# **Real Talk**

# **Out of Darkness into Marvelous Light**

# **By Pastor Kathy Gray-Howard**

Real Talk | kathy gray-howard

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to God for his unmerited favor over my life it is through His blessings that I am a chosen vessel to deliver the good news to all who will receive it. He removed many obstacles that His name be glorified through this work and I am both honored and humbled that I was called to carry out His mission! To my family and my church family who lifts my arms up and encourages me to press on when I am weak. I love you all and thank you for your support

God Bless

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (kjv).

1 John 1:7-8 King James Version

Biblegateway.com

## FOREWORD

This work is comprised from the Holy Bible, King James Version (kjv) unless otherwise cited. The author does not claim to be an expert of any kind and this book is written based solely on 45 years of life experiences on being Black in America, the experiences of others before her, and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This work is intended to spark awareness and controversy that leads to neighborly agreement as the end result and nothing more. Like King Solomon these are the things I have seen under the sun and I believe we serve a God Who is both willing and able to fix our world as the hate must end so the healing process can begin ....

Real Talk: A term used for talking about things that are profound or meaningful. The opposite of Facebook

(www.urbandictionary.com)

#### Chapter 1

### Seeking Abundance in a Fallen World

As a Christian today, does it seem life is full of everything except abundance? You give the world lemons but receive dirty dishwater instead of lemonade? You give love yet receive hate? Your kindness is repaid with ungratefulness and your meekness is treated as weakness? If so, you are not alone, and you have come to the right place for answers. This is the life of many Christians today but most importantly this was Jesus' earthly life also. It is our inheritance in a society that is full of the workings of Satan. How else can we explain living in a world that convicts drug dealers to life sentences, meanwhile murderers are sentenced to a few years in prison, if that, then set free to live among the family members of the deceased. Is taking a human life less criminalized then a war on drugs? I know drugs have blown holes in our nation's fabric, but it still

should never take precedence over a human life, should it? Or a world where many are rich but greater numbers are poor and homeless. Many poor people die from cancer, AIDS, and many other diseases each year yet, rich people are living longer with the same diseases because they have money they are afforded a better quality of life maybe even a cure that is not available to the poor. Will this virus fall in that same category? Ladies and gentlemen, we live in a world that spins on greed and gluttonous attitudes in high places and the only way we will have justice is to be prepared when Jesus returns unless change occurs. The Bible teaches us as Christians not to conform to the wicked world, to be separated, yet we keep looking to the world for answers to our many questions. This is the same thing Israel did and we know how that turned out! Sadly, many of our issues come from a lack of knowledge. John 10:9-10 lays the foundation for seeking abundance in this fallen world by explaining the basis of why Jesus comes and why Satan comes verse 9 says, "I am the door: by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to 8 | Page

destroy: I am cometh that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (kjv). We will get back to verse ten later. Looking at verse nine, when we think of the word "door" we understand it to be a way in or a way out, we have doors on our houses with locks that keeps our goods safe on the inside from robbers and thieves. Jesus is explaining who He is in a way that His disciples could understand. It is kind of funny, how Jesus kept it simple for his disciples yet today many are so technical in the pulpit! Anyway, He likens Himself to the "door" and He lets them and us know if we enter in through Him, we are safe. We can go in and come out and when God pours out his wrath, we will be saved from it! He poured out his wrath, on the entire world through the great flood of Noah's day, He poured out his wrath on Egypt with the Ten deadly plagues, He poured out His wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness, He poured out his wrath on Israel for disobedience, and He poured out his wrath on Jesus on the cross in our places for sinfulness! It is easy to see that God did not play then and He does not play now, He is coming with great wrath one day because it is written. Glory 9 | Page

