroom and the king is a type of the worldly Christian religions. Once we understand these types and begin to identify with this young maiden we find our hearts reaching out to the One that our "soul loveth."

Her heart is yearning for her true love while she finds herself caught up into the rituals of the palace. It seems that she has no other choice. This wealthy and powerful king is filled with desire for her and has decreed that she would marry him.

This is the way we found ourselves in our various churches. The system desired to possess us. We were naïve and very vulnerable; a real feather in their cap. Yet this king offered what we needed at the time. A safe place to study the written word and to learn how to behave as a Christian.

We were being prepared for marriage alright, but in God's wisdom, we would not marry this worldly

king, we would marry the One who was hiding Himself in the depths of our spirits.

The king's many maidens work tirelessly for him. So the Shulamite submits herself to their intense grooming and endless preparations. They represent the many works and ways that keep us occupied in the king's business (palace). The king has taken control of her life now. Will she still have desires for her true love?

The Shulamite was now in bondage and so were we. Will she ever be able to break the chains? This is all God's doing; the day will come when she will indeed break free. Her true love will never cease to woo her, in her inner heart, in her thoughts, in her dreams, He will appear from time to time until she has to respond. All who have had the experience know this.

No matter what denomination or non-denomination we set foot in, we found this same "king" using calculated tactics to lure us and to capture us. We found him in the proper and harmonious aisles of the Methodist Church or in the weepy, emotional ways of the Pentecostals.

When we left these we found him again in the various groups of "escapees" who were desperately trying to move on to better things. This king is absolutely everywhere; even in our very own hearts. As the Shulamite we submitted ourselves to them all for a season. Soon, we looked pious and never went anywhere without our Bible under our arm. We were truly the king's kids...but which king?

Even though we learned their ways. We talked their language and walked shoulder to shoulder with the best of them, we could not ignore the voice calling us from way down deep in our spirits. We seemed to be at home with them, but we felt like foreigners and in reality, we were. In spite of all the nice things around us, in spite of all the acceptance that surrounded us, we felt an emptiness within.

We were truly as this Shulamite who cried out "*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!*" (S of Sol.1: 2) This came from the deep yearning of her heart for her invisible Lover. But suddenly the

king appears. He has arrived among them and he heard her speech. So she continues only now she addresses him, *“For your love is better than wine!”* She shows her full commitment must be to the king. He is the one that she must submit to.

As the king lavishes his bounty upon her, she tries to respond but her heart is fixed on her beloved Shepherd. *“Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills...My beloved speaks and says to me. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.”* (S.of S.2: 8,10) The Shulamite maiden is a type of the true church who has been caught in the snare of this huge machinery called the Christian Church in the world. We know this by our experience; we have walked the walk. We have been there.

We have learned obedience and reverence to the king and to his many attendants (the women of the palace)- We learned to climb the ladder and we were found among the best of them; we were the cream of the crop yet we never felt that we fit in.

As she looked upon herself, the Shulamite cried out, *“Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but my own vineyard have I not kept.”* (1:6) She had toiled in everyone's vineyard but her own. The world and its social and religious systems have kept us laboring in their vineyards to produce the fruit of their vines. But during that time, our own vineyard had laid waste.

All the preparations in the king's palace did not produce life within. It did not give us rest and peace for our souls. We were yoked to the wrong Lover yet this is where we learned valuable lessons in submission. The day came when the small voice deep within became clearer and we recognized our need. Then He began to reveal Himself to us and we could no longer give our allegiance to the king. His word kept ringing in our ear *“Rise up, Come away!”*

We followed Him as He led us, leaping over mountains and hills (high places where men worship the gods of this world). We leaped as gazelles

and young harts (free creatures). We followed Him to His own pastures and to His Holy mountain and we began to learn of Him. Each day, He spoke His word in our ears and quickened us; He gave us new life.

We have been as the Shulamite, burnt and worn out trying to help others in their vineyards while our own has laid waste. Trying to do the right thing, we may have taken on more than we can chew and now we are caught up as hamsters running all day long around and around in a cage and getting nowhere. Many of God's anointed ministries have been so caught up in their works that they have no time or sensitivity to let the Spirit minister in their own vineyard.

THE DAY OF HIS REVEALING

There came a day when the old accounts had to be settled. The Shulamite knew that all the glamor of the palace, all the luxury of the garments and the attention of the court could never replace the love of her youth. She examined her heart and asked herself the question: Who do I really love? Who occupies the thoughts of my heart continually?

