

# "Excerpt from "Denise Shares"

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Life for me was crazy. It seemed like I could never get time away from all the busy demands of life. The Lord was calling. He was knocking. He was pleading saying, "Come away with Me."

I would not slow down. To get my attention, He gave me a dream. My youngest child Elijah, was an infant and I was busy doing and preparing his meal all while talking to God, "God, see I don't have time to break away from all of life's demands on me. If I let anything go for an hour that will ruin it all for everyone. See, I don't have time. I don't have time." And then my five month old son, who could not say one word, clearly spoke with an authoritative tone saying, "Yes, you do have time. You just won't MAKE it." I woke up in a sweat and breathing as though I'd just run a marathon!

I wept and repented for not placing Him first and allowing other things to become priority. I spoke with my husband, and he was thrilled with the thought of me spending time with the Lord. He'd cared for the house and children during that time for me. It was all set. I told the Lord I was ready for our first date.

The moment I stepped into my bedroom, I could feel Him there. It was incredible! I was so giddy inside and lay before Him saying, "Ok, here I am. I know you have been waiting, so what are we going to do?" Suddenly thoughts from my past began to flood my mind. I realized He was speaking to me. It was like travelling down memory lane. He showed me how most of my friends and family were hurt by men and how I closed my heart in this one chamber to protect myself from being hurt by a man. He said, "This is why you are not affectionately warm towards your husband, this is why you can't say, "I love you." He showed me how I had closed this part off and nobody could get in, because my most valued jewels and intimate belongings dwelled there. He said to me in my spirit, "This is why you can't trust anyone deeply; even Me." I WAS FLOORED!!! I WAS SO SHOCKED!!! I never KNEW I had done this. But with all of my soul I knew it was true. So, I wept saying Lord, I don't want to live this way any longer. I want to love from my whole heart and not only parts of it. Please, forgive me and take this away. And then He said the most comforting, sweet, thing to me. He said, "It's ok. This secret place in your heart has been kept hidden for so long. It's the dwelling place of your deepest, most affectionate, and intimate love and emotion, and I am honored to be the first to occupy this room." I was UNDONE! I literally felt like a virgin or her wedding night! All the guilt and shame rolled away... and in a strange but wonderful way, I felt happy no man had possessed that space before Him. He said, "Come away with me, my dove."

So, I opened up "all" of my heart and the most extraordinary thing happened next. I started to feel this intense LOVE that came over me and pour into me. Every fiber of my being, every cell in my body, every muscle responded to this love. His love... His beyond comprehension love. Tears streamed without cease. I was in heavenly bliss with Him basking in His tangible glory. Once I realized what was happening, I thought "What was that????!! LORD, I had absolutely NO idea I could experience you like that! Why has it taken me THIS LONG to discover You like this? I said, OMAG: Oh MY AMAZING GOD! Wow! So He told me He wanted to take me to a place called, "Paradise." I was all in, and made a promise to meet Him the next day at the same time. I was NOT going to stand Him up! I was like how was THAT for a first date!?

No matter what your responsibilities are as a wife, a mother, a minister or in the marketplace, He wants to be your first love. Your creator, the lover of your soul is knocking at your door. Will you make time to open the door and let Him in? Must He stay there knocking and waiting? Believe me beloved, you have the time and you will not regret it. Simply make it.