

MAR / APR 2022

REVEAL THE WOMAN

MAGAZINE

BOOKS
TO
READ
THIS
SEASON

BREAKING
SELF
UNLOVE
WITH GOD'S
LOVE

LISA SWANEPOEL

BOITUMELO
GUMEDE

FAITH. MOTHERHOOD.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MARCH/APRIL 2022

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Sabrina Kamembo
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Editor's NOTE

With everything happening in the world, we STILL have an undeniable and consistent hope in the Name of Jesus. When we look around us, what looks like mess and chaos, is an ever growing need and opportunity for lives and souls to be saved. Humanity has never been so desperate, so ripe and so ready for the footsteps of revival brought by the children of light.

When we open the eyes of our hearts and start to see the way God sees, we realize that these are indeed the days of revival. The days we have been praying for. The harvest is ripe.

In preparing for Reveal Woman Magazine's new look and vision, I had this in mind. Paving new ways for those who need to step up and step out, and those who need a platform to bring their voices to a world that is desperate. A world in need of revival, leadership and godly perspective.

I have decided to have a different approach to the magazine. Every issue will focus on a cover girl. A woman taking giant steps in her community, sphere and the world. Highlighting the potential in every woman, and encouraging you to be bold, courageous and all that your Father has called you to be.

With that said, I am so excited for you to meet Boitumelo Gumede - the owner and founder of Ziah; an online sustainable clothing brand. She brings such a brave and refreshing insight to what it means to be a woman, a mother and a go-getter!

Plus! With a new addition to the team - a new series on breaking self-unlove with God's unconditional love. For this issue and the upcoming ones, Lisa will be unpacking this in the most beautiful and powerful way. This might just be your favourite journey with us so far.

SABRINA KAMEMBO

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sabrina K



In her own words
**BOITUMELO
GUMEDE**

In her own words BOITUMIELO GUMIEDE

A beautiful stranger by the name of Marianne Williamson once spoke to my core and said “Your (our) deepest fear is not that you are inadequate, your deepest fear is that you are powerful beyond measure.”

Growing up as a gifted child; being powerful and great were not my fears. I knew that I had it all in me to be anything I wanted to be. In fact, I was not open to other options. My mid 20’s came with a reality check, or rather, a perspective that, inasmuch as I have it all in me to succeed, I also have it all in me to fail. I beg you to understand that in this context, success is defined as riches, power, status, etc. I have always known that I had a distinct covering, that is, my existence.

I have an overwhelming presence, good and/or bad, it really depends on your taste, but you cannot deny it. I hope that you did not cringe, taking that statement as arrogance because it isn’t, it isn’t confidence either but a standpoint of assurance. I know, tried and tested, that I am very noticeable. My 20’s came with a lot of pain, traumas, identity crisis, and failures. I have not had a smooth journey in terms of my career, moving from one job to the other and realizing that I am just not the best fit for an office job. I can do it, but not sustainably because I am innovative and domineering in nature, which makes it difficult to achieve goals within specified parameters.

“Your (our) deepest fear is not that you are inadequate, your deepest fear is that you are powerful beyond measure.”

I am learning everyday that what God has deposited in me is all for His glory, so I may not boast. And maybe that is what my 20's has been about; "so I may not boast". When I received an invitation to do this shoot for Reveal woman Magazine, I felt like an imposter, I felt that I did not deserve to be seen or have been under a kaleidoscope of all things bright and beautiful. I understand now that though the enemy wanted to use that feeling to bury me (not literally), God wanted to use that moment of weakness to remind me that He is the orchestrator of this all, so I may not boast. Having struggled with depression for about 4 straight years, I did not imagine myself ever being used by God for anything. But so that I may not boast, He keeps using my shortcomings for His glory.

I know that I will be great one day, travel the world and speak on big stages, but just like a caterpillar in the cocoon, I would have served my time and ready to fly. Why am I talking so much about myself? Because there was a time when what I knew about God's call in my life felt like a lie, yet today I get to see the process of everything unfold. I, like many others, have felt the pain of trying hard and not succeeding. I know the shame of putting myself out there, only to fall flat on my face.

