

# GOD IS REAL ...

*"You don't even have  
to wonder"*

Written By

CHONDREA BLACK

Inspired by

*Corion D'Shawn Reed*

A MEMOIR OF OUR JOURNEY

## God is Real...You Don't Even Have to Wonder

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### Editors & Consultants

Patricia St. Clair Eldridge, MBA

Seletha M. Head-Tucker, MS, M.Ed., Owner/CEO, North Memphis Publishing House



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## *Dedicated to...*

This book is dedicated to my husband Robert, daughter Danielle, and grandchildren, Jacori, Jace, Aria, and the twins. Our fantastic support system included my sisters Crystal & Ericka, my in-laws affectionately called the Black Tribe, my close friends that never left my side, and the many nurses, CNAs, doctors, and dialysis staff who were kind, patient, and dedicated to Corion's care.



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# Introduction...

On January 23, 2014, my son, Corion D'Shawn Reed, at twenty-six years old, was rushed to the hospital in sudden cardiac arrest and coded in the emergency room. The ER staff worked to resuscitate him for more than an hour. The doctor said he wouldn't shock him again, and I fell to my knees and prayed beside the gurney. He said, "I will shock him once more. Everyone move away from the bed." I turned to the wall to talk to the Lord. I said, "Lord, if it be your will, then I surrender to your will, but I truly believe that he can be a testimony to your kingdom." The doctor shocked him, and the machine started beeping. His heart was beating once again.

Corion lived for six (6) years after this incident, and over the years, he shared many things with me that I didn't understand. Despite kidney failure, global anoxic brain injury diagnosis, and gastro (stomach) issues, he thrived. The doctors suspected that the brain injury would cause him to be a vegetable and told us he would never be the same. But I had read an article in the waiting room about a man who was told his son would never be the same after sustaining a brain injury from a car accident. The father said to them, "He won't be the same. He'll be better." I believe God sent me that word to encourage me, as He sent me many more after that. Corion was far from a vegetable. He was not the same; he was better.

As a matter of fact, he said to me later that same year, "*MA! Write everything down. We gone change the world.*" This book is a compilation of the many things Corion said to me, questions he asked, and how he and God brought me to a greater relationship with the Lord. My faith is greater, our family is stronger, my heart is better.

God has a purpose and a plan for all of us, no matter the situation or circumstance. He does not want us to live in fear and self-doubt. His word says, "For I know the plans I have for you; not to harm you; to give you hope and a future." I have learned that we can take Him at His word.

This memoir is my attempt to share my many special moments with Corion, framed by God's holy word. After Corion transitioned, I felt a strong anointing, and God began to pour out the interpretations of those moments into my spirit. I began to recognize how our journey had been framed by scripture.

I'd always known that this was bigger than us because God shared that with me early on, but the glory of it all must be shared as I've been instructed. I pray His glory is revealed through my obedience to His word.

This is our story.

11/16/2014 (social media post)

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*I am sincerely thankful to all of you who have allowed me to share my pics and this awesome day. Corion D'Shawn Reed is constantly trying to gain clarity and understanding of his "situation". Today he said to us with great sincerity that "God is REAL. He has everything laid out. You don't even have to wonder." I said boy don't make me shout he said gone and shout then. He told me and Robert that we "have a new person." I'll let the memory of this day carry me on thru. Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you.*

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# Chapter 1

## His Character, His Presence, His Language

*"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." 1 John 4:16*

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Did you have the best grandmother ever? I sure did. She was an amazingly strong woman, and she taught us about God. When it came to her grandchildren, she made sure we ate well, were clean, had fun, got along with one another, and she always supported her children as best she could. She protected us and taught us to respect our elders. I know mine kept me from getting many spankings from my mom. And the food she cooked was always delicious. She had rules, and if you didn't follow them, you were disciplined, but not as often as you should have been. She was up when we got up and watched us fall asleep. And somehow, she still had time to see about others.

### His Character

God's character is like that of a good grandmother. His word is his food, and it is so good. He has commandments that are our rules. His grace and mercy are our protection. And just like with our grandmothers, we don't understand what we have until it is taken away from us.



God is a loving Father that cares for your every need. He has left his word on record to lead and direct us through every area of our life. He will make the crooked paths straight.

He has done it for me, so I know He will do it for you, according to the measure of your faith. I believe He can do anything but fail. **To God be the GLORY!**

### **His Presence**

I would visit Corion in the evenings to be sure he was fed well and was comfortable before going to sleep. It gave me comfort to know that he was well. We would laugh, joke, I could talk with him, and many times he was able to express to me how he was feeling. That would also spark many of my Facebook posts. It was our time together.

After he came home, there was one night I was sitting in his room as we were winding down for bed. We had the most amazing exchange. I thought he was falling asleep, so I was about to leave, and he said, "*Are you leaving?*" I replied, "Yes, do you need something?" And he thought for just a moment, sighed, and said, "*Just your presence, I guess.*" Wow!! What a beautiful expression of how he genuinely felt. Just my presence at that moment was enough for him. And his expression of that need and heartfelt love was enough for me to sit another hour.

