

Hannah Told Us What To Expect On Our Pilgrimage

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In a recent conversation with a close friend, Mike offered him some insight to help counsel another person. Both Mike and his friend found themselves referring several times to various chapters in

Hinds' Feet On High Places by Hannah Hurnard. If you've read the book and/or have gone through our "Going To The High Places" study guide series <<https://restorationministries.org/going-to.html>>, we

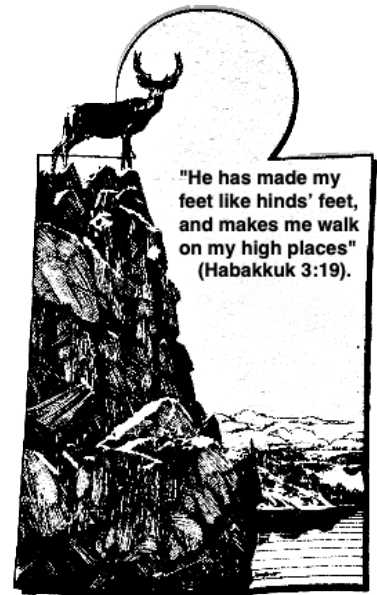
wanted you to know some benefits of using the book and study guide chapters as a reference tool. An allegory, the book focuses on Much Afraid's journey of transformation to become Grace and Glory. As you peruse the chapters, you'll be better equipped to discern:

- where you might be in your own life journey, and
- the specific issues our Lord might be highlighting to help you change so you can then help others.

We've stated this fact previously:

"Hind's Feet On High Places is a prophetic book describing every follower of Jesus's spiritual journey. The individual chapters reveal various issues we must all face if we are to become more like Him by grace and live as beloved slave/servants who are His in obedient trust."

From the first time we read *Hinds' Feet* in 1977 and in each reread afterwards, we are convinced that the Holy Spirit inspired Hannah to provide guidance about our life journey of **character transformation** and **humility-based service**. The author reveals the life pattern for each of us who lives with Jesus as our Lord. When you have insight about your own life pilgrimage, you can more effectively



cooperate with the Spirit in your personal transformation as well as be more effective in helping others. Here's an example:

Many years ago a couple asked us for help because the wife was seriously considering divorce. By using Chapter 7, *On the Shores of Loneliness*, we were able to show the pair that the relational isolation they were experiencing with each other was in fact the Spirit of our Lord wanting them to strengthen their marital bond with each other.

Rather than pointing out each one's wrongs, the Holy Spirit was prodding each partner to cry out to Jesus to make the necessary changes within themselves. Thoughts of divorce disappeared. And soon after, a whole new ministry together opened up for them.

“Blessed are those whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage” (Psalms 84:5).

Your journey into a life of character transformation and humility-based service in our Lord begins by first getting free from **“the valley of your strongholds.”** Much Afraid wasn't going to be changed until she left the valley. That's because the control and influence of demonic strongholds in your soul can be powerful, especially if they've been leaning into your mind, will and emotions for a long time. These unclean spirits have enmeshed themselves with your identity, and they sound just like the negative voice in your head. These voices inspire **fear** and **worry**, and undermine your dignity by producing **despair** and **depression**. Everything that Jesus is, demonic strongholds aren't!

It took Much Afraid four chapters before she had the courage to leave the valley. If it wasn't for her deeply caring friend Mrs. Valiant, she would have remained imprisoned in the valley. We

hope you too have someone in your life who's equally valiant to help you.

Whether you're born again or you deeply care about someone you'd like to see be born again, there's an essential way you can help them. You can be an instrument of the Spirit to reveal the **power of Jesus** to help them free themselves from the valley of their strongholds. The journey of transformation (sanctification) is made that much easier if demons are no longer entertained within their soul.

The Shepherd made sure that Much Afraid had suitable companions for her journey. This meant the fearful girl had to humble herself and accept those companions as well as the specific path the Shepherd knew was best for her. For some people Much Afraid's journey may be like leaving a life of religious stagnation to be guided and transformed by the indwelling Holy Spirit, His *sanctification* and His *rhema*.

When Much Afraid reached the High Places the first time, she was changed, having been transformed with divine love. Then she was able in her new identity as "Grace and Glory" to return to the valley to help free others so they too could follow the Shepherd.

The purpose for each time we return to the valley is for us to *minister freedom to others*, setting them forth on their own journey of transformation and future service in our Lord Jesus.

Please take this to heart: Throughout your walk in Jesus you will experience a number of such journeys:

- from the *valley of service* to the •*high places of transformation*;
- back to the *valley of service* and again to the •*high places of transformation*.

On each journey of transformation our Lord focuses on different character qualities He wants to develop in you. In each transformational journey, His Spirit may apportion you a spiritual gifting which is necessary for your new role of service. Through this He is preparing you for an entirely different type of service in our Lord's Kingdom.

Please heed this warning: If you're born again, your daily spiritual life shouldn't be satisfied with just considering yourself "saved." It's imperative that each of us who love and serve our Lord focus on our transformation into Christ's character — especially being firmly anchored in His **love, forgiveness** and **compassion**. This is the life our Lord Jesus invites us to have with Him: being *His* 'grace and glory' as we fulfill our responsibility as our Lord's ambassadors of reconciliation with His Father (2Corinthians 5:14-21).

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, not to give in to the desires of your sin nature which war against your soul” (1Peter 2:11; see also Romans 12:2).

Remember, no one's pilgrimage of transformation goes on very far without them being led into the desert and the pyramid (Chapter 6, Detour Through the Desert) as we wrote in our previous two emails. Your **toxic memories** and **motivations** remain in your soul after you've demolished strongholds. And it's in the desert and the pyramid that these are transformed into Christ-like motivations and behaviors. In the real world this process is often aided by a spouse or close companion(s) from whom you're willing to accept admonition when they confront you about unChrist-likeness. Again, we hope people like these are in your life.

You may be going through desert and pyramid experiences now as many followers of Jesus are. If you

find yourself emerging from the pyramid filled with acceptance and joy, don't be shocked when you also find yourself experiencing periods of loneliness, even with people all around you. Whether you're an individual or a married couple, our Lord separates His own from the comfort of reliance on others to test if He is all-sufficient in your life. This is a potentially dangerous time on your journey because the demonic voices will do drive-by shootings from outside you. They try to beat you down with despairing lies like, "God has rejected you. You're hopeless." Here, too, having a companion of encouragement is very helpful.

Now is the time for each of us in Christ to be effective ministers of His grace! To do this we must be Grace and Glory to each person we seek to help. Take to heart a key description of a servant in our Lord's Kingdom:

Following Christ provides you the loving grace to treat others far better than you expect them to treat you.

Maybe you've already gone through *Hinds Feet on High Places* and/or our study guide "Going To The High Places". If the insights have become fuzzy, we strongly encourage you to go through these resources again. A Kingdom person who is lovingly serving the King needs to be a freedom fighter who's filled with grace and glory. Please, be such a person!

Mike & Sue