I know what it feels like to be on top and congruently, to be at the bottom. I know the excitement of dreaming big and the angst of just dreaming. Once we are able to recognise the grace in which we are covered, we learn to rest in His might and kind power. When you read this story, please see a girl from the dusty street of Zone 12 Sebokeng, who rested in the blessed assurance that Jesus is hers. See a black girl who does not deem her skin as a limitation. See an ordinary girl who believes in an extraordinary God, and because of that, she was able to do extraordinary things. When you're done looking at me, I beg you to look within and know that this bountiful grace isn't exclusive to me, but available to each and every one of us. Allow God to take you through valleys and highways, so you may not boast. So that you may not boast, embrace being human.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the unending love of God the father and the most unrelenting fellowship of the sweet Holy Spirit be with you always.

"Allow God to take you through valleys and highways, so you may not boast. So that you may not boast, embrace being human."

MAR/APR22



OWNER AND FOUNDER OF ZIAH

BOTTUMIELO

GUMEDE

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Words by Nancy Sekhokoane

With Boitumelo

As she gets ready for the photoshoot - sitting in our makeup chair with the most beautiful and exuberant smile, Nancy was able to ask Boitumelo a few questions about her personal life, business, motherhood and so much more. Her personality filled the room as the team found it so easy to connect with her. Boitumelo's smile and personality light up any room she's in. You are about to see why we celebrate her.

Nancy: Who are you?

Boitumelo: “Honestly, I got this question yesterday, and you know, sometimes they ask, ‘who you are?’, but we tell people what we are. But, let’s start with the what. I am a wife, a mother and the only daughter to my parents.

Who I am; I am a child of God. I like to say a trying child of God, because, you know, we are pressing forward. We haven’t reached there. So yeah, the who is a trying child of God.”

N: What do you think your best quality is?

B: “I’m very authentic. Haha! Very, very authentic.

If you see me on social media, or just in general spending time with me, I don’t know how to not be myself. I’ve tried, but I really do not know. It’s a struggle for me not to be myself.”

N: Walk me through a week in your life?

B: “Ooh I wish I was those people who have a daily routine and whatever, but honestly, I’m just winging it. OK but Haha! Obviously for five days in a week, I prepare Azi for school, his dad takes him to school then I stay at home and I work. My job is actually quite demanding. I am a banker, so I work from home. Pretty much throughout the day, throughout the week. And then every now and then, I would take company time to do my business stuff. So that's pretty much it. Saturdays are for family; we don't compromise on Saturdays.”



“I started making my Instagram very intentional. So, once I started making my Instagram intentional, that’s when I could say most of that distraction went away because, now I’m safe in myself . . . one thing that Instagram does is take us away from the safety of ourselves.”

N: How do you deal with the pressure?

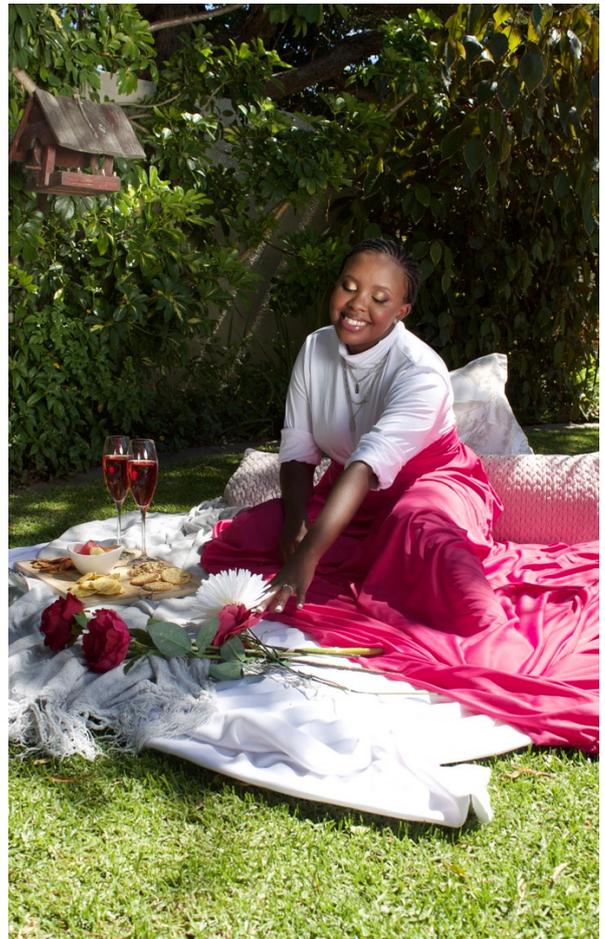
B: “I think I did feel the pressure when I was pregnant, mainly because I was struggling with depression when I was pregnant so, you know, I wanted to be that hot, pregnant woman after Azi was born. Obviously, it wasn’t like a great desire, but there was that pressure to be all those things that I mentioned there. So, I don’t want to lie, it was quite difficult, especially when you have a desire, but do not have the drive to get to that. So, I did have the desire to be a hot mom with a happy child, sizzling body and all of that because it looks good, it’s sellable, you know, it makes you be among the people. So, I wanted to be that, but I just started being true to myself, ain’t nobody going to clap hands for me for that, ain’t nobody going to give me anything. Obviously, I can if I want to. I can. But at what cost? At the cost of anxiety, the cost of depression and all of that, so ultimately, I had to just be true to myself. I’ve always been a chilled girl, why now when I’m a mom? I want to be like, you know, a magazine mom? I will continue being myself. And that really just liberated me.