Her Shepherd had loved her from the days of her childhood. She recalls that once under the apple tree they had affirmed their love for each other. He had promised to make her His bride. He had given her a vision of that day. *“O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs (the sheltered and secret place of the cliff), let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely. (lovely)”* (S.of S. 2: 14)

She knows His voice. She hears Him in her heart. He is not harsh or overly aggressive. His love comforts her. He does not condemn her. He feeds her tender meats that give her strength. He knows she has been suffering in the king's palace but her suffering has been part of her preparation. She needed to learn to submit to the harsh demands of the king and now she quickly learns to submit willingly to the love of her beloved.

While we were in the palaces of man's religions, our hearts were calling out for the One that our soul

loveth. We have looked for Him in many places but we could never find Him... until the day He revealed Himself IN us.

Then one day, she answers Him and so do we. *“My beloved is mine, and I am his: He feedeth among the lilies. Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.”* (Vs.16-17) It is when we have tasted of the counterfeit that we yearn for the true love. True love lays its life down for the sheep. True love is never impatient, it suffers long. True love is kind and seeks not its own. True love bears all things, believes all things, hopes for all things and endures all things.

When our Lord reveals Himself to us, we begin to know Him and we begin to find this love who has no measure, no boundaries. Father, if we still see you through the eyes of Moses' Law, help us. The Old Testament reveals a rigid God of law and punishment. It is when we see it all by the eyes of His Spirit that we find a merciful and long suffering God.

God is a God of love and wisdom. He knows that man cannot change or save himself so in His exceeding love and mercy, this same God of justice and law provides a way out. *“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*(Jn.3:16) This is truly one of the most precious promises in our Bible.

O Beloved! Do not count Jesus out! He alone is our Redeemer! He has paid the price of our redemption and now by His Spirit He changes us into His own image. The God of the Old Testament changes not, but He has given all power in heaven and in earth to the Son. Jesus has obtained the keys of hell and death! He has the power to open the doors of the hearts who have been prisoners of the flesh.

The Father and the Son are one; *“Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father...”* I Jn.2:23a) We must see the Son in the reading of the Old Testament. The Son is Grace and Truth and He is the Word who speaks to us face to face and we are not slain.

OUR GOD SPEAKS!

“God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.” (Heb.1: 1-2)

As we read these words, our spiritual eyes open wide to behold the greatness of our God in a new and marvelous measure. **OUR GOD SPEAKS!** In times past He spoke to His people through prophets, but now He speaks directly through the Son. Some may limit this Son to Jesus the Christ whose words are written in the Bible, but we know that this same Jesus returned by way of His Holy Spirit to make His abode within our spirits and to reveal all things to us. **AND HE SPEAKS!**

This is what the spirit of the world and our carnal minds cannot receive. The world does not mind a religion with a God who dwells in the “heavens” someplace. But if you tell them that the “heavens” where our God in Christ dwells are the spirits and souls of man, they will turn against you and rent you to pieces. Yet, it was in the hour that Jesus died on the cross, that the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom.

Beloved, we are the temple of God and the veil that stood between our souls and spirits and God Himself was the veil that was rent from top to bottom that day. It was not the veil in any literal temple. The veil that was rent from top to bottom when Jesus broke through death itself and arose forever triumphant over it was the veil that kept us from seeing and hearing our God.

Because the prince of this world could never eliminate Jesus Christ all together, he built a “religion” with Him. He did away with the voice that we hear from our hearts and made a religion with the written word only. This gave way to private interpretations and debates. It pitted brother against brother and ignited wars so that the name of Christ became a reproach and a derision to many. This is the case for those who are still bound by the literal private interpretations of the word and not by the Spirit.

However, in the midst of all this, our God in Christ still speaks! He who has an ear to hear, hears! What we are hearing has little to do with the affairs of this world. Beloved, do not get caught up in the politics of this world...the kingdom of God was not of this world in the times of Jesus, and it is still not of this world.

During the days of Jesus on earth, there was as much a need to change the kingdoms of this world as there is a need today. The boots of the Roman Empire were treading on the rights of the people, pilfering and destroying the things of God. Jesus did not try to stop them. He said, *“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. And they marvelled at him.”* (Mk.12: 17)

Jesus taught them to submit to the laws of Caesar. They were stunned. Then when the Pharisees and their cohorts came against Him to take His life, He did not try to stop them. Instead He laid His life down and submitted Himself to the death of the cross.

