

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Authors of Spirituality/Religion

Author: Donna Louis

Now, as Gideon was prepared to wage war, the Lord wasn't pleased with the company of men Gideon had. And the Lord said until Gideon, "The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, 'Mine own hand hath saved me.' And so, as you read on further, you will see that Gideon cut down his company of men from 32,000 to 10,000.

God again spoke to Gideon and said that the men he had with him were still too many. Verse 4 reads: "And the Lord said unto Gideon, "The people are yet too many; bring them down to the water, and I will try them for thee there; and it shall be that of whom I say unto thee, "This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go." As you continue to read on among verses 5-8, God explained to Gideon what formula he would use to lessen his troop. As you can clearly see, God will not share his glory with any man. He cut the troop down to 300 men. Remember, back in verse 2, where God says, "Less the men say mine own hand hath saved me."

And so, the Lord delivered the Midianites into the hand of Gideon and he downsized the army to 300 men. God used a very unusual way to deliver the Midianites into the hand of Gideon and his army.

God is an all-powerful, almighty, awesome Lord. God is a Lord of justice and will never leave you or forsake you ever. God is a conqueror. Test your faith, what problem do you currently have that needs to be conquered? Let God perform his miracle of conquest in your life.

What is my gift? "Your gift is the single thing that you do at your absolute best with the least amount of effort". - Steve Harvey.

As far back as I can remember I have always loved to write. Discovering that I wanted to be a writer was evident at an early age. I have always been magnetized to pen and paper like quite a lot of people are to football. English was always my favorite subject in school and I excelled at

it. I enjoyed writing papers and especially papers on English literature like Romeo and Juliet. When my papers were returned I always had a grade of B+ or above.

When I entered my college years I decided to take writing classes at Queens-Borough Community College in New York.

I relocated to the state of Florida and one day was watching a religious program on TV. After the pastor had given his sermon, I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to write a book on miracles with the same title the pastor gave his sermon. Again, when you are working within your gifting you use the least amount of effort. It only took me three months to write the book, I was pleased with the finished project, but then doubt began to creep in. I am an unknown. Who would be interested in buying my book? So, I filed the manuscript away in a draw and didn't think on it again.

Several years passed and one day I received a post-card from a publishing company in New York saying they review manuscripts free of charge and if you've ever dreamed of being a published writer mail in your manuscript. After I read that, the fire burned inside me again and so I mailed off the manuscript. Within eight weeks they responded back to me with great news and a contract offer. It was like someone had lifted me ten feet off the ground. I was so excited. I was able to make monthly payments on the amount of \$8875.00 with no interest. One month after paying over \$6000.00 into the project I called my author representative to make a payment and discovered the phone number had been disconnected. I went to my computer to research if they had changed their phone number only to find out the company closed its doors and filed for bankruptcy. I was numb, horrified, and distraught. I contacted my attorney and after several months of research, emails, and phone calls I was unable to get my money back, but was able to get my rights back for the book. This was one of the darkest times in my writing journey and I was very angry with myself for believing in this pipe dream, and going in the opposite direction of my passion. Remember earlier how I said I love English literature. I always wanted to be a romance writer not a religious writer, and so I sulked for quite a while.

One day I received an email from a publishing company wanting to review any manuscript I had written of a religious nature for free. I automatically said to myself here we go again. However,

my interest was piqued because they were a local firm and a Christian publishing firm. I reviewed their publishing packages and prices and saw they had a special which was ending on Monday and it was Saturday. I called my attorney and believe it or not he was in his office on a Saturday and agreed to review the contract the firm listed online and respond to me by Monday. He did respond and let me know that everything was legitimate and advised me to clarify some paragraphs that were a little cloudy, but most importantly I would retain my rights for the book. I contacted the firm and squared away everything and began to feel hopeful again.

The process with this new publishing firm has been so professional, smooth, uplifting, almost dream like. I started with them in July and by October my book was published and available to the public for sale. I am so proud of the book and the video trailer. I have since been able to do a TV interview with a religious station, radio interview, and launch my website.

I have already started working on my second book. I have a fantastic sales and marketing person working with me, and I am full of joy and thankful. I already know that God does not give you a blueprint for your life, and that is why trust and faith are essential. It is all about getting out of your comfort zone. "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step". - Dr. Martin Luther King 1929