

WINDOWS
into
THE WORD
OF GOD

Elizabeth George



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A Note from Elizabeth

Dear Reader,

Some words really stay with us. They are so memorable and make such an impression that we never forget them. That's what happened to me when I was a brand-new Christian. Wanting to better understand my new Bible, I enrolled in a course on how to study the Bible. One evening the faithful, inspiring teacher made this statement: "A good illustration is a window into the Word of God." He went on to say that a well-crafted illustration explains the Bible text and points the way to personal application.

As a result of my time in that class, I became an avid Bible reader, Bible student, and eventually a Bible teacher. One of my goals as a teacher and creator of study materials is to write stories and create illustrations that open the messages of the Bible so it goes straight into the hearts of readers. Hopefully my writings spark "aha!" moments that bring vital truths from the Bible to life.

In *Windows into the Word of God*, I've included many real-life stories and illustrations that are dear to my heart. They are all taken from the New Testament studies found in my *Woman After God's Own Heart*® Bible Study series. Just as a window brings light into a room, these stories are meant to bring light to the Scriptures in a way that highlights its truths so you can grasp their meanings and apply them to your heart.

I'm so excited you want to learn more about God's Word! I pray that these teachings and the scriptures they illustrate will stay with you, impacting your life for Christ. Hopefully they'll be a delight to your heart, bring new life to your time in God's Word, and transform your walk with Him.

In His everlasting love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth George". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more decorative than the others.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

PSALM 119:105



Success Made Simple

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

JOSHUA 1:8

Today I stood in my driveway waving to my daughter Courtney and her four children as they got ready to drive to the Navy base at Pearl Harbor. Courtney was meeting her husband to finalize their move to Hawaii. It was a beautiful day, and we'd all just witnessed a double rainbow! That incredible sight and the fact that my daughter is happily following her Navy husband as he pursues his career makes me happy too. Why?

Because Courtney, in her sometimes difficult roles of being a wife to a submariner and the mother of four small children, is following God with all her heart. That's the key to success for her. She understands and

accepts the responsibilities God has given her and is being obedient and doing her best to fulfill them.

God is also asking you to follow Him wherever you are in life and in whatever you're facing day by day. How can you be successful in following Him through the many opportunities He gives you to serve and help others? Start by reading and meditating on Joshua 1:8. God is showing you the way to success—His kind of success! Joshua was in need of strength, encouragement, and wisdom for handling his assignments, his work, and his challenges. God's advice? Know the Scriptures and follow its wisdom.

If we will choose to follow God's advice, like Joshua did, God assures us of good success. As we focus fully on His Word and His promises, relying on God in everything we do, we'll experience courage, confidence, and victory.

From God's Word to Your Heart

Where does God have you today? What roles and responsibilities have been given you by your Lord? And how about your dreams and your heart's desires? Many of these indicate God's directions for your life. I encourage you to take some time to discover what the Bible says about your roles...and then pray about

them. Why not jot down some dreams you have too? Write them down in your Bible, your prayer book, a personal journal, or a special notebook dedicated to dreaming and planning and doing as you become a woman after God's own heart.

God's road to success is quite simple: As you faithfully follow Him with all your heart and are obedient to fulfill His will for you, you will be blessed. You will enjoy success. Yes, you're human, and you will have moments when you fail, slide back, fall down, or stay in one place for a while. But as you rely on God and do what He asks of you through His Word and prayer, He will give you the desire and confidence—and power—to move on and enjoy life in Him.

Lord, as I look into Your Word, my heart is moved. Open my eyes to Your will. Strengthen me to step out on the path to greater faithfulness so I can better carry out Your will. Bless me in the ways You choose. Amen.





Reflecting God's Light

For you were once darkness, but now you are
light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

EPHESIANS 5:8

Jim and I celebrated a recent anniversary on the Big Island of Hawaii, which included a trip to the famous active Kilauea Volcano. We were told to arrive at the lava flow just before dark so that we could see the most active area of red-hot lava at night. We were also warned to bring flashlights so we wouldn't fall while hiking in the dark.

As the sun began to slip into the Pacific, we started our trek over mounds of hardened lava. Right away we met a couple struggling to make the same walk without flashlights. Since we had two, we decided to give them one of ours. I can't imagine what might have happened to them if we hadn't come along with that extra flashlight.

You and I have the same need for light in the spiritual realm. Before we belonged to Christ, we were like that couple trying to walk on the path, stumbling and falling. But now we have the light of Christ! And God expects us to “let it shine,” to pass on the light and be a positive influence to those still in darkness. Forget the flashlight! We have the Word of God. Ephesians 5:9 illuminates the traits we can look forward to as we walk in the light of God: goodness, righteousness, and truth.

From God's Word to Your Heart

Your desires and choices as one who walks in the light are governed by your prior determination to please God and not yourself. Each action you take needs to be prefaced by asking, “Will this be pleasing to my Lord?” If what you’re considering will please God, then it’s acceptable.

Christ is no longer physically present on earth, but you reflect His light to those in darkness as you bear the fruit of goodness, righteousness, truthfulness, as you seek to know God’s will, as you shun the unfruitful deeds of darkness, and as you expose evil by the sheer nature of God’s light in your righteous life. You are unbelievably blessed as a child of God! And as such, God says,

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

Imagine! Just as Jim and I were able to physically assist a couple walking in the dark by giving them a flashlight, you are able to do the same spiritually as you reflect the light that is yours as a child of the Supreme Light.

Lord, I walk in Your light with gratitude and awe. I desire to share Your light with the world by making decisions that are righteous and holy. Use me, Lord, so that I can glorify You. Amen.

