

I'm Changed
My Past Forgiven... My Future Secured
M. Jemimah Amirtharaj

I'm Changed: My Past Forgiven . . . My Future Secured

Copyright © 2018 by M. Jemimah Amirtharaj

All Rights Reserved.

International Rights Registered.

Published by LifeWay India Publishing

Noida, India

Dewey Decimal Classification: 248.843

Subject Heading: CHRISTIAN LIFE \ Devotional

Copyeditor - Roland Fernandes

Typesetting – 2K/Denmark

Design and illustration by Jennifer Allison, Studio Nth, LLC.

Additional illustration © shutterstock/itsK. (shutterstock image #491176735).

Scripture taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved

worldwide. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas

Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017

by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible®, and CSB® are federally

registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers, all rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-5359-2622-5

Printed in India

1 2 3 4 5 * 21 20 19 18

He must increase, but I must decrease.
John 3:30

Index

<i>Foreword</i>	9
<i>Endorsement</i>	11
<i>Just a minute before you begin</i>	13
<i>A Thank You Note from a Grateful Heart</i>	15
Chapter 1 - Jus' Let go and Let God	19
Chapter 2 - He is the God Who Sees.	25
Chapter 3 - Lessons from The Manna	29
Chapter 4 - Lessons from Crossing the Jordan.	37
Chapter 5 - I am Still in His hands	45
Chapter 6 - You Don't Have to Fall Again	51
Chapter 7 - Wasted for Jesus?	59
Chapter 8 - What More Can I Do for You?.	65
Chapter 9 - Power of Routine	69
Chapter 10 - The Will of God.	75
Chapter 11 - Three Life Lessons from 'The Six-Day War' . . .	85
Chapter 12 - The Power of Unanswered Prayers	91
<i>Conclusion</i>	101
<i>Bibliographic Information</i>	107

Foreword

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is indeed my great joy and privilege to write the foreword for my daughter's first book, *I'm Changed*. In 3 John 1:4, the Word of God says, *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth*. Truly, I am overjoyed to see my daughter serve the Lord by writing this book. I know that God had chosen her to serve Him before she was formed in her mother's womb. One morning, in the course of my wife's confinement, as I was teaching the Word of God to my sons, I felt God speak to me in my spirit that the next child I was going to have was a girl and I will have to name her 'Jemimah'. Around the time that she was born, we dedicated the first part of the current Church facility of New Life Assemblies of God, Chennai, to God Almighty. She grew up in the sanctuary. We lived in the top floor of the church. Like the Psalmist says in Psalms 65:4, we can also say, *Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in Your courts. We are filled with the good things of Your House, of Your Holy Temple*. Indeed, we are filled with the good things of His House.

As a young child, she grew up watching my wife and I serve the Lord. She learnt to love the Lord and His Word and spoke boldly about Jesus to everyone she met even as a little girl. I have watched her write down her daily meditation from the Word of God for many years in her diaries. I have witnessed the change that the Word of God has brought in her life. Each of these lessons in this book is the outcome of her walk with Christ. Whenever she went through difficult times, she always leaned to hear what God was trying to tell her and drew out valuable lessons to overcome the problems she faced. Therefore, I am confident that these lessons will transform the lives of everyone who reads it. It is my prayer that whatever be the chains that are holding you back, it will be broken by the power of God's Word and will bring about a change in the life of everyone who reads this book. May this be the first of many books that is yet to come to transform the lives of many and the world at large. May the Lord God Almighty continue to use her and her family for His glory and for the expansion of His Kingdom.

Amen.

God Bless you.

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. D. Mohan

Vice Chairman, World Assemblies of God

General Superintendent of Assemblies of God India

Senior Pastor, New Life Assembly of God, Chennai

Endorsement

This is a book that everybody would live to read...better read it now than later. In these few chapters, God's precious handmaiden, Jemimah Amirtharaj, in all simplicity through God's Word offers a sure road map out of sorrows to joy, out of bondage to liberation, from discouragement to godly courage, from confusion to direction, from frustration to fulfillment, from pain to comfort, from rejection to acceptance, from weakness to strength, from deception to truth, from being a victim to a victor, from self-centeredness to Christ likeness, from condemnation to forgiveness and total restoration, from fear to confidence in God. In this world of burdens and darkness the loving Creator of the universe reaches out to you with His loving light as you receive His transforming Word in this beautiful book.

Bernard Blessing

Just a minute before you begin...