With my body, I still feel a little bit of pressure. I think because, obviously, I know my body before I was a mom. So, I’m just like, ‘ugh if I could just work on this stomach,’ but me, I’m lazy so hahaha.”

N: So, would you say you identified that pressure as a distraction?

B: “Yes, because nobody said anything to me. Nobody said, ‘your body must...’

If anything, people have been very positive to me. They’re like, ‘oh your body, you don’t look like you are a mother,’ or whatever. But I put that pressure on myself, honestly, I’m the one who put that pressure on myself.”



N: How do you silence the noise?

B: “So, with Instagram, I actually saw someone, I think a coach, like you know those therapists; they were like, ‘if you feel the pressure to be someone that you are not, you need to start following people that are like you.’ So, I started following people that are like me. I started making my Instagram very intentional. So, once I started making my Instagram intentional, that’s when I could say most of that distraction went away because, now I’m safe in myself. I think one thing that Instagram does is take us away from the safety of ourselves. And that really brought me back to being safe with myself like, ‘it’s ok, you’re safe, she is a mom, she is like this.’ You know? So, I went back to being safe, feeling safe with myself by just really unfollowing. Literally. And it doesn’t mean that I have beef with those people or whatever, they are just not aligned with who I am or who I want to be or what I am. You know, you just unfollow.”



"... but I want people to support my business because it's, you know, providing the service that I promised. Not because I'm black, not because I'm a woman."

N: How do you deal with the pressure, if any, of being a business woman, especially having launched two stores in the middle of a pandemic?

B: "I can't say that I launched two, it was one after the other. I think the pandemic really didn't contribute much because, obviously, I started during the pandemic so I don't know how it would have been outside of it. So, I only know my story during the pandemic. So, with every challenge or whatever, it was pandemic informed. If you get what I mean.

The biggest pressure I have is really to do things with excellence. That's the biggest like, 'Haaa,' (gasps), the biggest pressure for me. Because I think we always push this narrative of, 'support black businesses, support them', but I want people to support my business because it's, you know, providing the service that I promised. Not because I'm black, not because I'm a woman. I don't want you to buy from me because I'm black or buy from me because I'm a woman. I want you to get to my store, see that, 'oh I love this,' and you're like, 'oh snap, she's a woman! Alright she's black! I'm buying.' So those things shouldn't be like the deciding factor, they should be just a bonus. So, I think for me the biggest pressure is operating in excellence, cause obviously, I don't have business experience and all of that. And knowing myself, I'm quite clumsy."

N: How was Ziah birthed?

B: "So, it was also quite easy; when I was doing Azizi Boutique, I was struggling to, I could say, make a profit of it. Cause you obviously don't want to charge too much, but also, you can't almost give it away, you know. I quickly discovered that when people hear 'preloved' clothing, they want to spend 10 bucks, 20 bucks, they're just like, 'preloved for R70, preloved for R120? I'm not gonna do that.' So, then I knew that I wanted to change my market, so I wanted to change my target market, I wanted to change the people. So, then I was like, 'ok let me start something where I can also be creative.' So, I couldn't be as creative as I wanted to, because the clothes are already made. So, I could only be creative with like, photos and that's about that. I felt quite restricted, I was like, 'no man I want to express myself more.' So, then I was like, 'ok let me try something else.' And I called this lady from church, she is a designer. I found a picture on Pinterest. I told her that, 'ok, I want this in this fabric, I want you to change it here and there.' And she was like, 'oh ok this is exciting, I'm going to do this for you.' And she did. And it really, really, honestly turned out much better than I anticipated. Then I also asked another lady from church to please come and take pictures for me.' So, she came and I told her that I want it to be clean, sort of how I want the pictures to look and she did exactly that. And that's literally how it started."

