


Empowered for Purpose

Welcome to the new *SpiritLed Woman eMagazine*! My name is  Valerie G. Lowe and I'm the editor.

I'm excited about launching this weekly online magazine because I know there are women who want to connect with other women who love God and want to do His will. It is my prayer that you receive an impartation of the Holy Spirit every time you read the *SpiritLed Woman eMagazine*. But don't keep the news to yourself—spread the word! [Click here](#) to share this premiere issue.

My good friend Mildred often says something good happens when women get together. She's right. When we unite together in prayer and the Word here, something good is going to happen.

Devotional: Fueling the Fire

week 1

Deborah: Called to Battle

During one period of Israel's history, the Spirit of the Lord raised up judges to lead the people of God. Deborah, the prophetess, was the only woman who served in this role. She was a wife, a prophet and a judge. Her life of faithfulness was highly regarded, and God empowered her with wisdom and authority to speak as His oracle in settling internal disputes and to lead the nation in times of conflict.

Happy Labor Day!

☒ One of the greatest joys a woman will ever experience in life is giving birth. Though having a baby is oftentimes uncomfortable, it's a miracle we women treasure for a lifetime.

When a woman discovers she is expecting, thoughts begin to race through her mind. *Is it a girl or boy? Is my child healthy? Should I quit my job after the baby is born or return to work?* The answers may be unclear at this point but one thing is for certain, she's expecting!

I believe it happens the same way in our spiritual walk with the Lord. As we develop a relationship with God, He plants His Word deep in our hearts and when the time is right, the Holy Spirit reveals it and causes us to grow. By the time I discovered I was pregnant with my daughter, she had her own blood type and her heart was already beating. The first trimester of pregnancy is accompanied by many changes and transitions.

After the morning sickness disappears and the baby is getting bigger every day, a woman can hardly wait to meet the person growing inside her. So it is in the spiritual realm. We wait sometimes patiently, but most of the time anxiously, for the manifestation of what God has for us. With every passing day of spiritual maturity, our potential becomes possibilities and our hopes become reality.

And just as expectant mothers do in the natural realm, we have a shower in anticipation of the new arrival. We shower God with shouts of praise! We shower Him with adoration! We thank Him for His goodness, and we love Him for His grace. Why?

Because He is faithful!

By faith we are able to believe God's promises. Scripture says "For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us" (2 Cor. 1:20, NKJV).

That's right! God will fulfill every Word He has ever spoken in your life. If He said you would preach His Word, get ready because it will come to pass. If He told you you're going to be a missionary, get ready because the mission field is calling your name. If He said He would use the pain of your divorce to minister to others, I suggest you get over your shyness because many hurting people are headed your way.

Whether you feel equipped to do God's bidding, it does not matter. Every blood-washed woman is expected to carry His Word. It doesn't matter if you feel worthy or not. The lover of your soul has placed in you everything you need to fulfill your calling. Ready or not, it's time to come forth. Happy Labor Day!

Day 5: Never Forget

What a sobering experience. My tour today began with a visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum located on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem. After reflecting on what I saw, it's clear no other place so far has impacted me like this one.

First we went into the Valley of Communities where we watched a short video of life among Jewish people before Adolf Hitler executed his sinister plan to destroy them.

Day 4: Pray for Peace

I'm so sleepy my eyes are burning, but I must tell you about the sites I saw today.

We started the tour with a scenic drive through the valley of Jordan where I could see in the distance the kingdom of Jordan. The mountain curved around and around until we were headed in the direction of the Dead Sea region. I'm told the region is the lowest point on earth, about 419 meters below sea level.

Day 3: Be Still

Shalom.

Today I sailed the Sea of Galilee!

Every time I think my visit to Israel can't get any better, something or someone will change my mind. That's what happened to me today when I had an encounter with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee.

After eating breakfast this morning we all boarded a bus headed for the sea. I was feeling a little anxious about some things, so I wasn't myself today. But when I stood up for prayer, the Lord spoke to my inner spirit and said "peace, be still." At that moment, the weight lifted and I was able to participate in all the tour activities.

Day 2: Miracles, Anyone?

Shalom!