Dear Friend,

I am truly grateful to God for giving me the ability to write for Him. He has used many people to shape me and mould me to become a useful vessel in His hands. The message of this book is that God made His world through His Words, and He can make your world a beautiful place through His Words. I'm writing this book because of what books have done to me. The words of various people have influenced my life towards a positive change. I want my book to do to others what the obedience of others to God has done for me. I pray that this book will sow seeds of hope and have a lasting impact on generations to come. The Bible says in Romans 15:4 that *Everything written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

'I'm Changed' is a book that took root from *Lasting Inspirations*— a website where I began to write down life changing lessons that God taught me. Now, it is a book birthed to inspire

people through the powerful Word of God that can change and transform lives. As I was praying for this book, I saw an image of the word CHAINED, where the letter 'I' came down, and the letter 'G' came up. It showed me a powerful message: When the 'I' –the self in me– is brought down, and the God factor in my life increases, I become CHANGED. I am no more Chained to my past, to my sin, my sickness, but I'm Changed to who God wants me to be. It is not a book that brings about a momentary change or a feel-good thought, but, on the contrary, these are life changing lessons that God taught me through the Scriptures and inspired by the Holy Spirit. I do not know what you are going through in your life right now - perhaps you have just got out of a difficult situation, or you are going through one, or perhaps you might have to face one in the future. Whatever your situation, I pray that as this book reaches you, you will find valuable lessons that can be etched in your heart forever, to bring forth solutions and fruits that will last until we meet Jesus face to face.

Holding on to His feet,
M. Jemimah Amirtharaj

A Thank You Note from a Grateful Heart

I would like to thank a few people who inspired me to write this book. I want to specifically thank God Almighty and my dear Lord Jesus - the Lover of my soul, and the precious Holy Spirit for choosing me, loving me, forgiving me and for guiding me to do His work. I can never think of surviving a moment without Your grace. I wish to thank three special people... my love, Amirtharaj Isaac, thank you for making me a better person and for helping me to fulfill God's purpose for my life. You are God's greatest blessing to me. To my children, Anna and Amy, you have added, and continue to add, so much love and joy to my life. Thank you for the privilege of being your mother. I see God's faithfulness to me, by His sending to me the most precious gifts in the form of both of you.

I am indeed grateful to Max Lucado, a man whom I have never met, but whose writings have changed my life forever. Max's obedience to God through his writing has indeed stimulated within me a deep desire, love and obedience in writing for God. To Prophet Bernard, I wish to extend my humble blessings for investing countless hours in teaching the Word and for believing in God's

plan for me, even when I could not believe in myself.

To my publishers, Lifeway Global, well what can I say... just as Eleazar prayed for Rebecca, which moved God to send her even before he finished praying. God, indeed, sent you as an answer to my fervent prayer. Undoubtedly, it was God all the way. Thank you for agreeing to publish my book. Working with you has enriched my life in many ways. Thank you, Craig Featherstone, Ashish Thomas, Wes Banks, Jade Novak and many others who have worked tirelessly to bring out this book. I am truly blessed in every sense of the word. All I can say is, "God has been good to me." May God continue to use you to bless the lives of many others.

To Joyce John, my editor, compiler, prayer partner... your efforts have made this book possible. Really, you are like the mid-wife who helped bring this baby out. May God bless you. Also, I want to thank Premila Trevellian, Swarna, Hema Knight aunty and Shirley, who helped me with the editing of this book. You did a great job. I want to thank all my prayer partners—the thousands of you who have lifted up my name and life before the Heavenly Father. I want to thank those who helped me begin my website and those who encouraged me to write these articles for the Glory of God.

I wish to thank my parents, Rev. D. Mohan and Getziah Mohan, who have shown me that God is real and can be trusted. They have given their all to raise me up to fulfill God's purpose in life. I wish to thank my mother in grace, Dr. Mrs. Nalini Selvaraj, for loving me so much and looking after me more than a daughter.

Whenever I see you, I remember the love that God has for my life. To Vigila Athai and Joyson Mama, for your unconditional love. To my spiritual parents, brothers and sisters and to my entire God-given family - a big God bless you! To the members, pastors and staff of the New Life Assembly of God Church, I am indeed most grateful for having the privilege of serving you - your love towards our family and your prayers for us has truly made us grateful to you all.

Lastly, to you dear reader, for spending your time and money in the fervent hope of knowing Christ more. May your life be changed and inspired forever through your reading of this book. May the words in this book cause to bring about a ripple effect in your heart and in the lives of others. May this book be a lasting inspiration until you meet Jesus.

Thank You!

I'm Changed...forever.

Chapter 1

Jus' Let Go and Let God

The Bible says that all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23) and if we say that there is no sin in us then there is no truth in us. (1 John 1:8) In life, we all make mistakes at some point in time. Some of them have negligible consequences. At other times the consequences of our mistakes are more than what we can handle. Many a times when we make a mistake, we try to handle the consequences ourselves and end up making more mistakes. Instead, if we are able to let God handle it for us we will indeed be safe. Here are a few things we should do to make sure we fulfill the God-given destiny in our lives and thereby live out the life that God has in store for us. We should remember ,not to hold on to our past, our sins, our failures, but we should step out in faith so that God will perfect all the things that concern us. (Psalm 138:8)