N: What is the significance of the slogan ‘Sons of Light - Daughters of Day’?

B: “It’s actually a scripture according to The Message Bible Version. 1 Thessalonians 5:5. It’s a whole scripture, Like, it’s quite long. I think in other versions it says, ‘You are the children of light.’ Or something like that, you know. I was looking for something very catchy and then I read it in The Message version and I was like, ‘this is it.’ It literally says that, like, it’s not my creative thinking or anything. It literally says that, ‘for you are sons of light, daughters of day.’”

N: Is that something you wanted to speak over the brand and children who would be wearing it?

B: “Yeah, I can’t really say I came up with the name. I’ve been praying, I know it sounds super spiritual and people have been like, ‘ah that’s so boring,’ but honestly, I honestly did pray over the name. I’m like, ‘God I want to do this but I want to give it to You, you know, I want You to be the driving force behind this. And I dreamt of the name and then I woke up in the middle of the night, google searched and it was that.’”

N: What are the ways that God’s glory and nature are ‘expressed’ in and through your brand? (As per your mission statement/declarations)

B: “If I’m being honest, I don’t know what God’s bigger picture is yet. I just know that last year, um, around August, I was like, ‘Yoh God you know, I’m struggling with this business, I’m not getting any returns, I’m taking out more money than I’m receiving.’ And this one was quite audible; you know when you fall asleep and you feel like someone is talking to you? I don’t know, if that happens to you. When you are drowsy, at that point. I felt God audibly saying, ‘Do you want to eat? Or do you want to run a company?’ Cause if you want to eat you can stay at the bank and work, if you want to eat, you can apply for a grant from the government, there will always be food if you want to eat. Do you want to eat or do you want to run a business?’ I was like, ‘ummm, well, it would be nice to be both,’ and I literally felt God say, ‘let’s build a brand first and then you will eat, let’s build a kingdom first and everything else will come after.’ So yeah.”

Nancy: When you say, ‘His hand is on it’, has there been anything that you’ve seen from people’s responses or any other indication besides what God had spoken to you through dreams, that has shown you that God’s hand is on it?

B: “Yeah, um so, I am a person that is very open-minded and open to criticism and all of that. So, I know that, you know, where God is, there will also be points of correction. And people are just not scared to tell me when they’re not happy about something. They just not. Like, they’re so comfortable to just tell me that, ‘oh no you didn’t deliver on time and I don’t appreciate that,’ and whatnot. And I’m like; ‘God is teaching me something here’. Because He is love, you know, He wants this to work, so if I don’t follow through or if I don’t get the criticism that I need, then I’m not going to reach the bigger picture that God has.

So, people tell me, ‘Ah, no, I didn’t like the delivery date, I didn’t like the box or I didn’t like this and that,’ and I’m like okay, I know that God is telling me ‘Ok you really need to work on this; you need to fix this.’”

Nancy: It's so good that you see it like that and you're not like: 'I am a victim!'

B: "I mean, sometimes I do feel that it's hard obviously, you know, I'm not magical. But um, yeah, every time I go to bed after feeling like, 'oh my word, I'm such a failure and blah blah blah,' God reassures me that; 'remember that you don't know what you're doing, but I do know, so I will show you.' And He always does, He really always does."

N: Why do you think God chose you to be the vessel to express Himself in this way through your brand?

B: "I think because I've been broken down so many times and I'm really, really not scared of starting over. I'm just that person, I'm not scared to start over. Like, if you were to put me in the township right now, I would literally start again. So, I think that's one quality God needed for this business, you know, someone that would not be scared to fall. I'm really not scared to fall.

And above it all, I think God needs a trying child, you know, like not someone that thinks they've arrived, not someone that thinks that they cannot arrive, not someone that thinks that I'm unworthy or whatnot. Just someone that is available. And that's what I mean when I say I'm a 'trying child,' I'm just available. I don't know what I'm doing, whatever, but I'm available and I think God needed someone who's available. As you see in the bible, God always wants someone who's available."

