

The Invitation

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Introduction

The Invitation is just that—an invitation to come deeper into intimacy with your Creator, the God of the heavens and earth. I pray this collection of art, stories, and letters from God will lead you closer to the true Lover of your soul.

The Artwork and Stories: The creative process of art has been a love since I first grabbed a paintbrush as a young girl on my grandma's back porch. Several years ago, God initiated an inner healing journey with me, addressing the extreme brokenness I had from repetitive childhood trauma. In the middle of that journey, God began to use the artistic process in healing my heart. The paintings in this book are visions the Lord has given me as He has rebuilt my identity about who He has created me to be. I pray the images and stories included will encourage you in your walk with Him.

The Letters: Several years ago, a close friend and I were asked to oversee prayer rooms at a women's retreat. As we prepared, the Holy Spirit inspired these letters as a way of ministering to the women at the retreat. As a normal routine in my personal prayer time, God speaks to me as if He is writing me a letter. I write down these letters in my journal, so this direction for the retreat was very familiar to me. He led us to specific Scriptures upon which to base these letters, so I've also included those passages for you to read as well.

Reflection Space: I've also included space for you to record what you hear from God, or perhaps for your response back to Him for something that touches your heart. I firmly believe God is always speaking to His children, always drawing us closer and closer to His heart. His voice comes, however, in different ways for everyone. Sometimes it's an inner nudge, an image we may see in our mind's eye, through a still, small voice in our mind, through a family member or friend's voice, or the Word of God.

All creativity originates from God. If we pay attention to His leading, He is excellent at speaking to us in unique ways we can understand.

May you find God as you read these pages. I'm grateful for you and am praying He touches you in a profound, lasting way.

Much Love,

Charismata

Dear Precious Daughter,

My bride, my love, come to me. I will not turn you away ever.

You are a fragrant rose to me. As I touch your bruised petals, your fragrance overwhelms me. You are the theme of my song as I sing over you. You have grown in the deep, sunless valley, but you have always been overshadowed by my love.

Daughter, even though that dark valley has been your home at times, and the curse of sin has surrounded you; still, you have remained as pure as a lily. You stand out among the rest, my love, my pure and bright one. You continue untainted by the shadows.

My unrelenting love is pursuing you. I won't ever stop. My love will find you, even in the places you try to hide. My love gazes into your soul, peering into the portals of your heart, illuminating every dusty, dark corner.

I am a Master Gardener. I will plant seeds of my love in the fertile soil of your heart, water them with my patient, enduring compassion, and brightly shine the Son's light to awaken the seeds. The harvest of my love in you will be extremely fruitful.

Arise, my love, my darling. It's time to come. I am drawing out your heart, and I will lead you all the way out into the light.

Now is the time, daughter, my beloved, my beautiful one. For the season has changed. Spring has come. The season of hiding is over. You are hidden no longer.