In the Bible, we read about Abraham who was called the 'Father of Faith', but the things he did were nowhere close in earning that title - the 'Father of Faith'. God promised him a son through his wife Sarah, but he did not believe in God's promise and so he made one of the worst catastrophic messes in history that has lasted to this day. He brought forth Ishmael through Hagar. He must have thought he was helping God fulfill His promises. Abraham failed miserably when he chose to hear the voice of his wife, instead of waiting on God. He messed up big time. A time came when the very woman who told him to have a son through other means, now detested the child and his mother and desired both their expulsions from the family household. Abraham knew it was his mistake, and he did not know what to do. We read in Genesis 21:11 that *This troubled Abraham very much because Ishmael was also his son.*

Many a times when we sin, we don't see the consequences. We act on the impulse of the moment. The same thing that causes us pleasure will cause us pain later on. Sin and disobedience to God will trouble us deeply and its consequences will bother us for a long time to come. Now again, God, in His great love, speaks to Abraham in order to call him to a life of obedience and protection. What a wonderful God we worship! Abraham is troubled, but he is not talking or praying to God. Yet, God intervenes and tells him the solution to his problem. We read in Genesis 21:12: *But God said to Abraham, "Don't be troubled about the boy and the slave woman. Do whatever Sarah tells you. The descendants I promised*

you will be from Isaac.” This time Abraham chooses to obey God immediately. He decides that he will no longer disobey God. Here are the things we learn from the life of Abraham about how to deal with sin:

Burn the Bridges

Genesis 21:14 says, *Early the next morning, Abraham took some food and a leather bag full of water. He gave them to Hagar and sent her away. Carrying these things and her son, Hagar went and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.* Don't think twice. When God speaks, do it immediately. Early the next morning, Abraham sent Hagar away. Abraham was not sympathetic towards the sin he had caused, as a result of foolishly rejecting God's will in his life; neither did he worry about its consequences. Instead, he simply swept out the traces, the memories, and the fruits of his disobedience and turned to God in unconditional obedience. Often, we try to be sympathetic towards the sins we commit. We feel guilty and try to carry the consequences. The word of God says in 1 John 3:20, *When our hearts make us feel guilty, we can still have peace before God. God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.* Even when we feel guilty... God is greater than our feelings. In most cases, when we know we have grievously sinned, we ask God for forgiveness. Sadly, we never fully let go of our sins. Instead we want God to bless us along with our sins. Just let go and commit yourself into

God's hands. He is faithful and righteous. He was also the 'God of Hagar'. He knew how to take care of her. God did not forsake her. *God was with the boy as he grew up. Ishmael lived in the desert and became an archer.* (Genesis 21: 20)

Don't let your sins trap you in your past and sabotage the plans that God has for your future. Get out of the sin right away! Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross and purchased your forgiveness. So, forget your past and move on into the God-given future under God's righteousness.

Move on

Yes, we have made mistakes but once we have repented and burnt the bridges then it is time to 'Move on'. Don't keep dwelling in your past. (Isaiah 43:18) Don't get into a pity party and be depressed. Behold God is ready to clean up your mess and help you start all over again. In the same chapter we read about a king who came to Abraham and told him, *God is with you in everything you do.* (Genesis 21:22) God is able to clean up your mess. He is your parent. Just because my child makes a mistake, I cannot disown my child. If earthly parents so fend for their children, how much more will our Heavenly Father stand up for us? God is still with you and has moved on to the next phase. So, you should move on too. Philippians 3:13 says, *I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying*

to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason He made me His. Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead. Yes, move on into the future that God has in store for you.

Don't Give up on God

God has not given up on you. So, do not give up on God. God wanted Abraham to be the 'Father of Faith'. On many occasions, Abraham never behaved like he was the Father of Faith. He did not trust God. He made many mistakes. He lied to the king of Egypt saying Sarah, his wife, was his sister - fearing for his life. It shows he did not have faith that God could protect him. Again, when God told him he would have a son, he did not believe God and had a son through Hagar. But God did not give up on Abraham. Now, after a while God wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. God wanted to make sure Abraham became a giant in the Faith, so He tested him. This time, Abraham did not consult anyone, but obeyed God immediately. In following the pattern of God's command and deeply meditating upon it, Abraham finally trusted God. Hebrews 11:19 says, *Abraham believed that God could raise the dead, and really, it was as if Abraham got Isaac back from death.*

We see that step by step, Abraham grew in his faith. He failed many times, but God never counted it against Him. He kept

worshipping God and seeking God and finally, he became the 'Father of Faith'. God never remembered him by his failures. God remembered him for his faith, for trusting in Him and obeying His command; to move out of his country in a journey that would change mankind forever.

Even so, in the journey of life, no matter how many times you fail, don't give up on God. Keep going back to God to ask for His forgiveness. Stand up on your feet. Run back to His presence. He is in no mood of giving up on you. He will never leave you nor forsake you until He fulfills all that He has promised in your life. Jude 1:24-25 says, *God is strong and can help you not to fall. He can bring you before His glory without any wrong in you and can give you great joy. He is the only God, the One who saves us. To Him be glory, greatness, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now, and forever. Amen.* He created you. He is your Father. Don't lose faith in Him. You will get better. Don't stop praying. Quickly repent and move ahead, embrace the God-given destiny for your life.

Just let go and let God!