N: What do you do to get back up when you fall in your personal life?

B: "I cry. A lot. Like, I cry haha (Boitumelo gently laughs). I cry and go days without speaking to anyone cause I'm so, you know, downstruck. But I think, something about crying literally makes you feel free. So, I wouldn't be able, I literally wouldn't be able to get back up if I don't cry. Crying is something that is very, very important to me. I don't hold back. Even when I was working in J'oburg at a bank, I would go to the bathroom and cry a lot. Like, I've given myself that much self-love to cry because I know if I don't cry, then it's gonna be heavy on me; and I don't want to be heavy. You know, I want to show up and the only way that I can let go of this is to cry, so crying for me is very important. It's very important to cry. Because I know that after that, I'm gonna feel free to start again, to do again."

N: What signs, indications or revelation did you have that allowed you to release Azizi for that season, in that capacity - and fully step into Ziah, ultimately for Ziah to be born?

B: "It's really just going back to working. I just saw that it was really a lot. There was no way I was gonna be able to do both, and still work and still serve my husband and child. So, I knew that someone was going to suffer and I didn't want my family to suffer. So that's when I decided that Azizi should go. It also came through consulting obviously, like, it wasn't an easy decision as I said."

Nancy: How do you intentionally rest?

B: “I sleep. I love my sleep please.”

N: What are some of your personal fundamentals / necessary ingredients that have helped you, for successful entrepreneurship in general and for an online business?

B: “I could say study the people. Study the people. I listen to a lot of podcasts and try to read business books, but they wrote from their own research, they wrote from their own perspective of studying people. So, I think my biggest thing for me is to study the people and their alignments to where my business is right now, and where I want to take my business. I don't want to bring a product to people that they do not identify with. So, my biggest thing, as someone that provides a product and a service, is that I need to make them see that they need this, and if they don't need it, maybe create that want in them and I cannot do that if I do not study the people.”

Nancy: How do you create that ‘want’?

B: “I don't know if you follow my business page, but every now and then, I put up a pole. Say I want to start selling cups, I would put up a cup there and another one and I'm like, ‘which one do you like? The red one or the green one?’ And then people would say, ‘the green one,’ they don't know what I'm working on, they don't know what's what. So, then I'm bringing that curiosity to them, I'm bringing that thing that, ‘do we need that?’ I think that's how even with the bags that's what I did.”



N: Is there any way you positioned yourself while believing?

B: “You knock, you're available, you believe, that's it. There are probably more things you could do, but that was what worked for me. Obviously, while you're waiting, you're hearing from God, you don't just recklessly knock, you are not being reckless. But because we have the Holy Spirit, man it's such an advantage. You know for people who don't have the Holy Spirit, you have no choice but to be reckless because... I don't know, I don't even know what I don't know, but when the Bible says the Holy Spirit is a teacher, He is. He will teach you where to knock, how to knock, when to knock. He will. Just be available.

I remember when I was in that season, I was so mind-blown by people who don't have The Holy Spirit. I was like, 'how do you even do it?' like, I know that I'm able to continue because I have the Holy Spirit inside of me. Now imagine if you don't have that. Because chances are, you could crack, you know?



N: What would you say your purpose is?

B: “Hmmm I think, as I said, I think my purpose is really, really simple. Um, the Bible says that Christ has come to set us free, right? And there's so many of us that, though we walk in the concept of freedom, we don't really walk in freedom. I really just want to reiterate or relive what Christ has come to do, which is to liberate us; that being financial freedom, that being social injustice, whatever it is. I always go to the people that are rejected, always. I speak to the LGBTQ community, you know, people that are just not accepted, I'm there. You will find me there. And first of all, to preach the gospel, but I'm not gonna force it down their throats. It's the Holy Spirit that does the work, not me. You know, as Paul says, ‘some plant, others water, it's the Holy Spirit of God that grows.’ I can only plant and water, and God will do the rest. Yeah, so I guess planting and watering. It makes sense, neh? Planting and watering, that's my purpose, because it's very vast. I can't say, 'oh yeah my purpose in life is to own a business.' No. What if in five years' time I'm like, 'nah,' I no longer want to do this, you know.”

N: What advice would you give your younger self looking back?

