

**in struggle,
go spiritual.**

The Hidden Life of God in You.

Did you know that if one tree in a forest is diseased, the other trees will send critical nutrition to it through the interconnection of the root system and fungi network in the forest floor, supporting the ill tree until it is well again.

Trees communicate in other ways too – if a foreign invader such as a beetle bores into one tree, that tree will send signals through the hidden connection in the humus, warning the others that an enemy has come, the forest responds by producing immune defences which they send up through the their trunks and into their leaves.

Most people do not realise there is an unseen shared life hidden from view – a connection of life and being which is beautiful and extraordinary.

Q. Where do you go to find restoration for your soul?

The story of the trees is very close to the interconnectedness God created each of us as individuals to have with Him. But often, our usual expressions of faith blurs it and sometimes prevents us from seeking it.

We are pursuing a sustaining grace; a power, presence, life force – the daily experience of more of God in more of us.

Read John 17:20-23

Our very beings are made to be saturated with the being of God.

Try this: press your palms together and fingers flat like you are praying – your left hand represents God – your right hand represents you. Now

intertwine your fingers – this is the expression of a deeper union with God, where your being and God's become intertwined.

We are going to explore the story of a woman who trusted God in her life.

Read: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Q. What information is given about this woman and what did she suggest to her husband they do for Elisha?

Read: 2 Kings 4:18-37 (about 5+ years later)

Q. What crisis was the woman facing and how did she respond to it?

Read: 2 Kings 8:1-6 (about 7 years later)

Q. How did God show His faithfulness to the woman and her family?

God used this woman's faith story to move the king's heart to do what God wanted him to do.

Q, Do you think the woman's sudden appearance before the king was a coincidence? If not, what do you learn about God?

Your Faith walk

God loved this woman and her family. He knew what was going on in their lives. He was able to do something about it. But, God did not make the woman's husband young again nor did God prevent her from enduring barrenness for a time. He didn't prevent the famine from affecting their family.

During her walk, a loving God said no to some things. Yet she chose to trust Him rather than submit to fear. And He rewarded her faith with an outpouring of His blessing on her family.

In the same way, God may not choose to fix your crisis so you experience pain, but in any and all situations, you can count on the following truths:

1. God loves you.
2. God knows what is going on in your life
3. God can do something about it
4. You can trust His goodness in whatever He chooses to do.

Remember that our souls may not be healed of trauma in one simple prayer. God has and can do this but we need to be gracious and allow that we might need to see a counsellor or seek some healing prayer ministry.

Remember God works gently. He doesn't answer trauma with a forceful response' He heals through gentleness. Sometimes it can feel dramatic but maybe only a small percentage of the time. Most of the time the union of our soul with God is something that is very gentle and life-giving. Therefore be gentle to yourself then you will become like the happy trees written about in Psalm 1 – whose roots dwell deep down in living water; whose leaves never, ever wither; whose life is blossoming abundance season through season.

Faith in Action:

Have you ever been in a really dark place with not even a glimmer of light? When you are in total darkness, you look for light from any source. You see the light and follow it to get out of the darkness. That's what God does for us – He calls us out of darkness into His wonderful light. And He uses us as light-bearers to declare His faithfulness and lead other people to Him.

You and I are chosen to be God's mouthpiece to the world around us. Our purpose is to declare what He has done in our lives to those who cannot see the light. God's plan to meet that need for every woman is Himself through a relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.