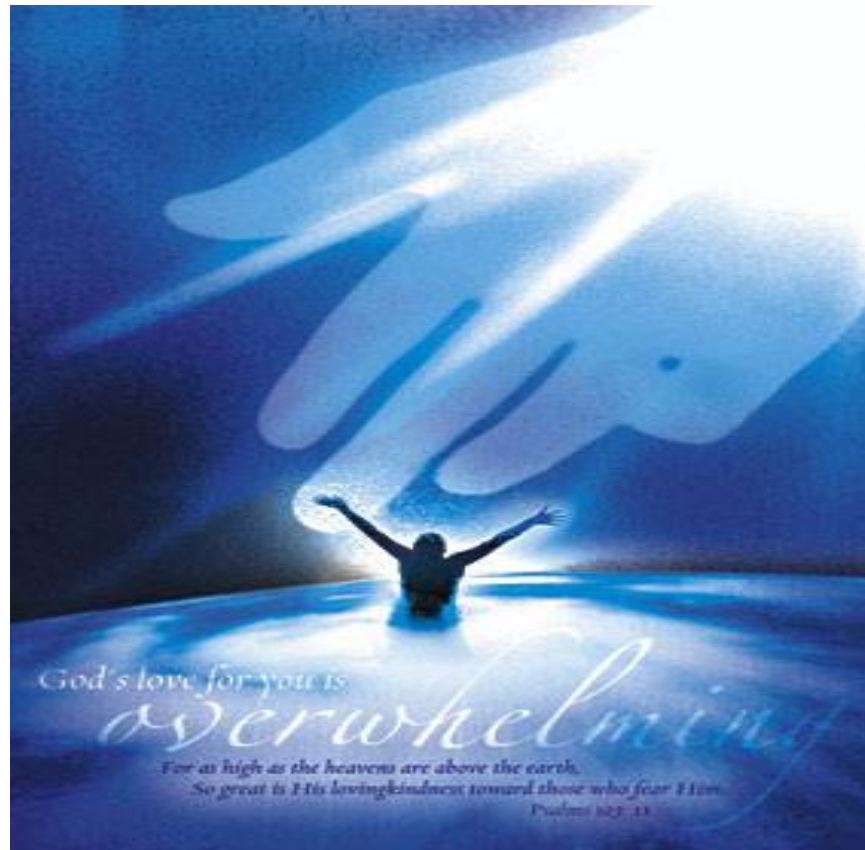


## *The Writer's Spirit*

### *The Spirit of Creation Moving in You...*

---



### **Welcome To Our November 2006 Edition!**

Saul thought he was on his way to find his father's donkeys only to discover later that he was on his way to being made the first King of Israel. This was not an appointment that Saul had chosen or sought for himself but it was a divine appointment just the same.

What are you on your way to find? What will you discover that God has in store for you on the journey? How will you handle the divine appointments God puts in your path?

Will you be like Saul—though divinely appointed to a task--proud, stubborn and rebellious--never fully obeying God's leading and commands?

Or will you be like Saul's son, Jonathan? Full of faith and trust in God's appointments! So much so that without proper equipment and only with himself and his armor bearer, he willingly took on a "mighty army of three thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and as many warriors as the grains of sand along the seashore!" What a contrast to his father who sat in camp, with only six hundred troops remaining of his army of three thousand, trembling with fear wondering how they could defeat this mighty Philistine army.

Jonathan yielded to God's calling and sneaked out of the Israelite camp. He bravely told his armor bearer, "Perhaps the LORD will help us, for nothing can hinder the LORD. He can win a battle whether He has many warriors or only a few!" With this battle cry and a lone dull sword, Jonathan killed about twenty Philistine warriors.

The scattering of bodies caused panic to break out in the Philistine camp. And just then, an earthquake struck striking terror in the hearts of the Philistine troops. Confusion set in and the Philistines began killing each other. One thing led to another and the Israelites, with God's intervention, were victorious on the battlefield. Jonathan's small steps were just what were needed to begin the chain of events that led to victory.

Each day, God sends divine appointments our way that could lead to a victory of a lifetime. How often do our numbness to His Spirit and our deafness to His voice blind us to His calling—His divine appointments? Shudder to think of how many divine appointments have been missed in our lifetimes!

After receiving divine appointments, what do we do? Do we wait patiently on the LORD and obediently follow where He leads? Or do we tire, grow impatient and take matters into our own hands like Saul did as he waited for Samuel to come make offerings before the battle.