B: “Aah, I would say just stop being so fearful. Hai, it's crazy. I look like I'm this brave person, you know. I make things happen, but I'm always so fearful. You know when I'm doing that, my heart is like ‘ghoom ghoom, ghoom ghoom’, I'm very fearful. There is a lot more I need to do and I know that I could be much more than I am but, we are fearful. Of what, I don't know. I'm always scared. That's what I would tell myself, just stop being fearful.”

"I think my biggest thing for me is to study the people and their alignments to where my business is right now, and where I want to take my business. I don't want to bring a product to people that they do not identify with"



Ziah



Ziah is more than just a handmade and sustainable clothing brand. We are a message of light and hope. Bringing light and brightness to the dark. We are a ministry. A brand because God cannot only be expressed in a pulpit.

Visit www.ziah.co.za for sustainable children's clothing.

Stay tuned for the winter collection in May. In the meantime, you can follow them on social media and share with all your friends and loved ones!

 @ziah_za



BREAKING SELF-UNLOVE WITH GOD'S PERFECT LOVE

LISA SWANEPOEL



HEY SIS

I'm Lisa Swanepoel, a 29-year-old child of God whose passion for Jesus runs deep. I say deep

because experiencing God's love is too pure and true for me to deny.

My testimony is one of a broken self-esteem, lost identity, conforming to the world in search of

acceptance, a buried faith and then being found and saved by Jesus through the grace of God.

However, truthfully writing, the journey of being lost and found wasn't always fun and adventurous.

It was probably one of the toughest journeys I've experienced, and getting to a point of waking up,

believing and accepting the truth of God's love took some healing from the lies that I was fed.

Growing up, it was instilled in me that there is a God, and I would be constantly reminded about the

importance of having faith by my mother, which was fruit of the faith instilled in her by my grandmother. Now,

to a child that's pretty black and white, everything your parents tell you to believe, you believe without a question

or a doubt. But as I got older, the words of my mother were not enough. I needed reasons for those words, and God had some explaining to do as to

why my life was not perfect.

I'd question things like; "if God was real, then why do I get bullied? If God was real, then why am I not

accepted? If God is real, then why are my friends better off than what I am? If God is real, why is there so much

negativity in the world? If God is real, then where is He?" But through my journey of

questioning and doubts, my mother would say: "If you get to a point where your questions cannot be answered, that

is when you need to have faith."

After being bullied in Primary school, I wrote a book with what I could piece together in my grade 4

grammar. The book was titled 'Lily's Dream', and the storyline was based on a little girl that gets bullied in Primary

School. Pretty much what I had experienced. The book ended with a "Message" listing eight points, which

unknowingly ended up being my mantra for life. These points were:

- **God is always with you at all times.**
- **Never give up.**
- **Always believe in yourself.**
- **Never listen to people who say bad stuff about you.**
- **Never say "I can't".**
- **Always try your best.**
- **Always take pride in your work to achieve your goal.**
- **Never judge someone by the way they look.**

At this point in my life, I had changed Primary schools and then entered the stage of life where issues surrounding self-reflection was put to bed, but issues relating to self-awareness arose. Typical teenager stage.

After building a group of "bff's" at Primary school and preparing for all the exciting memories that we would create together at High School; my mother drops a heart-breaking bombshell that due to financial reasons, they cannot afford for me to go to the same High school as my besties.

This took a loan from my faith. But thank goodness my faith was credited as I made a new solid group of friends in High School and I was introduced to Church Youth. This was the pivotal point in my life where the foundation for my self-belief was laid by God's presence and devotion. I became fearless in faith.

But when you're young, wild and free, the things you cannot see can quickly become forgotten when the things you can see and feel are aligned with your peers and social norm. And yes, in the moment, it feels undoubtingly correct and worth it.

However, the more I enjoyed doing things that were furthest from God, my fear in life grew bigger and bigger. High school passed and so did University, but opportunities to enjoy a moment furthest from God would never stop surfacing. The more moments I enjoyed, the more fearful I became, not only in this world, but fearful in my self-confidence and abilities. Yet, that was not enough to stop "living the life".

That fear turned into anxiety; to such an extent that the thought of interacting with people and feeling self-conscious was too great to bear. That level of fear was frightening to me because, although I believed God was with me, I felt that I've taken the control of my life away from Him and put it in the hands of someone that I don't trust and have no faith in. Funny enough, that person was supposed to be myself.