Jesus warned His disciples that if they did these things to Him, they would do it to them...and sure enough they did just that. What we see happening in our country today is no different. It is the same spirit of the world that is out to do away with the true God and the name of Jesus. Christians in their zeal and immaturity have tried to remedy the situation, but those who hear the voice of the Spirit know...It still is *not by power nor by might but by my Spirit saith the Lord.*

Today, more than ever, one has to hear the voice from the Spirit within. He will give us the news we need to hear. We may see what is happening in the world, and these things are a sign to us, but it is the voice of the Spirit within that leads us into all truth. It is not our devotional and ritual observances that keep us safe and secure- It is Him.

When Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples, He told them, *“And ye shall receive POWER after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.”* (Acts 1: 8a) The power that we have received is found in the fact that **HE SPEAKS** to us. He leads us by His

own voice to our hearts. The voice of God is what the spirit of the world and the worldly church have desired to take away from us.

Most Christian leaders have reverted to the ways of Moses when man could only hear from God through a man. They have led the people to themselves and not to the Holy Spirit; this keeps many in darkness. God speaks to us by His Son in us. He lives, He is alive and He is in us!! How marvelous is this? We will not know Him and we will not be changed if He does not speak to us.

I may live close to someone but if they never speak to me I will not know their thoughts and their ways. There are people who are primarily concerned with their own thoughts and do not want anyone to know them. Although they usually judge others, they are afraid to be judged. So they never disclose what they think.

These people are called “introverts” and we can never really know them. Our Lord is not an introvert. He speaks to those He calls His friends. *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”*(Jn.15:14-15)

COME AWAY

The Shulamite knew the voice of her secret Lover; she heard His call, *“Rise up and come away! For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear; the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land...”* (S. of Sol.2:10) ”

The winter had past and now it was time for new life on the earth. When we were children under tutors it was yet winter. Our spirits were cold and unresponsive to love. We only knew the worldly ways of the palace. But now we have been awakened by His daily call.

The birds (our spirits) are singing and the voice of

the turtle is heard in the land. This is the turtle dove that migrates to South Africa for the winter and returns in the Spring. This is the time when the dove of His Spirit is again cooing in our land. All the signs of life are in place in you, so COME AWAY.

The Shulamite may not have been able to physically come away to join the Lover of her soul but she heard him and her heart was with him. So it is when we have come to the time of life, we Come Away and follow Him, usually not geographically or physically, but always by the Spirit.

There were times of testing when the maiden could not hear her Shepherd's voice. *"By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth. I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him but I found him not."* (3: 1-2)

Oh! Yes, we went through such times! It was then that we ran to the "city," the churches, we sought Him in their streets (ways) but we could never find him there. There are still times when He hides from us. He wants us to seek Him and when we do we find Him.

In the night means in the darkness of our minds. The Amplified Version says, *"In the night I dreamed that I sought the one whom I love."* Our dreams many times reveal the seeking of our souls. It is often in our dreams that He speaks privately to us. He speaks in codes that only we can understand. In our dreams we sup with Him.

The day finally comes when she opens the door of her heart to Him. Others cannot understand what is happening. She is head over heels in love with One they do not know. *"What is your beloved more than another beloved. O thou fairest among women? And she answers, "My beloved is fair and ruddy, the chief among ten thousand!"* (Vs.5: 9a-10)

She describes him with all the admiration and tenderness that pours out of her heart. *"His head* (His wisdom and knowledge) *is as the most fine gold* (divine nature)...*his locks* (His anointing is strong) *are bushy and black as a raven. His eyes are the eyes of a dove* (insight and vision of the Holy Spirit) ...*His cheeks* (His beauty) *as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his*

lips (His words) *like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh. His hand* (His ministries, touch) *are as gold rings* (promises) *set with beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires. His legs* (His strength and loyalty) *as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance* (Identity) *is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."* (Vs.11-16)

Her heart pours out love to her true Beloved. This is not a description of Solomon, it is the portrait of her Lover in the most secret place of her being. She can no longer pretend, now she knows. And for us as well, there comes a day when all the trappings of worldly religion no longer attracts us. We have found Him whom our souls truly love. He is our first love and we desire none other.

