

Susan C. Hopkins

Writer ~ Community Architect ~ Faithful Steward

Helping people discover their identity in Christ and walk confidently in their calling.

A LIFE FORMED BY ENCOUNTER

In April 1980, after years of living under condemnation, exhaustion, and a crushing sense of failure, Susan renounced the version of Christianity she had been trying to perform. She stopped striving to be the “good wife,” “good mother,” and “good Christian” she could never seem to become.

In that surrender she:

- Encountered Jesus ~ not just as saviour, but as “Lord”.
- Reluctantly accepted the invitation to become His disciple
- Received the Holy Spirit ~ not merely the gifts, but the Person.
- Was introduced to and communicated with her Heavenly Father.

In that encounter, she heard these words:

“I am your Heavenly Father. I am the One who gave you your name, not your parents and not your brother. You are My child. I formed you in your mother’s womb. I gave you your gifts, your talents, your personality. All I have ever wanted you to be is yourself. I have a purpose and plan for your life that can only be accomplished if you choose to be the person I created you to be. If not, you will miss it entirely. I will place a burning desire in your heart to be My disciple, and I will give you the power to do whatever I ask you to do. I love you more than any earthly father ever could.”

This encounter became the foundation of her life.

Everything that followed ~ writing, organizing, serving, leading, mentoring ~ flows from that identity.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION THROUGH HIDDEN YEARS

In 1981, Susan was led into ten years of isolated rural living ~ raising three young children without running water, electricity, controlled heat, or financial stability.

Her marriage did not survive, but those years forged in her:

- Contentment in scarcity and in provision (Philippians 4:11-13)

- Resourcefulness under constraint (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- Creative problem solving (James 1:5)
- Endurance through suffering (Romans 5:3-4)
- Deep trust in the faithfulness of God (Proverbs 3:5-6)

During these challenging years, Susan was stripped of everything familiar so she could learn that **in Him we live and move and have our being**.

She wanted more than anything to know her heavenly Father and to be known by Him. In the absence of distractions like television, radio, phone, and people, she learned to listen – really listen.

He promised to reveal Himself through every book that she read, every show that she watched, every person that she met ~ especially children ~ through the ordinary course of life, as well as reading the Bible and hearing inspired messages.

In Christ, she learned that His yoke is easy and His burden is light as she focussed her Christian walk on obedience to the two commandments given to us by Jesus:

- **Love God:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind". (Matthew 22, Mark 12, and Luke 10)
- **Love your Neighbor:** "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

In summary: Those hidden years formed the woman who would later build communities, design systems, and empower others.

A LIFE VERSE IN PRACTICE

"I formed you in your mother's womb."
 "All I have ever wanted you to be is yourself."

Her life is evidence that:

**The girl who believed she had no value
 Became the woman who builds value in others**

CORE IDENTITY

Susan's life and work are rooted in three guiding convictions:

1. **Who we are in Christ** is more important than what we accomplish.

2. **Faithfulness in the small things** prepares us to be entrusted with greater responsibility.
3. **Our ministry is wherever God places us**, because Christ lives in us.

For Susan, faith is not something separated from everyday life. She believes God meets people in ordinary places.

- Every workplace can become a place of ministry.
- Every role ~ wife, mother, worker ~ is an opportunity to serve others.
- Every experience becomes part of the journey of learning to walk with Christ.

CORE FORMATION PATHWAY

Susan's teaching follows a simple spiritual pathway that helps individuals grow in confidence, freedom, and purpose.

- **Identity ~ Who I Am in Christ, and Who Christ Is in Me**

The journey begins by understanding our identity as children of God. When we learn who we are in Christ ~ and who Christ is within us ~ we are no longer driven by shame, fear, or the need to prove our worth.

- **Hearing God ~ Speak God, I'm ready to listen**

When our identity is secure, we can learn to listen for God's voice without fear or pressure. Through prayer, reflection, and journaling, individuals are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with God and grow in confidence that He speaks to His people.

- **Discovering and Activating Spiritual Gifts**

As confidence in our identity grows, individuals are able to recognize the unique gifts God has placed within them. Instead of striving, comparing themselves to others, or feeling insecure, they begin to use those gifts naturally to serve and encourage others.