The truth is when you experience God's love, all the love that you experienced or are experiencing is questioned because; now you have an example and genuine experience of what true love is and should be.

Having an idea that God loved me, I trembled back toward Him with whatever faith I had left, in the hope that He would restore me to change that idea to a known fact. With every tremble, I would constantly hear the word “self-love”. A quick Google definition search, and then I was left in even more confusion.

I was so confused because I didn't know where or how to just flip a switch and start living a life of “self-love”. In reality, I didn't have much regard for my own well-being and happiness, and because of my brokenness, it was easier for me to understand “self-unlove”.

It made me realise that I needed to go on a journey of healing with God, our starting point was self-unlove, and the final destination would be self-love. This journey was an important one because it would consist of breaking my self-unlove with God's love.

As I started this journey, I was challenged to face the cause of the self-unlove within myself. I realized the importance of doing so, because the more I was aware of these causes, the easier it would be for me to identify and recognize when the love that I know, believe and trust God has for me is being sabotaged by the self-unlove trying to take root within me.

After doing some deep introspection on the mountains that God had moved in my life, there were four key emotions that stood out to me that were broken down and stolen from my self-love when those obstacles were faced.

These four key emotions were:

- **Self-understanding**
- **Self-esteem**
- **Self-confidence**
- **Self-respect**

This highlighted where I needed God's healing power to restore me, so that I could, once again know, believe and trust that God loves me and in return, live a life of self-love.

I'm utterly blessed to be used as a vessel to unpack these four key emotions in the next issues of *Reveal Woman Magazine*. I'll share how God has moved and is restoring these emotions in my life in the hope that you will be encouraged to allow God to do the same in your life.

Although my words are not great enough to explain the love that God has for you, my prayer is that; after reading each issue, you will be encouraged and filled with His great love. So that the past you who lost faith, the current you who will walk strongly in faith and the future you who will seek faith, will allow His love to shine through you while you live a life of self-love.

Until we meet again in the next issue...



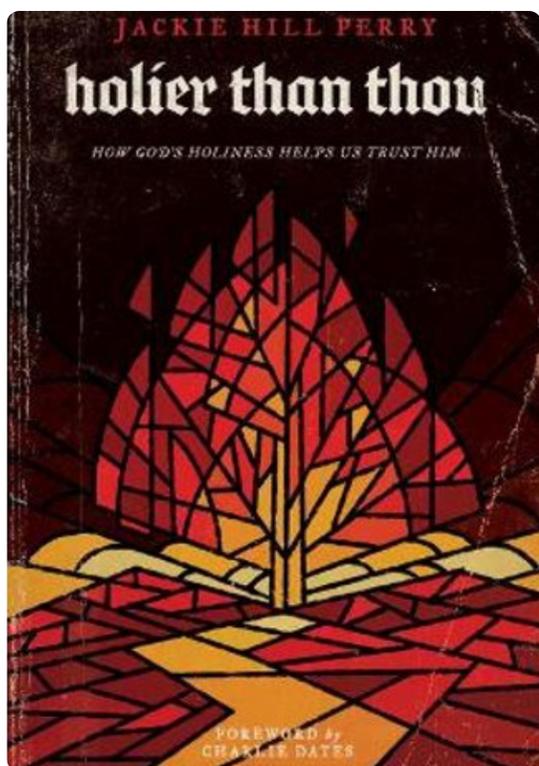
BOOKS
TO READ
THIS
SEASON

BOOKS TO READ THIS SEASON

HEY SIS!

LOOKING FOR A BOOK TO READ THIS SEASON?
WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT ONES FOR YOU!

Whether you are new to the faith and wanting to know about who God is and His character, or you want to discover more about your purpose here on earth and learn how God speaks. **There's a book here for you.** We love a good read. These are books that we feel are in season, and maybe, they will answer some of the longtime questions you might have had about God.



