



STUDENT JOURNEYS

 Elizabeth Sharp

With as colorful a resumé as I’ve had, you probably wouldn’t consider me for a Bible teacher. I wouldn’t have either.

One night, I climbed into bed after finishing my prayers, chuckling at the mere thought of being a Bible teacher. There’s no way that God would be calling me to teach His Word. Didn’t He know what a mess I had made of my life?

My mind wandered back to the years of pain and hurt—my failures playing like a silent film before me. I felt like I was on trial before a jury, displaying all the evidence of why I would never be qualified to teach the Word of God. My faults were so big in my mind that I had just accepted that was who I was. I then made sure to point out my faults to others, disqualifying myself before others could.



into the dark shadows of the night, I timidly spoke out, “God, are You really telling me you want me to...?”

Before I could even speak all of the words, a burst of laughter came tumbling out of my mouth. Immediately I heard God say very clearly to me, “Your laughter is your unbelief.”

As I started to drift off to sleep that night, a surprisingly different image started forming in my mind.

I was preaching the Word to hundreds, setting captives free and instructing people in the wisdom of God. My eyes shot wide open in stark embarrassment, afraid that someone might find out what I had been dreaming. Turning over on my bed

heart for prayer
passion for Jesus
education
wisdom
preaching
application
setting
skills
captives free
beauty salon experience
no seminary education
8th grade dropout
divorcée

RESUMÉ

What was He talking about, calling it *my* unbelief? Didn’t He know that it had nothing to do with me not believing but, rather, all of the circumstances in my life that secured me a spot in the “not qualified to minister” section of the pews? However, after a few more minutes of the Holy Spirit dealing with me, I started to see His point. The only

reason these circumstances were creating a box around me was because I was allowing them to.

Well, I decided right then that I was tired of boxing myself in. In humility I replied, "Okay, Lord. I don't know how this is going to work, but I trust You."

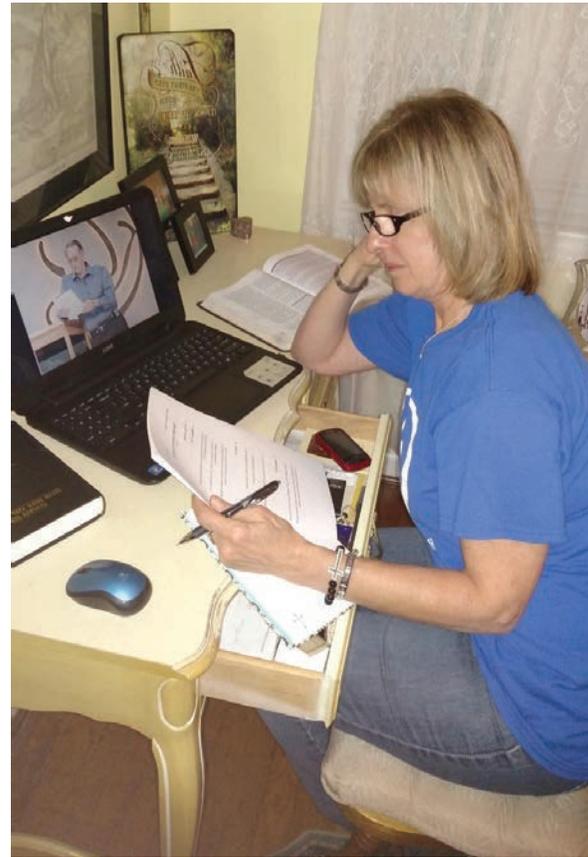
I had no idea how God was going to make someone like me a Bible teacher, but if He could fulfill His promise to Sarah that she would have a son in her old age, despite *her* laughter of unbelief, I would stop laughing and start believing. "*Is any thing too hard for the LORD?*" (Gen. 18:14a).

God didn't waste any time in giving me an opportunity to start exercising my faith. Before I knew it, I had agreed to teach a third grade Sunday school class. I went on to teach fourth, fifth, and sixth grade before moving into leadership for seventh and eighth grade classes, and I finally became a youth leader for high school students.

"Testimony Tea."
Today I host the Sun Room Bible Study in my home as well as speak at women's conferences and in Sunday school classes.

The things that I learned through my Charis Online courses helped to transform the image I had of myself and to start living life outside the little box I had put myself in.

Today I'm a different person, and the truths that have changed my life are overflowing to others.



Sometimes I ask myself, "Why did I laugh?" Well, I'm sure glad I stopped laughing at God's plan for my life!



I also began to see my beauty salon as a platform to minister the love of God to my clients. This led to a women's luncheon ministry called

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