Hallelujah, this is our justice system in an unjust world, this is our rich in a poor society, this is our security in a world with a declining dollar bill. You ever notice how there are liquor stores lined up on every corner in the ghetto? Some see this as a systematic trap but I see it as a choice, you can choose to feed into the worldly system and wind up a drunk on the corner or you can choose Jesus, the "Door," and enter into Him to safety and be saved from the lies of this world. Jesus is the way out for believers in an unjust world. Why is the world this way? Some say it is the people of today, yet Cain killed Abel in Adam and Eve's day. Others say it is just the way of the world, but what does the Word say? Revelation 12 paints a vibrant picture as John reveals the vision he sees. A fight broke out in heaven and there is a cast of characters in this story that tells what really happened that got us here in this wicked world. Satan who used to be God's covering angel now represents the dragon. The woman represents Israel and the man-child represents Jesus. Michael the Archangel is the leader of the Angelic hosts, he is undefeated. The other offspring of the woman represents the gentiles who came into the faith during **10** | Page

the tribulation period, the beast out of the sea represents the antichrist and the beast out of the earth represents the false prophet who propels the antichrist. So, the story shows a pregnant woman about to give birth and the story makes it clear that the child born to Israel is Jesus the Christ, the same promised seed that would bless all nations mentioned in Genesis 22:18. Her labor pains represent Israel's oppression by the Roman occupation. This big fiery-red dragon, represents Satan, full of every sin and every wickedness known to man and he tried his best to kill Jesus before He was born through the woman who carried Him, but he was blocked by God. He waited to kill Him at the time of birth when Mary was weakened by the labor pains, yet God blocked him again. Now he is furious! So, he and his satanic army fought against Michael and the angelic hosts and lost. Finally, beaten he takes his tail and draws one-third of the angelic hosts with him to the earth where he was thrown by Michael. This big red evil dragon once was the most beautiful creature God created but you know what they say if you are ugly on the inside you are ugly on the outside! And that is true, you ever met someone **11** | Page

you thought was fine or gorgeous until they opened their mouth to speak, and the words they uttered transformed their beauty to ugliness on the spot? You saw them from the inside and thought wow, beauty really is only skin deep. The irony of it all was this beauty is what got Lucifer into trouble. Ezekiel 28 appears to be talking about the King of Tyre, but a careful study of the Scriptures proves it is Lucifer that the king resembles. Verses 12-17 says, "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardis, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day thy was created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in **12** | Page

thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (kjv). Just by looking at the above scriptures we know that many of the supernatural things stated could not be talking about a human being. If we were to read the beginning of the story, we would see that the king of Tyre is acting just like his father the devil. He thinks more of himself than he should. He believes he is a god because he sits on a throne, he is rich, and people bow down to him. He thinks because he is wise enough to use underhanded dealings to buy and sell valuable goods and hide them in vaults that makes him a god. This is the human king of Tyre, but he was not there in the Garden of Eden. So, we see where the switch from a human being to the supernatural takes place. We know from the book of Genesis that Satan was present in the garden, because it was, **13** | Page

he who deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was here that sin entered the world when Adam also ate of that fruit after God told him not to. We also know it was Lucifer's beauty, wisdom, and perfection that caused him to turn away from God with aspirations to replace the Almighty. He had onboard orchestra for his vocal cords and every precious stone was his skin, he was beautiful, smart, and talented, which was his downfall. He was created this way to be eye pleasing to God, to sing praises unto God, and to cover His throne as he was a cherub the covering angel. Yet verse seventeen tells us that he got the big head because of his looks which turned his brightness into complete darkness. In other words, because of his looks, vocal ability, and perfection he thought people should worship him instead of God. In his wisdom he felt he could show the world something better than love. Self-reliance, self-centeredness, hatred, and narcissistic behaviors is what he brought to the table. We also see how that turned out. Knowing all of this should give the Christian today a different view of life. One that says, it is only by the grace of God that I am here, it is not **14** | Page

all about me. I was created to be pleasure for the Lord and not the other way around. Once we get that into perspective then we can truly find the abundance in this life we are seeking. If you were blessed with a voice, then sing to the glory of God because it is through Him that you have the gift. Preachers preach, prophets prophesy, how else will the people get a word from the Lord? Exalters, invocationers, door keepers, workers, encouragers, whatever you do under the sun, do it unto the Lord for He is worthy of it all. Find, the beauty of life within yourself and spread it around. I wrote a poem that I think it says it best it is entitled:

#### My Beauty is God

My beauty is way long

And extra wide

There are no limits

There is no pride

Only love Powered by God

My beauty shines bright

In this last hour

#### Why?

Because Jesus is my strong Tower

With Him...

Able to spit verses and verses and verses

Of truth, love, and light

Sending the devil fleeing

Setting his imps to flight

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me

And I'm ready for the fight...my beauty is might

It comes forth by buckets

Rendering the devil dizzy

And my haters to crutches...

I am broken, yet still beautiful