Her Beloved has revealed Himself now. She has no hesitation. She must leave the courts and turn fully to her true first love. She tells the king, *"You, O Solomon, can have your thousand, (pieces of silver) and those who tend the fruit of it two hundred: but my vineyard which is mine (with all its radiant joy) is before me! O you who dwell in the gardens, your companions have been listening to your voice—now cause me to hear it.* (8: 12-13 Ampl.)

"(Joyfully the radiant bride turned to him, the one altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand to her soul, and with unconcealed eagerness to begin her life of sweet companionship with him, she answered, Make haste my beloved, and come quickly, like a gazelle or a young hart (and take me to your waiting home) upon the mountains of spices!" (Ampl.8: 14)

How our hearts leap with joy as we read these words of life. In perfect unison we echo the same words to our Beloved. Now we know for we have been as the Shulamite and from within the walls of the palace, we have heard the voice of our Beloved. Our hearts could not confuse Solomon with our Shepherd of long ago. We know the voice of the One whom our soul seeks; we will have none other.

We may be in the midst of many, yet we find ourselves very much separated unto Him. He has

brought us back under the apple tree only now the serpent can no longer tempt us. He holds nothing of value for us. We have laid it all down on the cross. The time of life has come in our land. The birds and the turtle doves are singing their sweet songs in our hearts. Fear has been overcome by true love. There is no more fear in our land.

“Who is this who comes up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? (And as they sighted the home of their childhood the bride said) Under the apple tree I awakened you; there your mother gave you birth, there she was in travail and bore you.” (S.of Sol. 8:5 Ampl.)

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

A prayer of **Frankie Moore** (9-4-12)

A Dark Dungeon Type Place

“Oh God; why must you insist on leading me, once again, to that deep dark dungeon type place in my heart? The things that are resident there are ugly, slimy, creepy and crawly. Please Lord; don’t make me stare at those hideous memories all over again. I am so weary at the remembrance of those things from my past. I become fearful considering how low and depressed it will make me feel as YOUR light shines on all that despicable rubbish.”

Then a voice, which I have become very familiar with, responded: “It is expedient that you follow ME in this excursion to the deepest areas within your being.” “I see and understand your dread more than you realize.” “However, you MUST follow ME in this.” “It is of paramount importance, so resist ME no longer.” “WE together must view what is in all those nooks and crannies.” “We will dig deep and enter those places that only you and I know about.

“**B U T G O D,**” I replied, “I want to forget all of those things from my past!” “Why must I face **them yet another time after all the many days and years that have passed?**” Upon my outcry, HE gently took hold of my hand as we descended downward. My heart was thumping loudly and I

nearly fainted when HE said: “**LOOK!!!**” “I don’t want to look, please don’t make me do this, I begged. Let me turn back now, before we go any deeper!” He told me **NO** again and shouted even louder: “**LOOK!**” I realized that I could no longer resist or escape HIS commands. So I began to open my tightly closed eyes with much trepidation.

“**LOOK, LOOK NOW!!!**” He commanded me a final time. When I opened my eyes more fully, the light of HIS presence shone all around me. As I began to view what was before me, I was stunned at what I saw. “**My Lord and Savior,**” I cried. “I don’t know what to think”. “I see nothing but sunlight shining upon the most beautiful garden. There are many gorgeous flowers in full bloom. I see roses, lilies, petunias, and daisies. Indeed, I see many plants and exquisite flowers. I don’t even know some of their names or the fact that they existed. “How can this be?”

HE slowly and assuredly gave me this reply: “I have been tending MY garden inside of you ever so quietly for some time and with great purpose. I have uprooted the weeds of sorrow, regret and humiliation from your past. I wanted you to see and **FINALLY** understand that the **weeds are gone**. They are vanished forever. All of your regrets and painful memories have no more roots and will never be able to sprout again.” “Do you finally comprehend that you are **FREE????**”

I bowed low before HIM, sensing a freedom I had never quite known before. “**You are my SAVIOR,**” I shouted. He patted me ever so gently on my shoulder as HE looked deeply into my tear filled eyes and proclaimed: “The old kingdom that reigned in your heart is gone – It has been totally obliterated so that there is no trace of it anymore with its ugly fears and doubts. Now you must acknowledge and understand that the Kingdom of God within you is alive and ruling, even in the deepest recesses of your being. “Now that you have seen this for yourself, do you finally believe ME????”

“I do believe YOU Lord. **I DO BELIEVE!**”