



“GET A HOLD OF THIS INCREDIBLE TOOL!”

BRIAN HOUSTON
SR. PASTOR HILLSONG CHURCH



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God Is Good

By Paula White

God is able to far exceed any hopes or expectations we have for ourselves.

Recently, I was rummaging through stacks of boxes and blowing away what seemed to be a decade of dust when I uncovered some old photo albums with pictures of me dating back to the 1980s.

Before I could get past the first few pages of bright-colored hairdos and hubcap-sized earrings, I broke out with a song, “Look What the Lord Has Done.” I was snapping my fingers and grinning from ear to ear as I pranced around the room singing off-key.

I couldn't help but praise God when I thought about the transformation I'd undergone over the years. But my spiritual metamorphosis goes much deeper than superficial things such as clothes and hairdos. I can remember also my perspective on life during the time those photos were taken.

I had fallen in love with Jesus and was volunteering at my local church and in the community. By overcoming my past life of sexual and physical abuse, I had beaten the odds. I found my way with His help, and life was good. With each accomplishment, I'd pat myself on the back and say, “Paula, you did it,” never thinking that “it” was not the end. What God had for me was far greater than what I had envisioned for myself.

Now, 25 years later, I can vividly see Romans 12:2 illustrated in my life time and time again. God is constantly transforming me through the renewing of my mind. I have been taken to heights in Him that I never could have imagined for myself.

Each time I thought I had arrived or made it, He would reveal something new and



greater to me.

Can you relate to what I'm saying? How many times have you told yourself you've made it in life only to discover you need a deeper revelation of Christ?

Today, I laugh as I reminisce about my early days in ministry and how I thought I had fulfilled my destiny in the Lord. I was certain I had reached the pinnacle of my relationship in Christ. Imagine that!

Have you thought, I mean really considered, that where you are today is nowhere near where God desires to take you? Have you fallen into the trap of rejoicing so much in what God has done that you fail to see that He has something for you that is far greater than anything you can imagine?

Our God is an Ephesians 3:20 God. He is able to far exceed any hopes or expectations we have for ourselves. In fact, He is generous and kind to wait patiently when we stumble or go backward. But He is also faithful to guide us into greater truths as we march forward toward a higher calling.

While I sang the song, my mind darted back and forth from event to event—from my daddy's suicide when I was 5 years old, to the sexual and physical abuse that followed, to the years of self-doubt and repressed anger and pain—recalling God's faithfulness in sustaining me. I got louder and louder with each line: "He healed my body / He touched my mind / He saved me, just in time / Oh, I'm gonna praise His name." Hallelujah!

I know you too can rejoice in what the Lord has done in your life. What has He delivered you from? Has He healed your body? Has He touched your mind? Where might you be today without the precious Lamb of God? What if you hadn't chosen the path of salvation?

I can hardly contain my excitement when I reflect on all He has done and how far He has brought me. When I think of His mercy toward me, I want to dance before the Lord as King David danced when he saw the Ark of the Covenant. Like David, I know for certain that God's presence is with me. It makes me want to lift my hands in praise.

The next time you begin to feel doubt or sadness, take a moment to look at what the Lord has done. Thumb through old photo albums if you have to. But whatever you do, don't forget to rejoice in God's ability to transform any situation and turn any test into a glorious testimony.

Paula White is a sought-after preacher who travels extensively throughout the U.S. and in other countries. The author of *He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not* (Charisma House), White pastors Without Walls International Church in Tampa, Florida, with her husband, Randy. For ministry information, visit www.paulawhite.org.

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