Saul waited for Samuel for seven days as he had been instructed. Each day, more and more of his troops lost courage and slipped away from camp. Imagine Saul's fear and frustration as each day ticked by taking with it what Saul saw as his only hope for victory--his troops.

Finally Saul could take it no longer. He took matters into his own hands and made the offerings himself. He probably thought, "Let me get on with this before I'm the lonely only against these Philistines!"

Be honest! Now isn't Saul just like us? When we think we've heard from our Master, we put the timer on and start counting. If what we're expecting doesn't arrive when it's supposed to or when expected, how quick we are to act or react--and I might add without once thinking about consulting God! What would happen if we just waited it out and trusted in the LORD like we proclaim that we do?

Well, let's see what happened in Saul's case. Samuel arriving a little later than expected learned of Saul's undertakings and exclaimed, "How foolish! You have disobeyed the command of the LORD your God. Had you obeyed, The LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your dynasty must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after His own heart."

After such a pronouncement from the great prophet and judge, you would have thought that Saul would have fallen on his knees and begged God for forgiveness, for a second chance, for God's divine intervention at such a crucial time in Israel's history. Instead we see he did quite the opposite. With ego and pride intact, he immediately led his few remaining troops to Gibeah in preparation for battle against the Philistine army that by now outnumbered them fifty-to-one. Not once on his way to this battlefield is it recorded that Saul sought God.

Questions for you to reflect upon:

- 1) Is "stroking your ego" and "stoking your pride" worth losing the kingdom that God wants to give you so that you can do things your own way and in your timeframe?
- 2) What divine appointments have God sent your way, and in your pride and haste, you looked the other way or took the appointment but then didn't honor Him with your actions?
- 3) What divine appointments have you kept and honored God with your actions and how did they turn out?

At the end of this newsletter you will be given the opportunity to share your testimony on reflection of one or all of these questions with the MyFirstChapter.com audience.

I can't speak for you but the lesson I've learned from Saul's life is that I will wait on the LORD patiently. "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak....those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

That's a lot more appealing than losing the Kingdom God has already established for me if I will just walk where He leads with an obedient heart. Trust me, I know—easier said than done!

While we can't do anything about missed appointments, thank goodness God is a God of second, third, innumerable chances. He never gives up on us!

Our featured writer for this month came to me not by one or two but three chances to fulfill a divine appointment. One day as I wandered around the bookstore at my church looking for my next "read", my eyes were drawn across the room to a name on a book that looked familiar. It was the name of my oldest daughter's childhood friend that we had lost touch with over twenty-five years ago. I read the bio and looked at the picture of the now adult woman that smiled back from the page. "Could this be the same person?"

Later, I emailed her. The email reached her mother who had been such a great friend. The reconnection was a joyous reunion for our families. Lots had happened to both of our families. We rejoiced that God saw fit to bring us back together again.

So it is with great joy that MyFirstChapter.com features **Valorie Burton**. She is a renowned author, speaker and life coach. While she has accomplished much in her life, she has also dealt with challenging blows and come out victorious by trusting, waiting and leaning on God.

Her messages are powerful tools to help us maneuver through this life with God at the forefront. She challenges each of us to have **FAITH** and **COURAGE** on our journeys. Her formula is simple in both cases. She has turned each into a meaningful acronym to help us remember:

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>F</b> | <b>F</b> ear is inevitable       |
| <b>A</b> | <b>A</b> ction is essential      |
| <b>I</b> | <b>I</b> ntegrity is necessary   |
| <b>T</b> | <b>T</b> iming is God's choice   |
| <b>H</b> | <b>H</b> appiness is your choice |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>C</b> | <b>C</b> larity diminishes fear           |
| <b>O</b> | <b>O</b> ne step @ a time is all God asks |
| <b>U</b> | <b>U</b> se what you've got               |
| <b>R</b> | <b>R</b> eplace doubt with truth          |
| <b>A</b> | <b>A</b> sk for help                      |

|          |                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| <b>G</b> | <b>Glory</b> must be your focus |
| <b>E</b> | <b>Expect</b> victory           |

You're now invited to tune into Valorie's life changing wisdom on **FAITH** and **COURAGE**. Listen to these inspirational messages in "**The Spirit's Voice**" by clicking here: <http://myfirstchapter.net/16.html>.

Valorie has three books to her credit: "**Listen to Your Life**"; "**What's Really Holding You Back?**"; and "**Rich Minds, Rich Rewards**". Her upcoming book "**Why Not You?**" will be available by Waterbrook in March 2007. Valorie is a petite but Godly woman filled with poise, passion, praise, power and prayer.

If you wish to purchase her books, you may do so by clicking on the Amazon.com link provided here:



Why not purchase these for holiday gifts for those special people in your life!