HOLIER THAN THOU - HOW GOD'S HOLINESS HELPS US TRUST HIM - BY JACKIE HILL PERRY

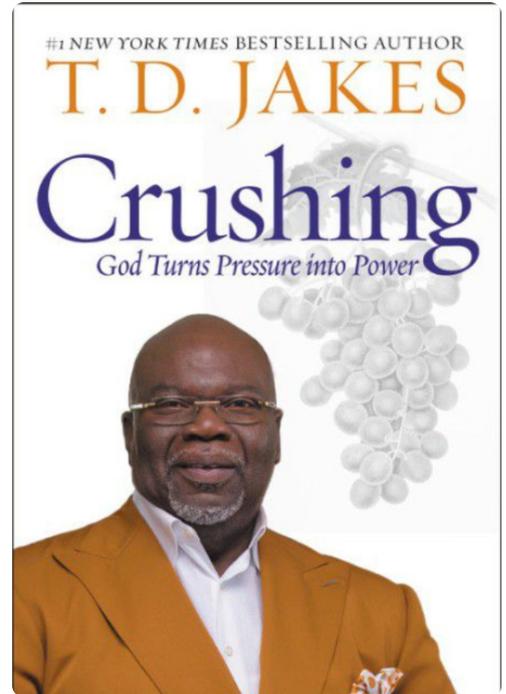
If God is holy, then he can't sin. If God can't sin, then he can't sin against you. If he can't sin against you, shouldn't that make him the most trustworthy being there is? Bestselling author Jackie Hill Perry, in her much anticipated follow-up to *Gay Girl, Good God*, helps us find the reason we don't trust God— we misunderstand his holiness.

In *Holier Than Thou*, Jackie walks us through Scripture, shaking the dust off of “holy” as we've come to know it and revealing it for what it really is: good news. In these pages, we will see that God is not like us. He is different. He is holy. And that's exactly what makes him trustworthy. As it turns out, God being “holier than thou” is actually the best news in the world, and it's the key to trusting him.

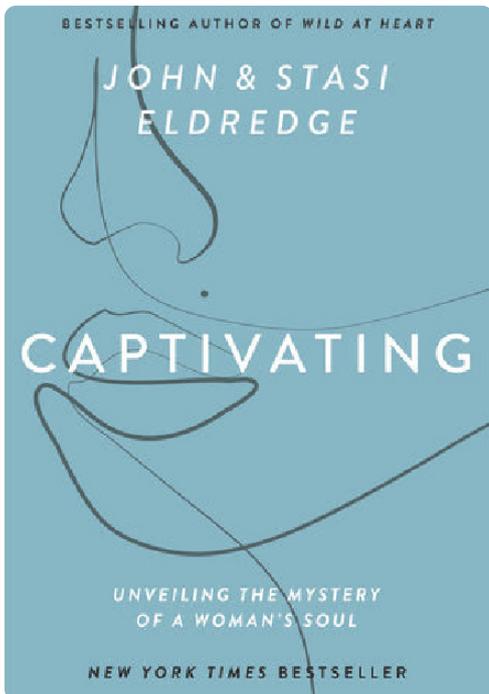
CRUSHING - GOD TURNS PRESSURE INTO POWER - BY T.D. JAKES

In this insightful book, #1 New York Times bestselling author T.D. Jakes wrestles with age-old questions: Why do the righteous suffer? Where is God in all the injustice? Bishop Jakes tells crushing personal stories from his own journey -- the painful experience of learning his young teenage daughter was pregnant, the agony of watching his mother succumb to Alzheimer's, and the shock and helplessness he felt when his son had a heart attack.

Bishop Jakes wants to show you how God uses difficult, crushing experiences to prepare you for unexpected blessings. If you are faithful through suffering, you will be surprised by God's joy, comforted by His peace, and fulfilled with His purpose. *Crushing* will inspire you to have hope, even in your most difficult moments. If you trust in God and lean on Him during setbacks, He will lead you through.



CAPTIVATING - UNVEILING THE MYSTERY OF A WOMAN'S SOUL - BY JOHN AND STASI ELDREDGE



What *Wild at Heart* does for men, *Captivating* does for women: set their hearts free. This groundbreaking book helps readers by:

- Providing a look into the glorious design of women
- Describing how the feminine heart can be restored
- Casting a vision for the power, freedom, and beauty of a woman released to be all she was meant to be
- Healing the trauma of the past

The message of *Captivating* is this: your heart matters more than anything else in all creation. The desires you had as a little girl and the longings you still feel as a woman are telling you of the life God created you to live. He offers to come now as the Hero of your story, to rescue your heart and release you to live as a fully alive and feminine woman - a woman who is truly captivating.



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