This morning my tour group and I checked out of the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv (what a nice place) and boarded the bus for Caesarea National Park. King Herod the Great (not the Herod who sought to have baby Jesus killed,) built Caesarea. When I got off the bus, my mind went back in time to thousands of years ago.

I sat down in the Herodian Amphitheatre and tried to imagine what it would be like to attend a sporting event back then. According to the brochure, the U-shape venue is more than 250 m long and 50 m wide. Some experts say it might be the stadium mentioned by first-century Jewish historian, Josephus Flavius in *Jewish War (Antiq. 11:9, 3)*. I also got a chance to see some of the archaeological designs made popular by the Romans after they gained control of Caesarea.

Watch Your Posture

✘ When my daughter was growing up, I would talk to her about prayer all the time. I would tell her that praying to God was like talking to Mommy and she could do it anytime, day and night, at the day care or in church. It didn't matter.

It wasn't long before Faith would slip to her knees, bury her little face in her hands and pray. She would tell the Lord, "Thank you for being so nice to Mommy and me," or "Thank you

for helping me tie my shoe laces.” And there were times when she would have to tell the Lord, “I’m sorry” and “Forgive me, please.”

Dance With the One Who Brought You

☒ Several years ago I listened to a preacher share a funny story about his adventures at his high school prom. He said he had purchased a beautiful corsage for his date, rented a tuxedo for the special event and got all dressed up.

But no sooner had he and his lovely escort arrived at the prom than one guy after another rushed over to the girl and asked to dance, and she said yes. This went on most of the night until the preacher got fed up with the other fellows cutting in on him and he said to himself, *Man up and go get your date!*

So he took a deep breath, whispered a quick prayer, and went on the dance floor. He tapped his date on the shoulder and said, “Excuse me, may I have this dance since I’m the one who brought you to the prom?”

She said yes and the two danced the dust up off the carpet for the rest of the night.

This story reminds me of God.

He is so good to us. He makes ways for us when there seems to be no way out. He beautifies us with the garment of praise when we feel discouraged. He stands by us even when other people forsake us. And when the enemy tries to steal our dreams, kill our hopes and literally destroy us, He steps in

and gives us the power to defeat him.

I know the cares of life are vying for your attention, but don't forget to praise the one who brought you out of sin and shame to a place of peace and joy.

Scripture says God will turn our hardships and pain into praise: "'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Lord, be my helper!' You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever" (Ps. 30:10-12, NKJV).

In these tough times of economic downturn, war and uncertainty, it's easy to depend on the president, the government or self, but let's not change partners. Let's continue to praise God for His mercy, kindness and provision. Dance with the one who brought you this far.

Enough is Enough

✘ Last night I read the book of Job and was taken aback by the turn of events that left a man devastated by unthinkable tragedy. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong.

Most of us can't relate to the depth of Job's suffering. He had 11,000 livestock, enough hired help to man a mansion and most of all, a wife and 10 children. And then Satan came in and wrecked his life killing his seven sons and three daughters, the servants and his animals.

Job lost it all, but he never gave up on God.

I don't know about you, but I haven't always responded to hardships and pain in my life with unwavering faith. I sometimes doubted God, took matters into my own hands, and did whatever I could do to make things better. But nothing changed until my heavenly Father said that's enough. He not only rescued me from the enemy, but from myself.

Look at how God blessed Job after his ordeal: "Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

"He also had seven sons and three daughters. In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations" (Job 42: 12-13, 15-16, NKJV).

God is the same today, yesterday and forever more. He is faithful and will never change. If He delivered Job from the grip of the enemy and blessed his life, He will do the same for you.

So be encouraged and keep your focus, and don't let the enemy make you curse the Father. He tried that trick with Job, but Job refused to "charge God foolishly," and we must respond in the same manner.

Brian Zahnd, founder and senior pastor of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Mo., recently released a book based on David's response to the tragedy at Ziklag. What to Do on the Worst Day of Your Life is a must-read, and if you want to be uplifted and learn how to respond to hardships, I suggest you read it today. To get your copy click here.

Valerie G. Lowe is the editor of and associate editor of Charisma magazine.