We're excited to present to you a new work in the making by award winning author **Michelle Stimpson** creator of "**Boaz Brown**" and "**Divas of Damascus**"--also great gifts to fill your holiday shopping list. Purchase these as well using the above Amazon.com link.

Be sure to stop by our Reading Room this month and read these new works:

- "**Breaking Bondage to Biscuits**" by Michelle Stimpson
- "**God Has Smiled On Me**" by La'Nedra Alexander
- "**Tangled Roots Part II**" by Shelia Benskin
- "**180 Things Teens Worry About**" by Eve Adams

To be taken to the Reading Room click on this link:  
<http://www.myfirstchapter.net/3.html>

As always, MyFirstChapter.com welcomes the opportunity to showcase your work in its Reading Room and/or highlight your accomplishments

as one of God's creative artists in a future newsletter. To be considered for these opportunities, please contact Shelia Benskin at [sheliaannb@myfirstchapter.net](mailto:sheliaannb@myfirstchapter.net).

## **CALLING ALL DALLAS AREA WRITERS**

There's a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to work with award winning playwright, Lorey Hayes. MyFirstChapter.com is sponsoring

“Writing from a Place of Passion”

A MIND GYM FOR WRITERS

A Ministry to the Writers of Dallas

Sponsored by: Shelia Benskin <http://www.myfirstchapter.com/>

By Reservation Only: 972-523-9948

**Space is limited so call early**

**Dates: Tuesdays, Nov. 21, Nov. 28 AND Dec. 6, 2006**

**Time: 7 pm to 9 pm**

**Place: Dallas, TX (Exact location to be announced to selected candidates)**

### **Writers, Awaken Your God-Given Genius**

In a series of three Intensive Workshops, Lorey Hayes will share with you the secrets for turning your novel, story or idea into a well crafted play with strong, multi-dimensional characters. The techniques are simple: Lorey helps you “get out of your own way”; to stop blocking your God-given talents.

Lorey says: “Everyone has a story that only they can tell. Everyone has the ability to write or tell that story. The only thing blocking an individual’s creative journey is “self-imposed censors”. These censors are a product of fear.

Through a series of simple exercises I will guide you in silencing your censors and taming your fears; allowing you to give yourself the freedom to write freely, effortlessly and with the passion you were meant to share. Remember: The talent to write is God’s gift to man. Using that talent is man’s gift back to God.”

For those called to create through writing, this could be your divine appointment!

For more information on Lorey, please visit  
<http://www.loreychayes.com/>.

If you are a writer, MyFirstChapter.com has a special holiday offer for you. For those of you looking for a unique gift for the writer in your life, why not give them the gift of an audience? Click here to read our special holiday offers:  
<http://www.myfirstchapter.net/9.html>

In closing, whisper this prayer in the coming days:

***My Loving and Divine Father,***

*Thank you for all of the divine appointments that You have graciously and abundantly sent my way. Forgive me for my blindness, numbness and deafness in those times that I've failed to see Your Hand at work in setting those appointments.*

*I call upon You now to give me eyes to see, ears to hear, a heart to feel and hands to act upon all appointments You set in my path from this day forward. Strengthen me to yield my all to Your will. Let me walk with an obedient heart on the path You have lit for me. Let my walk, talk and actions honor and glorify Your Kingdom right here on earth. In the name of my LORD Jesus Christ I pray. Amen*

Please be our ambassadors and spread the word about  
<http://www.myfirstchapter.com/>. Make the commitment to forward this newsletter to at least five people on your email contact list.

**REMINDER TO READERS:**

If you like what you see and read, please consider making a donation to My First Chapter Foundation, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. Founded as a venue for writers to display their work, its charter is to also grant financial assistance, so that up and coming literary talents can do what they do best - write! Your generous support toward their future success would be greatly appreciated. Your donations are welcome and **tax deductible!**

*"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." Luke 6:38*

[Make a Donation](#)

If you are not currently receiving The Writer's Spirit directly from MyFirstChapter.com and would like to do so, or if you wish to sign up someone you know for this newsletter, please click here to receive a **free** on-line subscription.

[Subscribe](#)

## TIME TO SHARE

Take a moment to bless others with your personal testimony about **divine appointments in your life**. You may use the questions outlined above to guide you. Or you may share freely that which is in your heart. Click below and let the testimonies begin:

[Share Your Testimony](#)

Walk boldly in His promises and produce abundantly!

Blessings in great abundance,

Shelia & Al Benskin

[To Unsubscribe, Click Here](#)