- **Entering God's Promised Rest**

The pathway ultimately leads to a life of rest in God. Instead of living from performance or trying to earn love and acceptance, individuals learn to trust God, abide in His presence, and live from the freedom of knowing they are already loved.

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Susan's approach to leadership and faith is based on these simple beliefs:

- **Leadership is stewardship, not status.**
It's about caring for and serving others, not about having power or recognition.
- **Authority flows from character, not title.**
Trust and respect are earned because of who a person is and how they live.
- **The Holy Spirit empowers obedience.**
God's Spirit gives us the strength and guidance to do what He asks us to do.
- **God has given every person unique giftings, talents and personality.**
These deserve to be discovered, encouraged, and used to bless others.
- **Ordinary faithfulness shapes extraordinary impact.**

As a leader, Susan is called to:

- To identify God-given gifts in others
- To create safe structure around those gifts
- To equip people with tools and confidence
- To release them into their calling

Susan builds ecosystems where people can breathe, grow and flourish; where they can learn to love and be loved and are free to become the people they were meant to be.

RESPONDING TO THE "CALL"

The following words were recorded in Susan's journal on **March 27, 2018**, ...

It is time for a change in your life... You must move now into the greater ministry I have for you that will touch many, many souls for My Kingdom. **Now, you will begin to write, to teach, to preach and to pray effectively with and for others.**

You will see the **captives** set free. You will see the **spiritually lame** learning how to walk In My Spirit. You will see the **spiritually blind** gain their eyesight. You will see the **spiritually deaf** come to life as they learn how to hear the voice of God.

I am able to **raise the spiritually dead** and restore them to life.

I have **equipped** you for this ministry. The passion you are experiencing is a foretaste of the power of My Spirit that is beginning to rise in you. **Let Me out. Share** your walk with Me to the individuals and groups of people I will bring into your life.

... your heavenly Father, ABBA

PRESENT CALLING

At 71, Susan is not slowing down ~ she is converging. Her current initiatives include:

- **Detox with Jesus** ~ a Christ-centered platform for healing & spiritual renewal
- **Many Hands Make Light Work** ~ a community-based solutions model
- **Called to Write** ~ a Christian writers' gathering and mentorship initiative
- **Speak God, I'm Ready to Listen** ~ an interactive group learning opportunity

These projects represent the convergence of writing | systems thinking | community organization | spiritual leadership | and decades of hidden preparation.

CALLED TO WRITE

In addition, Susan has already published the following book:

My Journey to Freedom [Book One] from abuse, codependency, faulty beliefs about Christianity, to a personal encounter with the Unconditional Love of God

Susan has dedicated her book to women like herself who struggle with trying to be the 'perfect' wife, mother, daughter, and Christian, yet never feel they are 'good enough'.

She longs for them to hear these words from their heavenly Father, ABBA:

You have loved God well,
You have loved others well,
But you have not yet loved YOU
The way that I love YOU ...

With a focus on this promise: 2 Corinthians 6:18 (AMP)

**"And I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters,"
says the Lord Almighty.**

CALLED TO MINISTRY

Her second book in this series will soon be published:

My Journey to Freedom [Book Two] from guilt and shame, trying to be 'good enough', to living and resting in the Unconditional Love of God

This book continues where Book One left off with a focus on Ephesians 2: 19-22:

“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.

What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself!

We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God.” (TLB)

With the release of Book Two, Susan will begin a formal ministry to women sharing this important message:

*You were born to be God’s dwelling place,
a home for the presence of God the Father,
God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
You have not been given a spirit of fear,
but of power, of love and of a sound mind.
**May your life be separated unto God so
you can be the person you were destined to be!***

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Susan Hopkins is a writer, organizer, mentor, and community architect whose life was transformed through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in 1980. For over four decades she has faithfully stewarded her God-given gifts in publishing, leadership, volunteer management, outreach, and systems development. Her current work brings together writing, spiritual formation, and community collaboration ~ empowering others to discover who they are in Christ and live courageously from that identity.