I've since learned that the same love and comfort can be felt in God's presence. His presence is reassuring. Your connection to His character and voice becomes a sense of peace. You learn that it is not about the things of this world that show you who God is but knowing His presence despite the things. His word says that if we seek first the

kingdom of God and his righteousness, all these “things” will be added unto us. Things are often referred to as material, but I believe He will also add the intangible things; love, joy, peace, understanding, longsuffering, endurance, and comfort of knowing Him. Getting in the presence of God is our protection from the evil of the day.

## **His Language**

In learning God’s voice, you can further get to understand his language. His language is his word. I remember early in the pandemic when God spoke to me and said to me, “Speak my language.” I was still learning to acknowledge his voice. So, I began to ask questions.

How can I speak His language when I don’t know His language? Then the spirit answered and said, “His language is His word.” It was only a day or so later, while listening to a gospel radio program, I overheard the speaker say, “Lies are the language of the devil.” So, I was able to surmise that God’s word is the truth and His language, while the language of the enemy is lies. If it doesn’t line up with the word of God, it is not Truth. We must develop a love for the TRUTH!!

The word tells us that God’s people know his voice and another they will not follow. So, we must not only know God’s voice but know his language through knowing His character. His character is much like that of a grandmother’s love, His language is the word, the truth, and His voice is one of comfort, reassurance, and guidance. To make an assessment that you are hearing Him, understand the truth of his word, getting to know his character and hearing his voice, you must first get into his presence.

## Seek Him

To get into the presence of God, there must be a genuine heart to seek after him. Many times, this genuine heart comes in a time of trouble. Times of trouble generally are when we don't have an answer nor know a way out. Here is when we drop the walls of fake and vain worship and forsake concern for what others may say or think.

We stop acting out the patterns, rituals, and ways of being that we learned when we "played church" as a child or even as an adult. There will come a time when playing is no longer acceptable, and you must get deeper and more serious to find relief from the pain and fear that is upon you in the moment.

In those times, we humble ourselves and shut out the world around us because we have a genuine need for truth and to be rescued. Therefore, so many "find" God in times of trouble. It's because NOW you are seeking his righteousness for that "thing" you need in the moment. You want to hear from that spiritual being you've learned about, no doubt from that loving and caring grandmother.

I was active in the church. If asked, my husband and children would even describe me as a "church lady". On occasion, I read the word. I prayed often but more as a "requirement", and not earnestly seeking Him. I would follow the rules and try to align my life and way of being with the acceptable doctrine of my denomination.

But at that moment in 2014, when my child's life, my son, my first born, was at stake, I went deeper. I didn't care about who was around me and what they thought, I didn't know exactly what to say or do, but I got

down to business with God. I needed Him to do something for me. I needed to know if He was who I had come to know Him to be, and I wanted to see his cards.

Not only did I not want to lose my son, but I genuinely did not want his soul to reside in the hell my Pastor so often preached about. I believed His word to be true, so if I could "ask and receive", then I thought, what better time than this moment. Before, I had asked God for things like a house, cars, a better relationship with my spouse, to protect my kids. But this was life or death.

I am thankful for the Holy Spirit interceding for me, allowing God to see my heart, and answering my prayer. But in exchange, not only did He have a new thing for me, but also for Corion.

During his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of recovery, Corion told me one day when we were in the car, "*You was the only one who knew what to do*" at that moment. He said, "*No one else knew what to do, but you did. I love you for that.*" So that means he was well aware of what had happened. He may not have been able to articulate it, but he knew. He would tell me often, "*I know more than you think I know.*" He would also say, "*I know more than you.*" I believed that then, and I truly believe it now.

God took us this way for a reason, and things are still being revealed to me. But I wanted to at least write his story soon after his passing so that I would not forget the things that God has shown me. Also, none of us know the day or the hour, and I want to make haste to do God's will. I must do what it is God has for me to do. God has assured me that I am His child and that I have a job to do.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*"God is Real...You don't even have to wonder"* is the first published work by author, **Chondrea Black**. She attributes her passion for writing to



her mother, Jacquelyne Reed. Black has served as contributing writer for several published projects for others and produced storybooks for her family. She has enjoyed a lengthy career in banking and currently works as First Vice President of Credit and

Compliance for Paragon Bank. She credits her maternal grandmother, Corrine Reed Wall, for her strong spiritual foundation. After her union to, husband, Robert Black in 1993, she joined his family church, Miracle Temple COGIC, under the leadership of Elder Sylvester Hamilton. Here, where they also raised their children in holiness, she gained a greater understanding of scripture, salvation, righteousness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. She is a committed servant of God and woman of great faith.

### *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

## CORION D'SHAWN REED



25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Party – September 2018  
Grand Entrance escorted by Crystal Reed